

## MARA Fiction From the Heartland Contest Rules-2009

Deadline September 11, 2009

Contest open to unpublished and uncontracted writers, excluding MARA members. The Fiction From the Heartland Contest adheres to the same rules as the Golden Heart.

Categories: Contemporary, Erotic Romance, Historical, Inspirational, Paranormal, Romantic Suspense, and Young Adult.

In the first round, entries will be judged by two experienced critiquers, one of which will be a published author. In the event of scores in the preliminary round having more than 40 points difference between the judges (20% discrepancy) and a contestant has achieved 85% or greater of total points possible from one, a third judged will be used, and the lowest score will be dropped. Finalists entries will be judged by both an editor and an agent.

In the event of a tie for the first, second, or third place in the final round, the first round scores will be used as a tiebreaker.

Each entrant will receive two one-page written critiques and a detailed score sheets.

The contest will have no more than ten overall finalists from all categories. Manuscripts must achieve 85% or greater of the total points possible to qualify as a finalist.

Entries, score sheets and critiques will be returned no later than November 15, 2009, allowing entrants to use the feedback in preparing Golden Heart entries.

Finalists will be announced November 1, 2009. Finalists will have only their first round entries returned. Final round scores made by the editors and agents **WILL NOT** be released to the contestants. Any comments made by final round judges will be released when all final round judges have completed their judging. Finalists will need to send an additional SASE for final round comments to be returned.

Send entries to:

Fiction From the Heartland Contest  
c/o Keri Smith  
15612 W 125th Terrace  
Olathe, KS 66062

For questions please contact Contest Coordinator: [keridwen7@hotmail.com](mailto:keridwen7@hotmail.com)