****

**Romance Writers of New Zealand Inc.**

**Pacific Hearts Award 2017**

**Score Sheet**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Entry No.** |  | **Title:** |  | |
| **Judge No.** |  | **Ms type/genre:** |  | |
| **TOTAL SCORE (Maximum: 85 points)** | | | |  |

|  |
| --- |
| **JUDGES:**  Please read **all** the guidelines before beginning your scoring.  If you have given fewer than full points for any question, please give your reasons.  Constructive feedback is very helpful to the author. |

|  |
| --- |
| **SCORING SCALE**  5 = Excellent; ready for submission   4 = Above average; needs only minor revision  3 = Average; has potential    **NOTE:** **This is the baseline score, where all entries start**  2 = Below average; requires considerable work  1 = Poor; extensive reworking required  Give whole marks—1, 2, 3, 4, 5   Don’t give partial marks such as 4.5 or 3.9 etc. |

**PRESENTATION:**

**(Note there is no score for this section)**

|  |
| --- |
| Did any errors affect your concentration on the story or detract from your enjoyment of it?  If so, please comment below. |
|

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **OPENING : 15 points** | **Score** |
| Do the opening pages grab your attention and make you want to keep reading?  (Max 5 points) |  |
| Does the opening chapter set up a strong and believable problem or tension between the main characters that they will need to resolve by the end of the book?  (Max 5 points) |  |
| Does the opening chapter give a clear impression of the setting and time period (i.e. historical or present day?  (Max 5 points) |  |
| **Comments**: | |
| **Subtotal for OPENING**  **(Maximum: 15 points)** |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **CHARACTERISATION : 20 points** | | **Score** |
| Are the main characters well developed with attributes, faults, habits, mannerisms that give them distinctive personalities?  (Max 5 points) | |  |
| Given what you know about the characters, do you feel their actions, reactions and dialogue are realistically motivated and in keeping with their personalities?  (Max 5 points) | |  |
| Does the relationship between the main characters have the potential to develop?  (Max 5 points) | |  |
| Were the secondary characters necessary and portrayed in a convincing manner without overshadowing the main characters?  (Max 5 points) | |  |
|  | |  |
| **Comments:** | | |
| **Subtotal for CHARACTERISATION**  **(Maximum: 20 points)** | |  |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
|  |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | | | |  |
| **WRITING TECHNIQUE : 30 Points** | | | | Score | |
| Do you always know which character is speaking (no confusing exchanges)?  (Max 5 points) | | | |  |
| Do you think the balance between dialogue and narrative is about right?  (Max 5 points) | | | |  |
| Does the dialogue move the story forward (no unnecessary chit-chat that slows the story down)?  (Max 5 points) | | | |  |
| Does the story flow smoothly (no confusion, contradictions)?  (Max 5 points) | | | |  |
| Is the pace of the story just right (not too fast, not too slow)?  (Max 5 Points) | | | |  |
| Does the writer have a unique style?  (Max 5 points) | | | |  |
| **Comments:** | | | | |
| **Subtotal for WRITING TECHNIQUE**  **Maximum: 30 Points** | | | |  |
|  | | | |  |
| **GENERAL: 20 Points** | | | | **Score** |
| How do you rate the plot for originality?  (Max 5 points) | | | |  |
| Does the story hold your interest throughout?  (Max 5 Points) | | | |  |
| Does this story engage your emotions? (Does it make you laugh, cry, feel sad/happy etc?)  (Max 5 points) | | | |  |
| Did you enjoy the book? (Max 5 points) | | | |  |
| **Comments:** | | | | |
|  |  | **Subtotal for GENERAL Maximum: 20 Points** |  | |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | |  | |
| Scoring |  | |  |
| Opening (Max: 15 Points) |  | |  |
| Characterisation (Max: 20 Points) |  | |  |
| Writing Techniques (Max: 30 Points) |  | |  |
| General (Max: 20 Points) |  | |  |
| Total Score  Please carry this total forward to top of score sheet (Max: 85 Points) |  | |  |

**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:-**

**Are there any additional comments you would like to make? This section is not scored.**