

## 2017 Stiletto Contest Score Sheet

**Judge Number:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Entry Number:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Entry Title:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Published or Unpublished:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Category:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Judge's Bio

I am (please check all that apply):

Unpublished \_\_\_\_\_  
Contest Finalist \_\_\_\_\_  
RITA Finalist \_\_\_\_\_  
Golden Heart Finalist \_\_\_\_\_  
PRO \_\_\_\_\_  
PAN \_\_\_\_\_  
Published fiction novel length \_\_\_\_\_  
Published fiction novella length \_\_\_\_\_  
Published short stories \_\_\_\_\_  
Published in romance \_\_\_\_\_  
Published in other genres \_\_\_\_\_

### Scoring

All categories are scored 1-5. Decimal points may be used (Example: 3.5 or 4.5). To make the contest a valuable experience for all entrants, we encourage thoughtful feedback/comments on each score. Any score below a 4 *must* include an explanation comment.

*Note: Score sheets with scores left blank or scores below 4 without explanation will be returned to the judge for completion.*

**Be kind.** Cruelty is unnecessary and not permitted in the Stiletto contest. Use your *good* words to express your judging opinion. Any score sheets with comments deemed cruel or demeaning will be returned to the judge for rewording. Judges found to be verbally abusive in comments will be banned from judging and entering the Stiletto contest in the future.

### Scoring Guideline:

**5 = Excellent**

**4 = Good**

**3 = Average**, needs some minor fixes, shows promise, understands grammar and punctuation and editing.

**2 = Below average**, needs work on basic concepts in this area, not ready for submission.

**1 = Major problems**, needs work and better understanding of basic concepts in this area.

### **Hook/Opening**

1. Does the submission hook/opening grab you from page one and make you want to read further? Does it draw you into the story immediately?

**Score:**

**Comments:**

### **Characters**

1. **Hero:** Is the hero a compelling, interesting, multidimensional, sympathetic character with distinct traits and carries the plot through the novel?

**Score:**

**Comments:**

2. **Heroine:** Is the heroine a compelling, interesting, multidimensional, sympathetic character with distinct traits and carries the plot through the novel?

**Score:**

**Comments:**

### **Conflict**

1. Is there sufficient internal and external conflict to keep the pace through an entire novel? Is conflict not contrived or forced? Does the conflict rise in an effective way to challenge the romantic relationship in the story?

**Score:**

**Comments:**

### **Chemistry**

1. Is there sufficient chemistry between the characters that lasts the entire novel? Do they react realistically with each other? Is the romantic relationship believable?

**Score:**

**Comments:**

### **Dialogue**

1. Does the dialogue flow naturally and move the story forward? Is dialogue used to reveal information and create scene changes?

**Score:**

**Comments:**

2. Does each character have a distinctive voice that reflects his/her personality? Is the exposition of each character natural to the speaker and situation?

**Score:**

**Comments:**

3. Is there an adequate mixture of dialogue, dialogue tags, and action?

**Score:**

**Comments:**

**Point of View**

1. Are the POV transitions apparent? Is the entry free of head-hopping? Is there a clear transition from scene to scene from the characters' point of view?

**Score:**

**Comments:**

2. Do the choices of POV characters for each passage enhance the story and overall effectively contribute to the narrative of the story? (Either 1<sup>st</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> person.)

**Score:**

**Comments:**

**Plot**

1. Is the plot intriguing and believable? Does it create enough conflict for the hero and heroine's romantic relationship?

**Score:**

**Comments:**

**Writing**

1. **Mechanics:** Is the writing clear, grammar correct, sentence structure correct, and punctuation error free?

**Score:**

**Comments:**

2. **Style:** Does the writing flow? Are transitions smooth? Does the author use a varied of sentence length and structure to enhance the story?

**Score:**

**Comments:**

3. **Description:** Does the author paint a vivid picture, using the senses (sight, hearing, touch, smell, taste) to create a scene? Can you feel yourself in the story and setting? Does the author describe the setting well?

**Score:**

**Comments:**

4. **Pace:** Does the pace draw you to read the next page? Does the pacing move the plot forward, advancing the story? Does each scene move the plot and is necessary and appropriate for the story? Does the author present appropriate backstory in an appropriate manner, without backstory overload?

**Score:**

**Comments:**

5. **Voice:** Is the author's voice distinct and clear? Does the author's voice work well with the story?

**Score:**

**Comments:**

2017 Stiletto Contest Score Sheet, Published Category – Contemporary Romance Writers

6. **Show & Tell:** Does the author show rather than tell?

**Score:**

**Comments:**

**Category**

1. Is the entry placed in the correct/appropriate category by the author?

**Score:**

**Comments:**

2. Is the story set in the contemporary world, with an appropriate plot to fit the genre?

**Score:**

**Comments:**

**Score Total:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Committee Use Only:**

Score sheet received by:

Date:

Sent to Stiletto Chairperson on: