

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Published or Unpublished: _____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Unpublished _____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? Would you keep reading past the first three chapters?

Score:

Comments:

Characters

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

Score:

Comments:

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

Score:

Comments:

Conflict

1. Is there sufficient internal and external conflict to keep the pace through an entire novel (or has groundwork been set for sufficient conflict for the hero and heroine). Is conflict not contrived or forced? Do you see the conflict rising in an effective way to challenge a romantic relationship in the story?

Score:

Comments:

Chemistry

1. Is there sufficient chemistry or groundwork for chemistry between the characters to last an 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 1st or 3rd person.)

Score:

Comments:

Plot

1. Is the plot intriguing and believable? Does it create enough conflict for the hero and heroine's romantic relationship, even if they have not met yet?

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 writer use a varied of sentence length and structure to enhance the story?

Score:

Comments:

3. **Description:** Does the writer 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 writer 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 writer present appropriate backstory in an appropriate manner, without backstory overload?

Score:

Comments:

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

Score:

Comments:

2017 Stiletto Contest Score Sheet, Unpublished Category – Contemporary Romance Writers

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

Score:

Comments:

Category

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

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: