

2008



Lone Star Writing Competition  
Inspirational

Manuscript Title \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_ Judge's No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Category \_\_\_\_\_ Sub genre \_\_\_\_\_  
 Targeted Market \_\_\_\_\_

<p><b>CATEGORY CHAIR:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Is the mms entered in the correct category? Yes/No</li> <li>2. Are there 25 pp or less in the mms? Yes/No</li> <li>3. Does the mms follow the contest guidelines? Yes/No</li> </ol>	<p>Possible score: 100</p> <p><b>Total score:</b> _____</p>
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**JUDGES: Please write constructive comments on the manuscript. Comments on the score sheet are highly encouraged. We want our contestants to have helpful feedback.**

Common abbreviations used by judges on the manuscript:  
**SDT**=show; don't tell. **AWK**=awkward sentence structure. **POV**=point of view shift.  
**FBP**=flying body parts. **CL**=cliché  
**DUMP**=information dump i.e. back story or dialogue as means of telling reader information without moving story forward.  
**REP**=repetition in story/need different way of saying the same thing.

Judge's Profile:

Published Romance  RWA Pro  Published Other  Trained Judge # of years writing \_\_\_\_\_

**Opening Scene:** SCORE \_\_\_\_\_ / **15 POINTS** Available

Judges: Please justify your points:

**+ = well done                      ✓ = shows promise    x = in need of improvement**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Does the opening pull you into the story?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Is the opening bogged down with back story?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Does the first scene prompt you to read more
- \_\_\_\_\_ Do you have a sense of time and place?

**Additional Comments:**

**Characterization:**

SCORE \_\_\_\_\_ / **15** POINTS Available

Judges: Please justify your points:

**+ = well done**

**✓ = shows promise x = in need of improvement**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Are the hero/heroine introduced in a timely manner or their meeting foreshadowed?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Are the characters well-developed with believable strengths and flaws?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Is the relationship between the hero/heroine emotional as well as physical?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Do you believe these characters will achieve happily-ever-after?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Are secondary characters appropriate to the story?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Are the heroine's goals/conflicts identifiable?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Does her motivation make her actions believable?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Are the hero's goals/conflicts identifiable?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Does his motivation make his actions believable?

**Additional Comments:**

**Plot:**

SCORE \_\_\_\_\_ / **15** POINTS Available

Judges: Please justify your points:

**+ = well done**

**✓ = shows promise x = in need of improvement**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Is the plot fresh and appealing even if it contains familiar romantic ingredients?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Is the story problem evident?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Can you see an initial hint of external conflict in these first pages?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Does conflict (internal and external) flow naturally or does it seem forced?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Does the pace fit the action, tone and tension of the story?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Is the pacing effective?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Are transitions smooth and easy-to-follow?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Does the chapter end so you would want to turn the page?

**Additional Comments:**

**Narrative/Dialogue:**

SCORE \_\_\_\_\_ / **20 POINTS Available**

Judges: Please justify your points:

**+ = well done                      ✓ = shows promise   x = in need of improvement**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Is the narrative compelling with vivid descriptions and pertinent details?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Are the five senses used to enhance the setting/emotions of the characters?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Is the setting recognizable?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Is the narrative intrusive?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Are narrative and dialogue well balanced?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Is the dialogue natural for the character?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Does each character have a distinctive voice?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Does the dialogue move the story forward or is it used as a back story/information dump?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Is action interspersed with the dialogue so that characters aren't "talking heads"?

**Additional Comments:**

**Writing Technique:**

SCORE \_\_\_\_\_ / **20 POINTS Available**

Judges: Please justify your points:

**+ = well done                      ✓ = shows promise   x = in need of improvement**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Is the entry presented professionally with few typos and generally-accepted punctuation?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Does the author have a unique voice that makes this manuscript stand out?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Is writing easy-to-read with varied sentence length and structure?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Is action shown, not told?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Is point of view handled appropriately?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Are transitions of time and setting logical and smooth?

**Additional Comments:**

**Inspirational Subgenre**

SCORE \_\_\_\_\_ / **15 POINTS Available**

Judges: Please justify your points:

**+ = well done                      ✓ = shows promise   x = in need of improvement**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Has the faith-based/inspirational element been introduced?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Is the inspirational element woven into the story appropriately?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Is the inspirational element integral to the romance?

**Additional Comments:**