

18th Annual Heart of the West Writers Contest
Sponsored by the Utah/Salt Lake Chapter
Romance Writers of America®

Judge No:

Entrant No:

Entry Title:

Category:

Comment on Ms? Yes ___ No___

URWA Member? Yes ___ No___

Judge's Credentials: Agent/Editor ___ Published ___ Contest Finalist ___ Published Other ___
Unpubbed/Trained ___

Judging Criteria

**Award each number in the categories listed below 1 to 10 points,
based on the following criteria**

9-10 = OUTSTANDING! Fun to read, perfect in this area. Ready for submission to an editor.

7-8 = GREAT WORK! An enjoyable read. Needs only minor revisions before submission.

5-6 = GOOD WORK! Shows promise, but needs revision before submission.

3-4 = FAIR JOB! Getting there, but needs heavy revision before submission.

1-2 = NICE TRY! Don't give up! Needs extensive work before submission.

OPENING: (20 Points)

_____ Does it grab your interest and make you want to read more?

_____ Does the story begin where it should?

Comments:

CHARACTERIZATION/CONFLICT: (30 Points)

- _____ Does the author paint a distinctive picture of the **Heroine**?
Is her motivation clear and believable?
If she does not make an appearance in the manuscript submission,
does the story work well without her?
- _____ Does the author paint a distinctive picture of the **Hero**?
Is his motivation clear and believable?
If he does not make an appearance in the manuscript submission,
does the story work well without him?
- _____ If secondary characters appear are they necessary to the plot? If they do not, does the story
flow well without them?

Comments:

POINT OF VIEW: (10 Points)

- _____ Is point of view clearly defined?

Comments:

DIALOGUE: (10 Points)

- _____ Is the dialogue natural? Does it move the story forward? Is it balanced with action and
narrative?

Comments:

PACING: (10 Points)

_____ Is the manuscript balanced, with action, description, setting, and introspection blended throughout? Does each scene move the story forward?

Comments:

LANGUAGE: (20 Points)

_____ Are action and emotion shown, not told?

_____ Does the author use sensory detail (taste, smell, touch, etc.)?

Comments:

_____ **TOTAL POINTS (out of a possible 100)**

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS. Judges please include at least one item that you really liked about the entry. What are the manuscript's strong points?