



# *MARA Fiction From the Heartland Contest*

## 2017 Official Rules

### DEADLINES

- Entries and all appropriate fees must be RECEIVED by 11:59 p.m. CST September 22, 2017.
- Entries received after that date, or for which payment has not been properly received, will be rejected for entry.

**Failure to comply with contest rules may disqualify the entry. Fee will not be refunded.**

### CATEGORIES

Entry must have a projected minimum length of 40,000 words in one of the following categories:

- **Category Romance** includes all novels intended for series lines
- **Contemporary Single Title**
- **Historical Romance**
- **Romantic Suspense**
- **Paranormal Romance** includes time travel, fantasy and futuristic
- **Erotic Romance**
- **Young Adult Romance / New Adult Romance**
- **Inspirational Romance**

### ELIGIBILITY

- Open to any writer, unpublished in book-length fiction (40K) in the past five years of deadline AND uncontracted in book-length fiction at the time of deadline.
- Multiple entries allowed in same or different category (separate fees apply)
- An entry may NOT be entered in more than one category
- You may NOT enter any work that has previously won the Fiction from the Heartland Contest
- Current members of MARA may not submit works for consideration

### JUDGING

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.

- First Round
  - Entries will be judged by two (2) experienced judges, ONE of which will be a published author.
  - Each entrant will receive TWO one-page written critiques and detailed score sheets.
- Final Round
  - Finalists will be judged by an **industry editor AND agent**.
  - In the event of a tie for first, second or third place in the final round, first round scores will be used as a tie-breaker.
  - Final round scores made by editors and agents WILL NOT be released to contestants.
  - Any comments made by final round judges will be released when all final round judging is complete.
- Entries, score sheets and critiques will be returned no later than November 15, 2017 to allow entrants to use feedback in preparation for the Golden Heart.
  - Category Romance
    - Brenda Chin, *Entangled Publishing*

- Tricia Skinner, *Fuse Literary*
- Contemporary Single Title
  - Brenda Chin, Gail Chasen, *Harlequin Special Edition*
  - Tricia Skinner, Elizabeth Winick Rubenstien, *McIntosh & Otis, Inc.*
- Historical Romance Title
  - Carolyn Coons, *Harper Collins Publishers*
  - Cheryl Ferguson, *The Ferguson Literary Agency*
- Romantic Suspense Title
  - Patience Bloom, *Harlequin*
  - Cori Deyoe, *Three Seas Literary Agency*
- Paranormal Romance Title
  - Cindy Davis, *The Wild Rose Press*
  - Tricia Skinner, *Fuse Literary*
- Erotic Romance Title
  - Charles Griemsman, *Harlequin*
  - Cori Deyoe, *Three Seas Literary Agency*
- YA/NA Title
  - Niki Flowers, *BelleBooks*
  - Jenna Haskin, *Metamorphosis Literary Agency*
- Inspirational Romance Title
  - Johanna Raisanen, *Harlequin Series*
  - Jenna Haskin, *Metamorphosis Literary Agency*

## AWARDS

- First place/highest scored manuscript will receive \$50 and a plaque.
- Second and third place will receive certificates.
- All other finalists will receive an Honorable Mention Certificate.
- Finalists will be notified during the last week of October and posted on our website [www.MARArwa.com](http://www.MARArwa.com).
- Winners will be announced by February 1, 2018 and will be listed on our website and in the RWR.

## FORMAT REQUIREMENTS

- Entry format: Prologue (optional), chapter, then synopsis
  - Entry and synopsis should be saved as one file, with synopsis at the end.
  - Please save entry in file format of Title-Category Name.
    - *Example: Sweet Enemy-Historical.doc*
- Entry must not exceed 10,000 words (including prologue and synopsis).
- Author name must NOT appear on the manuscript.
- Double spaced (23-25 lines per page) saved in **Microsoft .doc or .docx file**.
- 1 inch margin on all sides.
- 12 point Courier New, Times New Roman, or Arial font.
- Header in entry document
  - Title/Category on Left
  - Page numbers on Right

## SUBMISSION PROCEDURES

- Fee is \$35 per entry.
- A separate Entry Form and fee must be submitted online with each entry.
- For Payments by Paypal (Transaction ID will be needed on submission):
  - You may go to PayPal link on <http://www.maraarwa.com/enter-ffth/>.

- Or send via PayPal to: [treasurer@mararwa.com](mailto:treasurer@mararwa.com).
- For Payments by Check:
  - Please make check out to MARA and send to:  
Mid America Romance Authors  
Attn: Fiction from the Heartland  
PO Box 8625  
Prairie Village, KS 66208-0625
  - Check must be postmarked by September 22, 2017. Please put title of your entry and Category Name in the memo section.
    - *Example: Sweet Enemy-Historical.doc*
- [Submit the entry form online](#)
  - Upload the submission .doc or .docx at the bottom of the page after filling out the entry form.

Any questions, please contact contest coordinator at:

[FictionFromTheHeartland@MARArwa.com](mailto:FictionFromTheHeartland@MARArwa.com)