

River City Romance Writers - 2009
Duel On the Delta Contest Score Sheet

Place a score in each individual box below:

- 5 - Publishable as is
- 4 - Publishable with minor revisions and editing
- 3 - Problems and strengths are equal; revisions needed
- 2 - Some strengths; problems distracted from the overall story
- 1 - Needs to work on basics

Entry Code:
Judge's Code:
Book Title:
Total Score: <input style="width: 80px; height: 25px; border: 1px solid black;" type="text"/>

Score	Question	Comments
Characterization		
	Do protagonists create an emotional response in the reader? (i.e. Does the reader care about the protagonist or is the reader fascinated by an unlikeable character or anti-hero?)	
	Does the author use dialogue, narrative and action to make each character distinct and authentic?	
	Has the writer revealed enough of or "hinted at" the characters' goals, motivations and conflicts so that the chapter has subtext or emotional meaning? Do the characters' GMC's seem strong and complex enough to sustain an interesting plot for an entire book?	
	Are the characters actions and reactions consistent, credible and logical given the circumstances and genre/subgenre?	
Plot		
	Is the plot innovative or original, either as a whole or because of a creative internal or external conflict? Has the author found a fresh and interesting twist for a familiar storyline?	
	Does action move the story forward in a logical sequence of events which will result in plausible conflict? If the book's central conflict is not yet known, is the scene conflict skillfully explored and involving to the reader?	
	Does the story begin in a way that holds/captures the reader's interest? In a way that meets the expectations of readers of this genre/sub-genre?	
	Does the writer use the action of the plot to reveal and test the character?	
Story Craft		
	Is the Point of View clear and does it add to the vibrancy of the work? If the book has multiple POV's are the transitions smooth and purposeful? Does POV reveal character? Does POV enhance the emotional intensity and create empathy/strong emotion for the characters?	
	Is the Dialogue natural and authentic to the setting or genre? Is there a good balance between action, narration, introspection and spoken dialogue? Are the internal and spoken voices of the character consistent unless obviously intended to form a contrast?	
	Does the Pace of the story work for the plot and the particular genre? Has the author controlled the pacing so that the story moves quickly enough to hold the reader's interest but not so fast that the author loses or confuses the reader? Do the scenes work hard to advance the plot, illuminate GMC and develop the romance?	
	Are Secondary Characters sufficiently developed and necessary to the story? If there are none, do the protagonist(s) carry the scene?	
	PAGE 1 TOTAL Maximum 60 points	

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Page 2

Score	Question	Comments
Romance		
	Does the initial meeting of the hero/heroine create a sense of anticipation for the romance to come? Is there a sense of destiny being set in motion? If the hero/heroine have not met, is the romance reader anticipating the meeting? (If the hero/heroine have not yet met, the delay should not be the product of a slow pace, inappropriate scene selection, or contrived plotting.)	
	Has the author created or hinted at internal and external motivations and conflicts that will affect the/any relationship and create strong, believable romantic tension?	
	Is the level of sensuality appropriate for the genre and does the sexual tension feel natural rather than forced? Does the sexual tension build?	
	Does the romance feel unique and not cliched?	
Avoiding the Traps		
	Does the author avoid the dreaded "backstory info dump" and instead seamlessly mesh plot and characterization so that the reader has just the right bits of information at just the right times?	
	Has the author avoided grammar and punctuation errors, as well as avoided obvious formatting mistakes in the presentation of the manuscript?	
	Has the author avoided "telling" the story and instead has shown the story vividly and involved the reader in the action as it happens?	
	Has the author avoided a generic story? Is this story specific and vivid with a well-developed setting or world which is important to the plot or informs character rather than serving as window dressing?	
Overall Impression		
	Using a scale from 1 to 10 (1 being "major revisions needed" and 10 being "ready for publication"), please rate this entry.	
	PAGE 2 TOTAL Maximum 50 points	

Add Page 1 and Page 2 score and place in the Total Score Box on page 1.

Your Judge: RWA Pro Contest finalist/winner GH Finalist
 Published with large national publisher Published with small press

Final Thoughts: