**Romance Writers of Australia**

**RIPPING START**

**SCORE SHEET**

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| **Entry No.** |  | **Title:** |  | |
| **Judge No.** |  | **Sub-genre/Line** |  | |
| **TOTAL SCORE (Maximum: 85 marks)** | | | |  |

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| **JUDGES:**  You are asked to assess **READINESS FOR SUBMISSION**.  Refer to **Guidelines for Judges** before you begin. **PLEASE GIVE COMMENTS WHEREVER POSSIBLE.**  The scoring scheme is from 1 to 5. Zero is not a valid mark. Half-marks are acceptable.  5 = ready for submission;  4 = only minor adjustments needed;  3 = needs moderate revision;  2 = needs significant revision;  1 = major problem. |

**PART A – TARGETED SUBGENRE OR LINE**

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| Is the entry suitable for the targeted sub-genre, publisher or line? If No, please advise alternatives:  (Mark Yes or No. A score is not applicable for this question.) |  |

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| **PART B – SPELLING, GRAMMAR & PUNCTUATION**  Remember you are marking readiness for submission, not perfection – a few errors can still be ready for submission. Do not mark based on personal preferences. Allow for tone and voice if applicable, especially in dialogue. Either US or Australian/UK spelling is acceptable so long as it is consistent. | **Score** |
| Is the entry free of spelling errors?  (Max 5 marks) |  |
| Are the basics of grammar followed?  (Max 5 marks) |  |
| Are the basics of punctuation followed?  (Max 5 marks) |  |
| **If you gave less than full marks for any of these, either mark the errors on the entry, or explain here:** | |
| **Subtotal for SPELLING, GRAMMAR & PUNCTUATION (Maximum: 15 marks)** |  |

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| **PART C – THE ENTRY** |  |
| **MINI SYNOPSIS** | **Score** |
| Did the synopsis tell an understandable story? (Did you understand the plot, the characters and what was going on?)  (Max 5 marks) |  |
| Did the synopsis show the character/s conflict and /or growth?  (Max 5 marks) |  |
| Did the synopsis show an emotionally satisfying resolution to the story?  (Max 5 marks) |  |
| Did the synopsis alone make you want to read the full story?  (Max 5 marks) |  |
| **Please comment to explain your mark here. If you gave less than full marks, please explain why.** | |
| **Subtotal for MINI SYNOPSIS (Maximum: 20 marks)** |  |

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| **THE ENTRY** | **Score** |
| Were you immediately immersed in the setting/and or time period?  (Max 5 marks) |  |
| Were the character/s intriguing? Did you care what happened to him/her/them?  (Max 5 marks) |  |
| Can you see interesting conflicts/problems emerging for the characters?  (Max 5 marks) |  |
| Has the writer raised questions you want to see resolved? Do you want to read more of the story?  (Max 5 marks) |  |
| **Please comment to explain your mark here. If you gave less than full marks, please explain why.** | |
| **Subtotal for ENTRY (Maximum: 20 marks)** |  |

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| **WRITING TECHNIQUE** | **Score** |
| Is the writing well paced?  (Max 5 marks) |  |
| Is the viewpoint clear? Are viewpoint changes (if any) handled smoothly?  (Max 5 marks) |  |
| Does the character/s voice (including dialogue) sound natural or true to the era/setting of the book?  (Max 5 marks) |  |
| Did the writing style/voice appeal to you?  (Max 5 marks) |  |
| **Please comment to explain your mark here. If you gave less than full marks, please explain why.** | |
| **Subtotal for WRITING TECHNIQUE (Maximum: 20 marks)** |  |

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| **PART D – THE X-FACTOR**  *Submission to an editor is only one step on the road to publication. An editor may require corrections or rewrites, but there are qualities that will make them consider putting time into and working with a writer to bring them to publication. Publishers may reject a manuscript, but will also ask the writer to try again. To mark this item, ignore the errors, and look for the potential.* | **Score** |
| **How do you rate the potential of this entry?**  Give a score from 1 to 10, where 1 = 'very poor' and 10 = 'if I were an editor, I’d want to see this novel'.  (Max 10 marks) |  |
| **Please comment to explain your mark here.** | |
| **Subtotal for X-FACTOR (Maximum: 10 marks)** |  |

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| **SCORING**  **Please enter your subtotals from above:** |  |
| Subtotal for SPELLING, GRAMMAR & PUNCTUATION (Maximum: 15 marks) |  |
| Subtotal for MINI SYNOPSIS (Maximum: 20 marks) |  |
| Subtotal for ENTRY (Maximum: 20 marks) |  |
| Subtotal for WRITING TECHNIQUE (Maximum: 20 marks) |  |
| Subtotal for X-FACTOR (Maximum: 10 marks) |  |
| **TOTAL FOR THIS ENTRY (Maximum: 85 marks)** |  |

**JUDGE’S SUMMARY COMMENTS**

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| What were the particular strengths of this entry? Use this section to explain what you particularly like about this story and what worked well. |
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| What didn’t work so well and how could it be improved? |
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**ABOUT THIS JUDGE:**

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|  | Published, Romance |
|  | Published, Other |
|  | Editor |
|  | Unpublished writer |
|  | Contest finalist/winner |
|  | Avid reader of the genre |