

IGNITE THE FLAME CONTEST RULES

Contest Eligibility

Unpublished authors may enter any category. Published authors may enter any category in which they're not published, or in which they've not been contracted for publication within the past five years. Unpublished means the author or authors have not accepted a publishing offer for, or self-published, a work of original fictional narrative prose. If you want to be eligible for the grand prize, your entry must represent a completed manuscript (minimum of 40,000).

This contest is open to RWA members as well as non-members, but priority will be given to members.

Your entry, whether revised in whole or in part, cannot have previously won first place, or won the Grand Prize in this contest before. The entry is entered only once in the contest. No alternate versions of the same manuscript may be entered in the same or different categories.

The Ignite the Flame Contest is open from May 1-31, 2017.

Entry forms and fees must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. on May 31, 2017. Entry forms received after the deadline will not be processed and entrance fee will be refunded.

Entry Requirements Your entry into this contest must:

- Be a work of original romance fiction, which means the work contains a central love story, and the resolution of the romance must be emotionally satisfying and optimistic.
- Meet the requirements for the category in which it is entered.
- All submissions for this contest and the entry fee are required to be made electronically.

Submission Criteria

- The Ignite, the Flame Contest, is designed to help you polish that critical **first meet** scene so that it crackles with romantic energy! Our contest is named Ignite the Flame for a reason. We want to lose ourselves in the point of your unpublished manuscript when your hero and heroine **first meet** (or reunite after a significant period of time) and experience that first spark of attraction, that irresistible heat drawing them together. So kindle that fire—show us your first meeting, the surprise reunion, an awkward introduction or the unforgettable moment of initial awareness. Thrill us with the promise of what is to come. We want to be there when they experience the first stirrings of attraction for one another. Tease us with a little flicker that is destined to become an inferno. *****Note: This is not a first kiss or first sex scene contest*****
- Author's name must not appear anywhere on the submission.
- Each entry must be an original work of romance fiction. On-line entries only.
- **All entries must be in RTF. Entries in Google, .doc, .docx, or any other kind of format will not be accepted.**

- Submit up to fifteen continuous pages (15 page maximum), double-spaced, with manuscript's title, genre and page number in the upper left-hand header.
- If your scene is not in the first chapter of your manuscript, please include a one-page set-up for the judge. Set-up and entry are to be submitted as one file. However, please label the set-up and entry separately within your document. The set-up will not be critiqued or affect your submission score. Please do not submit your whole manuscript. We will request a full manuscript from the grand prize winner when the winner is announced.
- The entry must be in Times New Roman font, 12 point, RTF format, double-spaced, paragraphs indented five spaces first line only.
- File naming requirements for entry: (1) the first letter of the file name indicates the category of entry, Contemporary = **C**, Erotic = **E**, Historical = **H**, Inspirational = **I**, Paranormal/Fantasy/Futuristic/Time Travel = **P**, Romantic Suspense = **R**, Young Adult/New Adult = **Y**. (2) next six letters of the file name to indicate the title of the entry.
- **For example: Nancy White submits a historical named *Melting Carrie's Heart*. The file name would be: HMELTIN.**
- The title/genre of the manuscript and page numbers must appear in the upper right-hand corner of all pages of the submission. **For example: *The Bride Can't Cook* / Contemporary / Page 1**
- You may submit more than one entry per category, and submit to more than one category.

Entry Category Eligibility

- The entrant selects the category. Entrants may designate a second category for the work in the event the first-choice category does not receive the required number of entries to be judged. If a category receives less than five entries, those entries will be reassigned to the second choice category selected by the entrant.
- Confirmation of your entry will be sent by email. If you do not receive a confirmation within 48 hours, please follow up with the contest coordinator.
Nancywhite0529@gmail.com

Category Descriptions

Contemporary Romance: Includes series length, single title length & romantic suspense in a current, contemporary setting. Manuscripts may be set from 1950 to the present and should focus primarily on the romantic relationship.

Erotic: Novels in which strong, often explicit, sexual interaction is an inherent part of the story, character growth, and relationship development and could not be removed without damaging the storyline. These novels may contain elements of other romance subgenres (such as paranormal, historical, etc.).

Historical Romance: Manuscripts may be set in any time period prior to 1950 and should focus primarily on the evolution of the romantic relationship.

Inspirational Romance: Novels in which religious or spiritual beliefs (in the context of any religion or spiritual belief system) are an integral part of the plot.

Paranormal/Fantasy/Futuristic/Time Travel: The future, a fantasy world, or paranormal elements are an integral part of the plot. The love story is the main focus of the manuscript. May be any time period or setting.

Romantic Suspense: Novels in which suspense, mystery, or thriller elements constitute an integral part of the plot. In this category, the love story is the main focus of the novel, a suspense/mystery/thriller plot is blended with the love story, and the resolution of the romance is emotionally satisfying and optimistic.

Young Adult/New Adult: Manuscripts in which young adult (teen/high school age) or new adult (twenty-something/college age) life is an integral part of the plot. The relationship between the main characters is integral to the storyline, character development.

Announcement of Finalists

The official list of finalists will be posted on www.COFWoRWA.org, RWA's website, in RWR, and various other social media outlets.

Scoring and Return of Scores

Each entry will be scored by three different judges. Our judges are published authors or RWA PRO members. The judges will record their comments and scores on the scoresheets which will then be returned to the contest coordinator. The coordinator will automatically eliminate the lowest of the three scores. The remaining two will be averaged giving the entrant their final score. If two contestants in the same category have the same score, the coordinator will use the score on the eliminated scoresheet to break the tie.

Entrants whose average score falls below 85 (even if they are the highest scorer in their category) will not be sent to the editor or eligible for the grand prize.

Grand Prize

The contest grand prize is a full manuscript critique from award-winning romance author and instructor Leigh Michaels; a prize valued at \$295.00. The grand prize will be awarded to the entry with the highest average numerical score (at least 85). In the case of a tie, the entry with the highest score from their third judged scoresheet will be awarded the grand prize. In the unlikely event that there is still a tie, the grand prize will go to the entry with the highest score in the "First Impressions" section of the scoresheet.

Winners

The first place winner in each category will receive:

- Reimbursement of their entry fee.
- A certificate.
- Critiques from three first round judges. If your entry qualified to be submitted to your category editor, you may also receive their feedback and hopefully a request for submission. *The editor is not obligated to write a critique, but we will request feedback/comments for you.*

Second and third place winners in each category will receive:

- A certificate.
- Critiques from three first round judges. If your entry qualified to be submitted to your category editor, you may also receive their feedback and hopefully a request for submission. *The editor is not obligated to write a critique, but we will request feedback/comments for you.*

Deadline

Entry and payment must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. EST on May 31 2017.

Any entry received after 11:59 p.m. EST on May 31, 2017, will NOT be accepted. Please realize it may take several minutes (or longer) for your entry to be received through electronic means and any entry date stamped after the cut-off will not be accepted. To ensure your entry is received on time, **please submit early**. In the event, an entry is not accepted, the entry fee will be refunded.

COFW hopes all of our top scorers receive a submission request.

After the list of winners has been posted on www.COFWofRWA.org and RWA's website, the score sheets will be returned to each entrant via email.

Note: COFW members will be judged by non-COFW judges.

For more information contact the contest coordinator, Nancy White at nancywhite0529@gmail.com or Janie Mason at Janie@JanieMason.com.