



Central Ohio Fiction Writers'

## 17th Annual Ignite the Flame Contest

*A rewarding competition for unpublished writers!*

### Score Sheet

#### Section A

**TOTAL SCORE:** \_\_\_\_\_

Entry Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Judge Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

(Signature optional)

\_\_\_\_\_ Published in romance fiction with  
(house) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Published in non-fiction

\_\_\_\_\_ Contest finalist    \_\_\_\_\_ Contest winner    \_\_\_\_\_ RWA pro    \_\_\_\_\_  
Agented

#### Scale:

5 = excellent (publishable quality with minor flaws that are barely noticeable)

4 = very good (needs some minor revision to really make the manuscript sparkle)

3 = average (good, but needs polish or lacks a quality that makes it stand out)

2 = needs improvement (serious revision recommended)

1 = Consider major revision

**\*Attention judges- please offer a recommendation for improvement for any score under a 5**

**First impressions (Total 10 points)**

**Presentation/Professionalism (5 Points)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Is the entry presented in a professional manner? Grammar, spelling, formatting in line with contest requirements listed on the website?

**Beginning and ending of scene (5 points)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Does the scene start in the correct place, have an interesting opening which grabs the reader's attention and/or end with something that makes the reader want to turn the page?

Comments:

**Igniting the Flame (Total 20 points)**

**Hero (5 points)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Is the hero three-dimensional and likeable with believable traits and flaws? Has he been described in a way that doesn't interfere with the scene?

**Heroine (5 points)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Is the heroine three dimensional and likeable with believable traits and flaws? Has she been described in a way that doesn't interfere with the scene?

**The Flame (5 points)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Is the possible relationship between the hero and heroine believable and exciting, with emotional as well as physical possibilities? Is there a spark of awareness between the hero and heroine either positive or negative?

**First meet (5 points)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Is this the first time the hero and heroine have met or been consciously aware of each other? Or at least the first time they've seen each other in years?

Comments:

## **Goals, Motivations and Conflicts (Total 15 points)**

### **Goals (5 points)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Do the characters have clear cut goals that could sustain a story?

### **Motivations (5 points)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Do the characters have believable motivations for their actions and are their actions logical for the situation?

### **Conflict (5 points)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Can the reader easily determine what's at stake for both the hero and heroine? Are internal and external conflicts recognizable and do they appear to be strong enough to be sustainable throughout the story?

Comments:

## **Telling the story (Total 40 points)**

### **Setting (5 points)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Is a sense of time and place established with the setting easy to picture without being intrusive, and does the writer use multiple senses to create a vivid picture?

### **Dialogue (5 points)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Does the dialogue move the story forward, and does it sound natural and realistic? Is there a good balance between dialogue and narrative?

### **Narrative (5 points)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Does the narrative move the story forward or is it bogged down with backstory or unnecessary description?

### **Transitions (5 points)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Are transitions in time, place or point of view, smooth, appropriate and necessary? If there are no transitions, score a 5.

### **Point of View (5 points)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Are point of view changes well done and important? Did author bounce from character to character in a distracting manner? Is dialogue tagging easy to follow?

**Pacing (5 points)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Does the pacing flow well throughout the entry? Do things happen in the scene that push the story forward and are necessary to the story? Does the scene hold the reader's interest?

**Voice/tone (5 points)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Is the author's presentation of the story smooth and interesting? Is the author's voice fresh and unique? Is the tone consistent throughout the entry?

**Showing vs. Telling (5 points)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Are actions and emotions shown rather than told? Is the reader pulled into the scene as opposed to feeling as though reading a journal entry of something that happened in the past? Are the senses well utilized?

Comments:

**Sub-genre specific elements (Total 15 points)**

**Sub-genre appeal (5 points)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Does the story have the elements expected in the targeted sub-genre? Would the story appeal to readers of that sub-genre?

**Accuracy/believability (5 points)**

\_\_\_\_\_ If research elements are in the story, are they interesting, accurate and important? If no research is evident, is the world/setting created believable?

**Plot (5 points)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Has the writer developed a fresh plot or a new twist on a traditional plot?

Final comments: