



THE CATHERINE OFFICIAL SCORESHEET

Total Score: /100 (to be completed by Category Coordinator)

Judge # Published (Romance) PRO (Agented)
 Published (Non-Fiction) PRO (Unpublished)
 Unpublished (Trained) Unpublished (Contest Finalist)

Title: _____ Entry #: _____

Contemporary Series Contemporary Single Title Historical
 Romantic Suspense Paranormal Young Adult
 Romantic Elements New Adult

JUDGES: Please use the space at the end of each section to provide the contestant with constructive feedback and explain how you arrived at the score.

CHAPTERS/PROLOGUE:

Style:

- Shows rather than tells.
- Writing is smooth and easy to read, with varied sentence length and structure.
- Descriptions are vivid, engaging all five senses, and give reader a sense of time and place.
- Information/back-story is fed in naturally, as needed.
- Uses a balanced mix of narrative, dialogue, action and introspection.
- Handles Point of View skilfully; transitions are smooth.
- Writer's voice is fresh and distinctive

SECTION SCORE: /20

COMMENTS:

Plot/Conflict:

- Opening draws reader immediately into story.
- Pacing is appropriate.
- Each scene advances the plot.
- Basis for the romantic relationship begins in an intriguing manner. If hero and heroine do not meet, there is sufficient sense that it will be intriguing.
- External and internal conflicts are evident in the plot.
- Entry leaves reader wanting more.

NB. For the YA and RE categories, the opening pages may not include both a hero and heroine and the romantic subplot need not be evident in the opening pages included in the entry.

SECTION SCORE: /20

COMMENTS:

Characterization:

- The reader can feel the characters' range of emotions
- Heroine is a multi-dimensional person who grabs the reader's interest.
- Heroine's actions/reactions are believable and consistent with her character
- Hero is a multi-dimensional person who grabs the reader's interest.
- Hero's actions/reactions are believable and consistent with his character.

NB. For the YA and RE categories, the hero need not appear in the opening pages in order to score well in categorization. Judges will substitute "protagonist" for hero and heroine in the above criteria.

SECTION SCORE: /20

COMMENTS:

Dialogue:

- Each significant character has a distinctive voice.
- Dialogue is natural, not stilted or overly narrative.
- Dialogue moves the story forward.
- Dialogue feels appropriate for the time and place of the story.

SECTION SCORE: /15

COMMENTS:

SYNOPSIS:

- Synopsis tells the story clearly and effectively, including all major turning points.
- The goals of the hero/heroine are clearly defined.
- Conflicts are clearly defined and resolved.
- The characters' growth and development are evident.
- Writing is engaging and concise, with no unnecessary descriptive detail, unimportant minor characters and excerpts of dialogue.

SECTION SCORE: /15

COMMENTS:

MECHANICS:

- Few or no errors in spelling and punctuation.
- Few or no errors in grammar,
- Fragments and other non-standard constructions are used effectively.
- Submission uses standard manuscript format: 1-inch margins, double spacing, numbered pages, left-justified, 12-point font.

SECTION SCORE: /5

COMMENTS:

OVERALL IMPRESSION:

Does this entry have a “wow” factor? Is it unique? Does the voice stand out from the crowd? Does the story idea? Does it avoid romance clichés or use them in a fresh new way? Did the entry particularly impress you?

Please explain how you arrived at this score, and add any additional comments about this entry you think will be helpful to the author.

SECTION SCORE: /5

COMMENTS:

Total Score: /100 (to be completed by assigned JUDGE)
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OVERALL SCORING GUIDELINES

- (90 – 100) Excellent, ready to submit*
- (75 – 89) Very good, shows talent and ability but needs polishing*
- (60 – 74) Shows promise but does not stand out*
- (50 – 59) Significant revisions needed*
- (under 50) Draft level of writing; major revisions needed*