

2010 Winter Rose Contest

Sponsored by the Yellow Rose Chapter of
Romance Writers of America®

Contest Timeline:

- **January 23, 2010 - Deadline** for all print and electronic submissions.
- April 9, 2010 - Finalists notified by telephone or e-mail, on or before this date.
- May 15, 2010 - Winners announced at the Winter Rose Luncheon.

Fee:

\$15 – Yellow Rose Members

\$30 – Non-Yellow Rose Members

2010 Final Judges:

Contemporary Single Title: Theresa Stevens, Red Sage

Historical (Includes Regency): Alicia Condon, Dorchester

Mainstream with Romantic Elements: Danielle Poisez, Pocket Books

Paranormal: Emmanuelle Alspaugh, Judith Ehrlich Literary Agency

Romantic Suspense: Deb Werksman, Sourcebooks

Series Contemporary: Victoria Curran, Harlequin

Young Adult: Melissa Frain, TOR

Grand Prize Agent Read: Scott Eagan, Greyhaus Literary Agency

Categories:

Contemporary Single Title – romantic novels released as individual titles, not part of a series.
Word count: over 90,000.

Historical – books set in historical setting/time period. May include traditional **Regency** novels.
Word count: over 60,000.

Mainstream with Romantic Elements – mainstream fiction novels including but not limited to **Women's Fiction** and **Chick Lit**. Word count: over 75,000.

Paranormal – paranormal element. May include Fantasy, Futuristic, Time Travel, Ghost, Vampire, Werewolf, etc. Word count: over 85,000.

Romantic Suspense – books that are not part of a series, in which suspense is a major element of the plot. Word count: over 90,000.

Series Contemporary – books that are targeted for Series Contemporary such as Harlequin: Intrigue, Blaze, Super Romance. Silhouette: Special Edition, Intimate Moments, etc. Word count: 50,000-90,000.

Young Adult – books targeted young adult and teen readers such as Harry Potter, Twilight, etc. Word count: 60,000.

Entrant Eligibility and Guidelines:

Enter the opening twenty-five (25) pages of romance novels of all above sub-genres (projected length of at least 50,000 words). All entrants must be RWA® members in good standing who have not published a novel in the last 5 years. Also, it should be noted that entries that *won* the Winter Rose in years past, may not be entered in any form.

Official Rules:

Yellow Rose RWA reserves the right to limit entries to the first seventy-five (75) manuscripts received in each category. Failure to comply with any of the entry requirements below could result in return of your manuscript. For those entrants desiring electronic format, please see e-judging specific guidelines.

Specific Guidelines for Print Entries

- **IMPORTANT:** The fifth copy normally used as the editor copy must be submitted electronically due to the fact that most of the final judges have requested electronic only entries. If you are submitting a print entry, you must submit the electronic entry to the Electronic Coordinator **at the same time**. This is to maintain fairness for all entries. See below for Electronic coordinator information. Any questions, contact one of the coordinators.
- Entries shall consist of four (4) print copies and one (1) electronic copy of the **first 25 pages** of the novel. A prologue and/or second chapter may be included if within total page guidelines.
- Entries shall be submitted on **WHITE** paper only.
- Entries shall be in standard manuscript format, double spaced, 12 point font (Courier or TNR suggested) with one-inch margins and unjustified right margins. The name of the author, RWA number, or any other identifying information **must not** appear on the entry. A cover page is not necessary. As a side note, **manuscript format is not a judged component of the Winter Rose contest**. Judges may or may not point out formatting issues to an entrant, but no points are deducted for perceived infractions.
- Print and attach the appropriate category score sheet to each of your entries. You can download the score sheet at the Yellow Rose website:

(<http://www.yellowroserwa.com>). Question? Email the print coordinator at queenbee604@earthlink.net.

- The header on each page must contain the title of the manuscript, projected length, and the page number. Entrant may indicate target market if desired to help judges customize their comments. For those entering Series or Contemporary Single Title, you may indicate target line (i.e., Harlequin Super Romance, Blaze, etc.).
- Do not include illustrations, author bio/photos, vocabulary lists, footnotes or a synopsis. Again, **DO NOT INCLUDE A SYNOPSIS!** :)
- Bind entries with **large paper clips**. Large binder clips may be used, but contest coordinators may remove them for mailing purposes. Do not submit an unbound manuscript.
- Mail entries in Tyvek envelopes (free Tyvek Priority Mail envelopes may be picked up at the Post Office) with your return address in the upper left hand corner. Include **Self-Addressed Stamped Flat Rate Envelope** for return of your manuscripts and score sheets and SASP if you want acknowledgement of receipt. Priority mail is preferred. Return SASEs with insufficient postage or no return SASE mean your entry will not be returned after judging. **ENTRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED IF SIGNATURE IS REQUIRED FOR DELIVERY.** (ATTN: International Entrants- please be advised that we offer an electronic option. However, if you wish to enter a printed entry, please email us to assist you with postage concerns. We work with our international entrants to simplify the process.)
- **Each entry may only be entered in one category** (i.e., you can't enter the same exact entry in both historical and paranormal). However, you may enter different entries/different categories, with a maximum of **TWO** entries per entrant, per category. Each entry must have a separate entry form filled out and release signed. This form may be copied. You may send one check/money order payable to **Yellow Rose RWA** to cover all entry fees. If you'd like to join Yellow Rose, please note that you must fill out a membership application and attach a **separate check** to cover membership dues.

Entries must be postmarked by January 23, 2010. If postmark requirement is not met, entries will be returned unopened. Payment and entry form also to be received by Contest Coordinator before accepting contest email entry.

Mail your PRINT ONLY entries to the following:

Brenda Chitwood
604 Brookfield Drive
Hurst, TX 76053

Specific Guidelines for Electronic Entries

Entrant **MUST** sign, date and mail entry form and release to Yellow Rose before entry will be entered into contest. **This is mandatory.** No electronic entry forms will be accepted. Once the E-judging Coordinator has release/entry form and payment is recorded, she will send a confirmation email to entrant advising them that entry can be emailed to her. Entrant has up to contest deadline of **January 23, 2010**. Once entry is received, the coordinator will send a confirmation email back to entrant.

- Entries shall consist of the **first 25 pages** of the novel. A prologue and/or second chapter may be included if within total page guidelines.
- Entries will be received in **RTF** (Rich Text Format) files **only**. (To convert your file to RTF, open the document, go into File, click on Save As and choose RTF format. This will create a new document with the same title in RTF format.)
- Attach the appropriate category score sheet to your electronic entry by copying and pasting the score sheet to the **beginning** of your document. Use a page break between the score sheet and the beginning of the entry. It's okay if the header appears on the score sheet. ☺ You can download the score sheet from the Yellow Rose website (<http://www.yellowroserwa.com>). Problems? Email the electronic coordinator for assistance at mlmiles21@sbcglobal.net.
- Entries shall be in standard manuscript format, double spaced, 12 point font (Courier or TNR suggested) with one-inch margins and unjustified right margins. The name of the author, RWA number, or any other identifying information **must not** appear on the entry. A cover page is not necessary. As a side note, **manuscript format is not a judged component of the Winter Rose contest**. Judges may or may not point out formatting issues to an entrant, but no points are deducted for perceived infractions.
- The header on each page must contain the title of the manuscript, projected length, and the page number. Entrant may indicate target market if desired to help judges customize their comments. For those entering Series or Contemporary Single Title, you may indicate target line (i.e., Harlequin SuperRomance, Blaze, etc.).
- Document title should be the **title** of the manuscript **only**. Please do not add author name. Please do not name your document "Winter Rose Entry" or any other variation.
- Email your entry to the Electronic Contest Coordinator as an **attachment**.
- When emailing your attachment entry file to the coordinator, type the Entry Title and category in the subject header of the email. In the body of the email please include your full name, title of entry, the total number of pages and the font used for the entry (this is to ensure there are no changes during transition).
- Entrants will receive email confirmation for receipt of their entry.

- Format is not a judged component of the Winter Rose contest. Whether print or electronic, no points are deducted for format infractions.
- **Each entry may only be entered in one category** (i.e., you can't enter the same exact entry in both historical and paranormal). However, you may enter different entries/ different categories, with a maximum of **TWO** entries per entrant, per category. Each entry must have a separate entry form filled out and release signed. This form may be copied. You may send one check/money order payable to **Yellow Rose RWA** to cover all entry fees. If you'd like to join Yellow Rose, please note that you must fill out a membership application and attach a **separate check** to cover membership dues.

Mail ELETRONIC ONLY entry form and contest fee to:

Michelle Miles
6436 Sunrise Drive
North Richland Hills, TX 76182

Electronic entries are required to be sent via email to Electronic Coordinator by **Midnight CST on January 23, 2010**. Payment and entry form also to be received by Contest Coordinator before accepting contest email entry.

NOTE: We must have entry form/release and payment in hand before accepting email entry.

Judging:

First round entries will be judged by experienced, qualified, or published judges. Golden Heart Winners/Finalists, RWAPRO members are also a large part of our annual judging pool. Yellow Rose cannot guarantee judge commentary will be on every entry, however, we strongly encourage our judges to provide positive, constructive feedback. E-judging and print judging will use same scoring methods, same score sheet and same pool of judges. The only difference is entry format.

Entries will be judged by **FOUR (4)** first round judges. Lowest score will be dropped to determine final average. Three highest scoring manuscripts will advance to the final round. All judged copies will be returned to non-finalist entrants following finalist announcement. Finalist entries will be returned after winners are announced.

Awards:

Grand Prize

The top scoring manuscript from all seven finalist categories receives partial read by an agent.

First Prize

All First place finalists receive \$50.00 cash prize, Sterling Silver Rose pendant, Yellow Rose badge pin, and a certificate.

Second Prize

All Second place finalists receive \$25.00 cash prize, Yellow Rose badge pin, and a certificate.

Third Prize

All Third place finalists receive \$15.00 cash prize, Yellow Rose badge pin, and a certificate.

Questions? Email us!

Electronic Coordinator:

Michelle Miles

mlmiles21@sbcglobal.net

Print Coordinator:

Brenda Chitwood

queenbee604@earthlink.net