

RWA[®] Mystery/Suspense Chapter presents

The Daphne du Maurier Award

**FOR EXCELLENCE IN MYSTERY/SUSPENSE
UNPUBLISHED DIVISION 2012**

**HISTORICAL ROMANTIC
MYSTERY/SUSPENSE SCORESHEET**

Entry Title:	
Entry number:	
Final Score:	
Category:	
Judge number:	

Judge profile: (PLEASE CHECK ONE)

<input type="checkbox"/>	published in romance	<input type="checkbox"/>	published in non- romance	<input type="checkbox"/>	unpublished	<input type="checkbox"/>	award winning
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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 This is a contest for unpublished writers, and entrants both need and rely on your comments to help them in their writing process.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 historical romance?
- Is the pacing appropriate to historical romantic suspense?

COMMENTS:

HISTORICAL SPECIFIC

- Are there any glaring anachronisms that would jolt the reader out of the story?
- Does the aspect of mystery/suspense blend with the romantic historical theme?
- Do the historical elements draw you into the overall setting?

COMMENTS:

CHARACTERIZATION

- Are the characters skillfully developed?
- Are the characters appropriate to the plot?
- Are the characters at home in their time, or are there 21st-century "drop-ins" with 21st-century agendas?
- In the opening pages, is there an idea or foreshadow of the relationship to come?
- Are the characters' actions and reactions believable?

COMMENTS:

DIALOGUE/NARRATIVE

- Does the dialogue ring "true" for the time period?
- Is there a good balance between dialogue and narrative?

___ Do the dialogue and narrative progress the story and help build the suspense?

COMMENTS:

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? ___ Are the details significant to the story? Do they move the plot along?

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 or add them here:

Optional: Judge's Signature

Sample