

RWA[®] Mystery/Suspense Chapter presents

The Daphne du Maurier Award

FOR EXCELLENCE IN MYSTERY/SUSPENSE
UNPUBLISHED DIVISION 2010

MAINSTREAM
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published in romance published in non-romance unpublished award winning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 This is a contest for unpublished writers, and entrants both need and rely on your comments to help them in their writing process.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?
- ___ In the opening pages, is there an idea/foreshadow of the mystery/suspense to come?

COMMENTS: _____

PLOT/PACING

- Is the plot original and well-executed?
- Does the plot have the potential to sustain an entire book in mainstream mystery/suspense?
- Is the pacing appropriate to the type of story?

COMMENTS: _____

CHARACTERIZATION

- Are the characters skillfully developed?
- Are the characters appropriate to the plot?
- Are the characters' actions and reactions believable?

COMMENTS: _____

MAINSTREAM SPECIFIC

- Is the external conflict evident?
- Is the premise on which the story is created solid enough to build the story to its ultimate climax?
- Is at least one protagonist introduced into the story in a timely manner?
- Is at least one protagonist introduced in a way that makes you want to read more?

COMMENTS: _____

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: _____

Temporary sample comments preview only

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)

Temporary sample for entrants preview only