

2019 IGNITE THE FLAME CONTEST RULES

Contest Eligibility

- All writers may enter, regardless of their publishing status. The entered novel, however, must not be published or have a publishing contract. If you are a finalist, you will be asked to submit your full manuscript so that we may verify it is a completed manuscript with a minimum of 40,000 words.
- This contest is open to RWA members as well as non-members.
- Your entry, whether revised in whole or in part, cannot have previously won first place in any categories of this contest before.

The Ignite the Flame Contest is open from May 1 to May 31, 2019.

Entry fee and manuscript must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. on May 31, 2019. Entries 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.
- An electronic submission—entry form, manuscript, and fee, with cost per entrance:
 - \$25 for COFW members
 - \$30 for RWA members
 - \$35 for non RWA members

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! We call our contest *Ignite the Flame* for a reason. We want to see the scene where your couple meets—whether it's for the first time or a reunion after time apart—and that unforgettable spark of attraction sizzles between them. Whether your characters are ancient nobility or modern-day entrepreneurs, LGBTQ or straight, super stars or high school students—or even not-quite-human—tease us with the moment their romance ignites. All characters are welcome, as are all writers regardless of whether you are unpublished or published!
*****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- Submit up to fifteen continuous pages (15-page maximum), from your *unpublished* and *uncontracted* novel-length manuscript (minimum of 40,000 words).
- Include, on every page, a header with the title/genre of the manuscript/page number in the left-hand corner. **For example: *The Bride Can't Cook/Contemporary/Page 1*.**
- If your *Ignite the Flame* scene is not in the first chapter of your manuscript, you may include up to 2 pages of setup information for the judge. Your set-up information will not be critiqued and will not count toward your total pages. Please submit set-up and entry as *one* file. However, please label the set-up and entry separately within your document. Please do not submit your whole manuscript.
- The entry must be in Times New Roman font, 12 point, RTF format, double-spaced, paragraphs indented half an inch first line only, with 1" margins.
- Make payment via PayPal. See button on COFW Contest page.
- Submit your entry on-line only. See button for Entry Form on COFW Contest page.
- You may submit multiple entries by including an entry fee for each.

- Confirmation of receipt of your entry will be sent by email. If you do not receive a confirmation within 48 hours, then please follow up with the contest coordinator:
Linda Rice, itf2019questions@gmail.com

Category Descriptions

The entrant selects one category, which will help COFW assign judges.

- *Contemporary Romance.* *Erotic Romance*
- *Romantic Comedy.* *Paranormal/Fantasy/Futuristic/Time Travel.*
- *Romantic Suspense.* *Young Adult/New Adult.*
- *Historical Romance.*

Announcement of Finalists

The official list of finalists will be posted on www.cofwevents.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. 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 have the same score, the coordinator will use the score on the eliminated scoresheet to break the tie. Top three (3) finalists will be selected based on highest score, without regard to category.

Judging

- The *Ignite the Flame* contest is designed to help you polish that critical first meet scene so that it crackles with romantic energy! Each submission will be judged by three judges. The top three scorers will move on to a final round. The final round will be judged by *New York Times* Bestselling author Karen Harper, who has published across many genres with multiple publishers.
- After the list of winners has been posted on www.cofwevents.org and RWA's website, the score sheets will be returned to each entrant via email.
- COFW members will be judged by non-COFW judges.

Prizes

- The top three scorers will be refunded their entry fee.
- Winners will be announced July 15, 2019.
- Grand-Prize Winner will receive a professional copy edit of their full manuscript up to 150,000 words by Enterprise Book Services--a \$300 value that will prepare your manuscript for submission or self-publication.

Deadline

- Entry and payment must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. EST on May 31, 2019.
- Any entry received after 11:59 p.m. EST on May 31, 2019, 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.

For more information contact the contest coordinator, Linda Rice, at itf2019questions@gmail.com