

THE ORWA FIRST IMPRESSIONS WRITING CONTEST RULES

1. The contest is open to all paid-up members of ORWA, as of the contest closing date, who are not published in book-length romantic fiction. It is considered appropriate for members at all levels of experience to enter. This contest is intended for members' work in progress, not material created specifically for the contest. Only one entry per member is allowed. For submission by two writing partners, one must be a member of ORWA. Neither can be published in book-length romantic fiction.
2. One (1) copy of the contest entry is e-mailed to the coordinator.
3. The contest entry must be the first 15 pages from a romance novel in progress. These can include the Prologue or not as per the choice of the entrant as long as the entry is no longer than 15 pages. A brief synopsis, not to exceed three pages, of the entire novel is also required. This may be category romance, suspense, historical, fantasy, single-title or any other kind of fiction as long as the love story is the major story line.
4. The contest entry must be submitted as follows:
 - a. In Courier New font, size 12, Double-spaced, and using standard 1 inch margins. Computer word count will vary depending on the amount of white space produced through dialogue vs. description. Please be advised that only 15 pages will be read, regardless of word count. If the entry is not submitted following these guidelines the coordinator will convert the file as such and cut off the entry at page 15.
 - b. The title must appear on the upper left corner and page number on the upper right corner of each page. **Your name should not appear in the header.**
 - c. The category must also appear in the header under the title. The category may be historical, single title or mainstream contemporary, category, single title or mainstream romantic suspense, paranormal, futuristic, regency, fantasy, short contemporary, long contemporary. For short and long contemporaries, please list the appropriate line(s) such as Silhouette Romance, Harlequin Presents, Super Romance, Harlequin Blaze, etc.
 - d. Include one cover sheet that contains the title, author's name, address, e-mail, telephone number, word count, category and/or the line. **Author identification MUST NOT appear on any other part of the entry.**

- f. Include a cheque for \$20 (Canadian dollars), payable to:
ORWA.
5. The closing date for entries is midnight of the March meeting and entries are to be e-mailed to the person designated to receive them. The entry receiver will ensure, as far as possible, that contest rules have been followed and will pass the entries to the judges without identification. The Contest coordinator will copy and paste the entries into new documents to send to the judges so that the electronic copy's properties do not show the entrants identification.
6. The Contest Coordinator may not enter the contest or be a judge. The judges may not enter the contest.
7. The contest will be judged by three or four judges, the majority of which will be published authors from ORWA. There is the possibility, should the need arise, of using published authors from other RWA chapters or seasoned unpublished authors from ORWA.
8. Even though there will be no identification on the manuscripts, some judges may recognize some work. This is accepted, and we trust the integrity of our judges.
9. Entries will be rated using a standard score sheet, and these sheets will be returned to the entrants. Entrants may have a copy of this sheet beforehand by asking the Contest Coordinator.
10. The results will be announced, and the trophy awarded, at the November meeting.
11. In addition to the crystal heart, the winning manuscript will be sent for critique by a published romance writer or for critique and consideration to an appropriate editor or agent. The second and third place manuscripts will be given to an in-house published author for a critique. All contestants must be prepared to produce three chapters and a synopsis no later than the March meeting. Failure to present a manuscript in a timely manner as determined by the discretion of the judges may result in the forfeiture of the critiques for a \$25 Chapters gift card.
12. The decision of the judges is final.