

RWA® Mystery/Suspense Chapter presents
The Daphne du Maurier Award
FOR EXCELLENCE IN MYSTERY/SUSPENSE
PUBLISHED DIVISION 2012

CONTEST RULES

The contest is open to any writer who has been published in book-length fiction (40,000 words or more). There is no limit to the number of entries per author or per category, but each book may be entered in **ONLY ONE** category. Membership in Romance Writers of America® and/or MRSRWA (KOD) is not a requirement for entry.

Deadline: Entries must be received by March 15, 2012. Early entries will be held until all entries are received. All entries received postmarked after the deadline will be returned to sender.

Important qualifier: The Daphne Published Contest has three judges per entry. In order to give the entrant the most for his/her entry dollar and **IN AN EFFORT TO** not overwhelm our judges, the Daphne will adhere to the following entry caps:

Mainstream mystery/suspense (romantic elements optional) 40 entries
Single Title romantic mystery/suspense 40 entries
Category (Series) romantic/mystery suspense 40 entries
Historical romantic mystery/suspense 40 entries
Inspirational romantic mystery/suspense 40 entries
Paranormal/Time Travel/Futuristic romantic mystery/suspense 40 entries

Categories:

- Category (Series) romantic mystery/suspense: any manuscript that fits into series romance as published by Harlequin, Silhouette, etc.
- Historical romantic mystery/suspense: any manuscript set in a time that predates World War II
- Inspirational romantic mystery/suspense: any manuscript in which religious or spiritual beliefs form a significant part of the story
- Mainstream mystery/suspense: any manuscript where the mystery/suspense is the main plot; may contain elements of romance
- Paranormal/time travel/futuristic romantic mystery/suspense: any manuscript with

elements of supernatural occurrences

- Single title romantic mystery/suspense: any manuscript where the romance is the main plot, contains elements of mystery/suspense and is a standalone book.

DEFINITIONS THAT MAY HELP CONTESTANT DETERMINE WHERE ENTRY FITS:

The entries in the Category (Series), Historical and Paranormal categories may contain varying degrees of mystery or suspense with the romance as the primary or secondary focus.

- If the romance is the primary focus, the story should follow the guidelines of a romance: the hero and heroine must end up together in a happy, committed relationship.

- If the romance is the secondary focus, the story should follow the guidelines of a romance, but the committed relationship may only be alluded to.

Entries in the mainstream mystery/suspense category may contain only minor elements of romance or none at all.

All entries must have a minimum length of 40,000 words.

It is the author's responsibility to enter the work in the correct category. All clarifications as to category should be made prior to submission. If you have any questions, please direct them to the Overall Contest Coordinator through the email link on this website.

How to enter:

Entrants will submit four (4) copies of **a published** novel with a copyright date of 2011. Works with a 2010 original copyright date, but not available for public release until 2011, will be accepted with proper documentation. Novels (in any format) released for sale before 2011 are not eligible. For purposes of the Daphne, a contestant is considered published if the contest entry is published in **any** publishing venue, including e-pub or self-published, subsidy (vanity) press, print-on-demand or small imprint publisher. The contest is open to all these venues so long as the contestant supplies the book in the format stipulated with the guidelines.

All entries will be in standard industry format. **NO DISK SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

E-books, self-published, print-on-demand, etc. are accepted, **BUT YOUR BOOK MUST BE IN MASS MARKET OR TRADEBACK PAPERBACK SIZE. NO UNBOUND SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

A separate signed entry required for each submission.

Submitting the package:

Each entry must be accompanied by:

- entry form (printed from the website). First, fill in the form on the website. Next print it to send along with your package. Finally, hit submit so that a notification will be sent to each coordinator so we know you are sending us a package.
- payment: \$25 U.S. per entry. Multiple Entries may be paid with one payment (please indicate this on the entry form).

For U.S. entrants: U.S. contestants may send personal checks or money orders made payable to "MRSRWA". You may also use the PayPal link on the website.

For Non-U.S. entrants: Contestants outside the U.S. must pay by Bank Money Order in U.S. funds made payable to "MRSRWA", or through the PayPal link on the website.

Mailing Requirements:

- No entries requiring a signature will be accepted. (You may use the USPS delivery confirmation if you wish.)
- Affix correct postage.

Judging:

Entries will be judged by experienced or Daphne Contest Committee-trained judges. The top five (5) entries in each category will advance to the final placement round. In the event of a tie for 5th place, all eligible entries will advance to the final placement round.

Barring unforeseen circumstances, finalists will be notified by phone on or about May 25, 2012. Each book will be judged by three judges, but the lowest score will be dropped for overall scoring purposes.

Scoresheet:

All judging will be done electronically, and scoresheets will be returned electronically. If you would like to receive your scoresheets, you **MUST** indicate that on the entry form, along with your e-mail address, otherwise they will not be returned. If you do not receive e-mail, please let the Coordinator know, and she will make arrangements to return your scoresheets by mail.

Announcement of the Winners:

Winners will be announced at the RWA® National Conference in Anaheim in 2012.

- The first-place entry in each category will receive an engraved bookmark and gift certificate for one COFFIN online class. A certificate of recognition will be awarded to the editor of the winning entry.

- All other finalists will be awarded a certificate.

The top overall scoring entry will receive the Daphne du Maurier Award for Excellence in Mystery/Suspense.

Results will be published in the *Romance Writers Report*.

Questions?

Please contact the Overall Contest Coordinator at DaphneContest@gmail.com

**The name "Daphne du Maurier" is used with permission of the du Maurier estate.*