

RWA<sup>®</sup> Mystery/Suspense Chapter presents

*The Daphne du Maurier Award*

FOR EXCELLENCE IN MYSTERY/SUSPENSE  
UNPUBLISHED DIVISION 2010

CATEGORY (SERIES) ROMANTIC  
MYSTERY/SUSPENSE SCORESHEET

Entry Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Entry number: \_\_\_\_\_

Final Score: \_\_\_\_\_

Category: \_\_\_\_\_

Judge number: \_\_\_\_\_

Judge profile: (PLEASE CHECK ONE)

published in romance     published in non-romance     unpublished     award winning

**SCORING (123 points max.)**

- 5 = excellent (publishable)
- 4 = good (close to being publishable, but still needs minor work)
- 3 = average (but not special)
- 2 = (shows promise, but needs improvement)
- 1 = poor (needs major work)

Important: Please comment liberally on both scoresheet and manuscript. This is a contest for unpublished writers, and entrants both need and rely on your comments to help them in their writing process. Contests are one of the most important ways to obtain feedback. For any question scored 3 or less, the Daphne Committee strongly urges that you include comments and/or an explanation.

**BEGINNING OF MANUSCRIPT**

- \_\_\_ Does the hook pull you into the story?
- \_\_\_ Does the author reveal the right amount of information, not too much or too little?
- \_\_\_ Is there an idea/foreshadow of the mystery/suspense to come in the opening pages?

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**PLOT/PACING**

- Is the plot original and well-executed?
- Does the plot have the potential to sustain an entire book in category (series) romance?
- Is the pacing appropriate to category (series) romantic suspense?

COMMENTS:

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**CHARACTERIZATION**

- Are the characters skillfully developed?
- Are the characters appropriate to the plot?
- Do you get a sense of the hero/heroine's physical characteristics?
- Do you get a sense of the hero/heroine's personality?
- Is there sexual chemistry between the hero and heroine?

COMMENTS:

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**CATEGORY (SERIES) ROMANCE SPECIFIC**

- Do the main characters come together in a timely fashion?
- Do the main characters come together in a way that is appropriate to the story?
- Is the conflict between the main characters appropriate to category (series) romance?

COMMENTS:

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**DIALOGUE/NARRATIVE**

- Is there a good balance between dialogue and narrative?
- Does the dialogue progress the story and help build the suspense?
- Does the narrative progress the story and help build the suspense?
- Does the dialogue ring true (normal and conversational, not too stiff and unnatural)?

COMMENTS:

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**SETTING**

Does the setting give a sense of time and place and set the mood of the story?

Is the setting interwoven into the plot and does it enhance the story rather than pull the reader from it?

COMMENTS:

**POINT OF VIEW**

Is the POV clear at all times?

COMMENTS:

**STYLE/VOICE**

Is the writing vivid and evocative? Does it have a certain spark that keeps you reading?

Are sentence structure and length varied?

Is the entry free of typos and errors in spelling, grammar, and punctuation?

COMMENTS:

**OPTIONAL BONUS POINT** *(worth 1 additional point)*

Was the entry a compelling read?

**OPTIONAL BONUS POINT** *(worth 1 additional point)*

Would you like to read the entire book?

**OPTIONAL BONUS POINT** *(worth 1 additional point)*

Would you recommend this book to a friend if it were published?

**TOTAL POINTS** (Maximum total 123) \_\_\_\_\_

Please mark ONE (1) statement that best describes this particular entry and send it with your e-mailed scores. This will be added to the total score ONLY in the event of a tie-breaker.

6. This manuscript is superb - masterfully written.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. A wonderful read.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. An entertaining read.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Well done.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Somewhat enjoyable.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Some good moments.

**OVERALL MANUSCRIPT COMMENTS** (feel free to add comments to manuscript)

Temporary sample for entrants preview only