

Romance Writers of Australia ~ Valerie Parv Award SCORE SHEET

Entry No.		Title:	
Judge No.		Sub-genre/Line	

TOTAL SCORE (Maximum: 105 marks)

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 PUBLISHER OR LINE (Mark Yes or No. A score is not applicable for this question.)

Is the entry suitable for the targeted publisher or line, if given? If No, please advise alternatives:

SUB-GENRE (Mark Yes or No. A score is not applicable for this question.)

Has the author indicated the correct sub-genre? If No, please advise alternatives:

PART B – SPELLING, GRAMMAR & PUNCTUATION

Score

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 spelling is acceptable so long as it is consistent.

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)

PART C – THE SYNOPSIS

Score the synopsis from 1 to 10, where 10 = 'ready for submission' and 1 = 'major problems'.
Consider the following criteria:

Score

--

- Does it start with a hook that draws you in right away?
- Is there a clear sense of where and when the story takes place?
- Are characters, goals and situations clearly established – is there a story?
- Does the action follow a logical cause and effect – did you understand why things happened?
- Is it free of inessential details? Is it easy to read and understand?
- Is the resolution satisfying, with loose ends tied up?
- Did the synopsis make you want to read the full novel?

(Max 10 marks)

Please comment to explain your mark here. If you gave less than full marks, please explain why.

Subtotal for SYNOPSIS (Maximum: 10 marks)

--

PART D – THE MANUSCRIPT

OPENING

For a manuscript up to 65K = the first few pages
For 65K upwards = the first chapter

Score

Were you drawn in right away?

(Max 5 marks)

--

Were the main character/s and their situation introduced, giving a sense of what the story is about?

(Max 5 marks)

--

Is there a clear sense of time and place?

(Max 5 marks)

--

Does the opening make you want to read on?

(Max 5 marks)

--

Please comment to explain your mark here. If you gave less than full marks, please explain why.

Subtotal for OPENING (Maximum: 20 marks)

--

CHARACTERISATION

Focus on the romantic protagonists (or in a romantic elements entry, the main character)

Score

Did you get a good sense of the main character/s physical appearance?

(Max 5 marks)

Did you get a good sense of the main character/s personality? Did you enjoy reading about them?

(Max 5 marks)

Do the character/s react consistently, according to what is shown of their personality? Did you understand the reasons for their actions?

(Max 5 marks)

Do the character/s develop throughout the entry – did you learn more about them?

(Max 5 marks)

Please comment to explain your mark here. If you gave less than full marks, please explain why.

Subtotal for CHARACTERISATION (Maximum: 20 marks)

WRITING TECHNIQUE

Is the writing well paced?

(Max 5 marks)

Is the viewpoint clear and consistent? Are viewpoint changes (if any) handled smoothly?

(Max 5 marks)

Does the dialogue sound natural or true to the era/setting of the book and the characters?

(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: 15 marks)

READER ENJOYABILITY

Do you care what happens to the characters?

(Max 5 marks)

Does the writing have a distinct style or voice that impacts positively on you?

(Max 5 marks)

Did you enjoy reading this entry and want to read more?

(Max 5 marks)

Please comment to explain your mark here. If you gave less than full marks, please explain why.

Subtotal for READER ENJOYABILITY (Maximum: 15 marks)

JUDGE'S SUMMARY COMMENTS

What were the particular strengths of this entry? Use this section to explain what you particularly like about this story and what worked well.

What didn't work so well and how could it be improved?

ABOUT THIS JUDGE:

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