



MARA Fiction From the Heartland Contest

2021 Official Rules

DEADLINES

- Entries and all appropriate fees must be RECEIVED by 11:59 p.m. CST on the date as published on the FFTH Contest page.
- 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 below categories (LGBTQ+ entries welcomed and encouraged in all 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- Open to any writer, unpublished (traditionally or self-published) in book-length romance fiction of 40K words or more in the past five years of deadline AND uncontracted in book-length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 finished or won the Fiction from the Heartland Contest.
- Current members of MARA may not submit works for consideration.
- MARA reserves the right to limit the number of entries to the first 50 entries received with proper payment.

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 experienced judges, at least 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 by the date as published on the FFTH Contest page.

- Finalist judges will be announced on the MARA website when they are finalized.

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 and posted on our website www.MARArwa.com.
- Winners will be announced on the date as published on the FFTH Contest page 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 (i.e., if synopsis is 1,000 words then entry is 9,000 words, etc.). Synopsis should be included in the same document and come at the end of the entry.
- 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 Calibri, 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.mararwa.com/enter-ffth/>.
 - Or send via PayPal to: treasurer@mararwa.com.
- For Payments by Check:
 - Email Treasurer@mararwa.com and FictionFromTheHeartland@MARArwa.com for instructions for where to send your check
 - Check must be postmarked by the date as published on the FFTH Contest page. 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