



GOTHROM HAUNTED HEARTS CONTEST SCORE SHEET

Title _____ Entry #: _____

Category: _____ TOTAL NUMERIC SCORE: _____

Judge #: _____ Judge's profile: (Please check one below)

Pub Romance Pub other Pro Unpublished-Award winning Training Certified

Scoring Interpretation Suggestions:

Scoring: Range of 1 to 5. Total possible score is 45 points.

- 5 = Outstanding -Writer has mastered the concept/craft element.
(No Revisions needed)
- 4 = Excellent -Writer's understanding of the concept/craft element is clearly discernable.
(Light Revisions recommended on an otherwise solid entry)
- 3 = Average-Writing indicates a strong understanding of the concept/craft element.
(Revisions needed before sending out)
- 2 = Needs Work -Writing displays need for further study/understanding on the concept/craft elements.
(Revisions are needed and a recommend to work with a critique group)
- 1 = Roll up your sleeves-Writing indicates a need to revisit the concept/craft element. Writing is a craft and process and this is part of the growth.
(Significant study and thorough revisions recommended.)

Judges are to write comments as well as score each of the elements listed below. Comments should be positive and provide constructive criticism on those concepts and craft elements where the judge perceives a weakness or feels compelled to offer a suggestion or idea, which might strengthen the entry. Please circle the number that represents the score.

1.) Setting and Atmosphere:

Numeric Score (circle one): 1 2 3 4 5

The Haunted Hearts' focus is Gothic Romance which is defined by: Setting in a remote, provocative location that creates an atmosphere characteristic of Gothic novels. The story may or may not have paranormal elements.

Comments:

2.) Character development:

Numeric Score (circle one): 1 2 3 4 5

By Gothic Romance standards: The Heroine is vulnerable, in peril from an unknown source, at the mercy of a dark hero and has a mystery to solve. The Hero is dark, brooding, sexually experienced, with a deep dark secret and suspect to the heroine who both fears and is drawn to him. Both Heroine and Hero should struggle with internal conflicts that threaten their relationship.

3.) Sexual Tension/Chemistry

Numeric Score (circle one): 1 2 3 4 5

Elements of sexual awareness/conflict should be integral to the story. Generally, in a romance, both hero and heroine appear in the first chapter. If one or both do not, the judge should critique pertinent elements in this section, based on any elements of sexual awareness present and/or the information provided in the synopsis. We do not wish to discourage contestants from entering the contest, but do want to advise them that a missing hero or heroine may lower the score of an otherwise outstanding story.)

Is the resolution of the story and the romantic conflict believable and satisfying? Is the relationship between the hero and heroine believable? Can you see the development of the romantic conflict/feel the sexual tension between these two?

Comments:

4.) Professional Impact:

Numeric Score (circle one): 1 2 3 4 5

(GothRom does not require a particular font though TNR/Courier/Courier New is recommended. Font size should be 12 point.)

Is the manuscript presented professionally? Neat? Clear type? Manuscript format? Mechanics: Is the grammar correct? Spelling? Usage? Punctuation?

Comments:

5.) Dialogue

Numeric Score (circle one): 1 2 3 4 5

Does the dialogue sound natural and/or realistic? Note author's use of tags, beats, and word usage- is it appropriate for the character/time period, etc.?

Comments:

6.) Use of five senses

Numeric Score (circle one): 1 2 3 4 5

Does the author use the five senses to create a vivid picture in a subtle, layered manner? Or is it too much and distracting from the story?

Comments:

7.) Point of View

Numeric Score (circle one): 1 2 3 4 5

Is the author's use of Point of View (POV) consistent? Are the changes in POV smooth and logical? Does the reader always know whose head she is in? Though First Person POV is common in the Gothic genre, it's not wrong to use Third Person POV.

Comments:

8.) Compelling beginning/scene purpose

Numeric Score (circle one): 1 2 3 4 5

Does the story begin in the right place, with an appropriate Gothic setting?

Comments:

9.) Pacing

Numeric Score (circle one): 1 2 3 4 5

Is pacing too fast, too slow? Is it appropriate to the scene? Are the scenes free of irrelevant details/repeated information. Is too much back story included for a first chapter? Do scenes provide significant information to advance the story, establish conflict, develop characterization, and/or create suspense? Is there external conflict that keeps driving the story, i.e. outside events that threaten the hero and heroine and must be overcome. A well crafted Antagonist?

Comments:

Additional Comments: