

## The Emerald 2021

- Opening date:** 5:00 pm Sydney time 26th October 2020. **Emailed entries only.**
- Closing date:** **5:00 pm Sydney time 16 November 2020**
- Eligibility:** RWAust members in Aspiring and Emerging membership categories only. Entrants must not have any works of fiction (10K+) commercially available.
- Entry fee:** AU\$40.00 per entry (Australian entries – GST incl.)  
AU\$36.36 per entry (overseas entries – GST exempt)
- Judging:** Preliminary judging is in two rounds, by reader judges.
- 2021 Final judge: Kimberley Atkins, Publisher, Women’s Fiction, Hodder & Stoughton
- Entry specifications:** **First 10,000 words** (maximum) of your 'unpublished' (i.e. not commercially available or contracted) 10K+ romance or romantic elements manuscript. Use exact computer word count.  
2<sup>nd</sup> and final rounds will require the full manuscript.
- No. of entries:** Maximum of TWO entries per person.
- How to enter:** **Go to the link on the RWA website to fill in your online entry form**  
<http://romanceaustralia.com/contests-overview/the-emerald-award/>
- Queries:** **Marg Key, Contest Coordinator: [rwaemerald@gmail.com](mailto:rwaemerald@gmail.com)**

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR ENTRANTS:

### Entries:

#### Entry is a two-step process:

- 1) Please complete your **contest registration and payment** online. No postal entries are accepted.
- 2) Once you have completed your registration and payment of entry fees, you will receive an emailed registration and payment receipt, **along with further instructions for emailing your entry files to the manager.**
- 3) Each entry should comprise the following:

**Entry:** one file in .doc format (not .docx) with the manuscript title in the filename. Include your title page, then the manuscript, as follows:

- **Title page**, including the following: manuscript title, subgenre, word count of full manuscript
- **Manuscript**, beginning on a new page; the **first** 10,000 words (maximum) of your manuscript.

**Word counts** are exact. Use computer count. Any extra words will be trimmed, so ensure your entry does not exceed 10,000 words.

**Once your entry has been emailed to the manager, you will receive an acknowledgement email.** If you do not hear from the contest manager within 48 hours of sending your entry, email again without attachments, to ask if your entry has been received. Your manager is a volunteer, so response times may be variable.

**If you are unsure of anything, contact [rwaemerald@gmail.com](mailto:rwaemerald@gmail.com) before you submit**

**Download a formatting sample and example scoresheet:**

[/http://romanceaustralia.com/contests-overview/the-emerald-award/](http://romanceaustralia.com/contests-overview/the-emerald-award/)

### Formatting your manuscript:

#### FOR ALL ROUNDS:

- Page is A4 size, portrait orientation
- Include a title page containing **manuscript title, subgenre** and **word count** of full manuscript
- Text for manuscript begins on a new page, approx. one-third of the way down, and is double-spaced, with no blank lines or extra spacing between paragraphs; the first line of each paragraph is indented 1 cm
- Margins set to 2.5 cm all around
- All text is aligned left (not fully justified)
- All text is 12-pt Courier New or Times New Roman font
- Begin each new chapter approx. one-third of the way down a new page
- Include a document header, containing:
  - a. Page number in the upper right corner. Start page numbers at page 1 on the manuscript (don't number your title page)
  - b. Manuscript title
  - c. Subgenre.e.g. The Hot Greek Billionaire/Contemporary  
Sexy Space Pirates/Sci-fi with romantic elements

This information is to enable us properly to allocate your entry to judges. **Do not include your name anywhere on the entry.**

We realise this formatting might not be the same as you're using to publish, and that 'in the real world' the rules aren't so specific—but to ensure consistency and ease for judges, all the above formatting conditions are compulsory.

If in doubt about how to achieve any of the formatting, please ask the contest manager for advice. Check your entry against the formatting sample on the website and ask yourself: *does my entry look like this?* If the answer is no, then ask for help.

## ENTRY CONDITIONS

**RWA Inc. reserves the right to disqualify entries that do not comply with the entry conditions. The contest manager's decision in this regard is final.**

1. The Emerald Award is for a partial manuscript (in the 1<sup>st</sup> round) and full manuscript (in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and final rounds) from a romance or romantic elements novel or novella (10K+) that is not commercially available or contracted for publication. Only RWA members in the Aspiring and Emerging categories, who have no novels or novellas (10K+) commercially available, and have not accepted an offer of publication in novel or novella-length fiction (10K+), are eligible to enter i.e. you are ineligible to enter the Emerald Award if you are 'published'. See Romance Writers of Australia Member Classifications on the RWA website for details: <http://romanceaustralia.com/join-rwa/>
2. For the purposes of this contest, RWA deems 'commercially available' to mean: any work of fiction (*or part of*) that is (*or has been at any time*) available for purchase or download in any format for any price including free:
  - a. in any marketplace where books are available (*this shall include physical or digital bookstores, a publisher's website or store, and any other retailer or distribution outlet for books in any format*);
  - b. at any other venue where the work includes (*or is followed by*) links to non-free content, or otherwise appears with the intent of selling or encouraging purchase of any of the author's works (*this shall include story-sharing or file-sharing sites, blogs, social media sites and other author websites.*)
3. The projected word length of the completed manuscript from which your entry is taken must be 10,000 words or over (novella or novel-length) for your entry to be eligible. Entries from a manuscript that has won a previous Valerie Parv, Emma Darcy, Emerald Award or Sapphire are not eligible.
4. All entrants must be financial members of RWA. If membership lapses at any time during the judging process, the entry will be removed from the contest.
5. Members are not allowed to judge for contests they have entered. Contest Managers may not enter or judge a contest they are managing, but may enter or judge for another contest.
6. If after submitting his/her entry, the entrant accepts an offer of publication for the entry, or makes the entry commercially available, during the contest period (from submission of entry to the public announcement of round 3), the entry is no longer eligible to go forward in the contest, and the entrant must contact the contest manager to arrange for the entry to be withdrawn. If finalists have already been announced when the entrant accepts the offer of publication or makes a work commercially available, no withdrawal is required, finalist placings will stand, and the entry remains eligible to win prizes.
7. The definition of 'romance' implies the romantic development of a relationship between the protagonists, and includes all romantic novel and novella markets, heat levels and sub-genres, i.e. category and single title romance, contemporary, historical, Regency, futuristic, fantasy, paranormal, time travel, romantic suspense, erotic romance, chick lit, young adult, new adult, gay/lesbian, rural/outback, inspirational, science fiction. Entries from novels/novellas with romantic elements (where romantic development between the protagonists is a subplot) are also eligible. Judges will judge your entry based on the information you give, so **contact the contest manager in advance if you are unsure of the correct sub-genre**. If your entry includes explicit sex, mark the applicable box/es on the entry form. This is merely to help us allocate your entry to judges familiar with those elements.
8. The Emerald Pro is held in 3 rounds. The 1<sup>st</sup> round is the first 10,000 words of a romance or romantic elements novel/novella, as detailed in items 1–7 above. The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> rounds are for the full manuscript of the same novel/novella (minor revisions/changes from the first round entry are permitted), which must be emailed to the contest manager within 5 working days of the announcement of placement in each round. Any entries received late will not be allowed to go through.
9. The top 15 entries in the first round will progress to the second round, and the top 3 entries in the second round shall be the finalists, with the proviso that an entry must score 85% or higher in a round to be eligible to advance to the next round, or to be eligible for a prize or placing. Ties for 2<sup>nd</sup> round or finalist placings can be resolved by highest total X-factor score. See the RWA website for more details and rules regarding how the contest is judged: <http://romanceaustralia.com/contests/how-are-our-contests-judged/>. If insufficient 1<sup>st</sup> round entries are received to make running the contest feasible, RWA reserves the right to cancel the contest and refund the entry fees.
10. The entrant must be the original author of every entry they submit. Entries by joint authors are permitted. Fan fiction (story using characters, settings, worlds or other elements that belong to someone else) is not eligible. Entries must be text only, no images.
11. RWA reserves the right, at any time during the contest, to reject entries that in the contest manager's opinion contain any of the following presented in a positive light or as titillation: rape, pedophilia, incest, or any other conduct that is degrading or promotes hate.
12. Up to two (2) entries per person are permitted. Copyright in the manuscript remains with the entrant.
13. Entry fees are non-refundable once your entry is accepted. Credit card payment only, via the online system. Direct any payment enquiries to the manager on [rwaemerald@gmail.com](mailto:rwaemerald@gmail.com).

14. Judges' decisions and scores are final. No correspondence will be entered into. If you have suggestions on the contest process, advise the manager by separate email.

15. Thank you notes to judges are welcome. Please email any thank yous to the contest manager, including the judge numbers, and they will be forwarded. No gifts, please.

### **ENTRY AND FORMATTING**

16. Online entries only (no snail mail). You will then email your entry files to the contest manager. If you have two entries, attach both to the same email.

17. Your **first round entry** includes the **first** 10,000 words (maximum) of your romance or romantic elements manuscript. Word count is exact and any words exceeding the limit will be trimmed. Entries can be shorter than these counts, but bear in mind that judges are scoring for character and plot development (see sample scoresheet on the website for details). Entries for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> rounds will be the full manuscript of the 1<sup>st</sup> round entry. All entries to be saved in .doc format (not .docx).

18. The **title page must include**: manuscript title, subgenre/targeted line and projected word count of completed manuscript. The **header must include**: manuscript title, subgenre/targeted line and page number, starting at page 1 on the manuscript (don't number the title page). **Author's name must not appear on entries**. RWA contests strive to preserve anonymity between judges and entrants.

19. **Formatting for all rounds**: A4 page, portrait orientation. Font: 12 pt Courier New or Times New Roman. 2.5 cm margins all round. Text is aligned left (not fully justified), and is double-spaced, with no blank lines between paragraphs, and the first line of each paragraph is indented 1 cm. Begin each chapter approx. one-third of the way down a new page.

20. To ensure fairness to all entrants, and consistency and ease for judges, **all the above formatting conditions are compulsory**. If any condition is not met, and time allows, you will be given the opportunity to fix the problem and submit a correctly formatted entry before the closing date/time. If your entry is not received with correct formatting by that time, it will be entered in the contest, but a 5-mark deduction (total, not per error) will be made from your raw score, and your entry will be ranked below equivalently-scored entries that do not have formatting errors. You are encouraged to submit your entries well in advance of the closing date, to ensure you have time to correct any errors.