Central Ohio Fiction Writers

**IGNITE THE FLAME CONTEST**

A rewarding competition for unpublished manuscripts

**Score Sheet (Revised May 21, 2019)**

**TOTAL SCORE (OF 170 POSSIBLE):**

**Entry Number:**

**Title:**

**Judge Number:**

**Name of Judge (optional):**

**Please mark the status(es) that applies to you:**

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

☐ Self-Published ☐ Published in non-fiction

☐ Reader

☐ Contest Finalist

☐ Contest winner

☐ RWA Pro

☐ Agented

**Scale for judging:**

**10 indicates excellence, a work of publishable quality with minor flaws that are barely noticeable**

**9 indicates very good work that needs some minor revision to really make the manuscript sparkle**

**8 is average, work that is good but needs polish or lacks any quality that makes it stand out**

**7 indicates below average quality, a piece that requires some serious revision**

**6 indicates poor work, writing that reflects a lack of mastery of the very basics of writing.**

**\*\*Please offer a recommendation for improvement for any score under a 6.\*\***

**First impressions (Total 20 points).**

**Presentation/Professionalism (10 points). \_\_\_\_**

Is the entry presented in a professional manner?

Is the entry formatting in line with contest requirements listed on the website?

**Beginning and ending of scene (10 points). \_\_\_\_**

Does the scene have an interesting opening which grabs the reader’s attention?

Does it end with something that makes the reader want to turn the page?

**Comments:**

**Igniting the Flame (Total 30 points).**

**Main Character (10 points). \_\_\_\_**

Is the main character three-dimensional with believable traits and flaws?

**Love Interest (10 points). \_\_\_\_**

Is the love interest three-dimensional with believable traits and flaws?

**The Flame (10 points). \_\_\_\_**

Is the relationship between the main character and the love interest believable and exciting, with emotional and physical possibilities that create a spark of awareness between them, either positive or negative?

**Comments:**

**Goals, Motivations and Conflicts (Total 30 points).**

**Goals (10 points). \_\_\_\_**

Do the two main characters have clear cut goals that could sustain a story?

**Motivations (10 points). \_\_\_\_**

Do the two main characters have believable motivations for their actions and are their actions logical for the situation?

**Conflict (10 points). \_\_\_\_**

Can the reader easily determine what’s at stake within this scene for each of the two main characters?

**Comments:**

**Telling the story (Total 70 points).**

**Setting (10 points). \_\_\_\_**

Is a sense of time and place established? Is the setting easy to picture? Are multiple senses used to create a vivid picture?

**Dialogue (10 points). \_\_\_\_**

Does the dialogue move the story forward? Does it sound natural and realistic? Is there a good balance with narrative?

**Narrative (10 points). \_\_\_\_**

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

**Point of View (10 points). \_\_\_\_**

Is point of view clear at all times?

Is dialogue tagging easy to follow?

**Pacing (10 points). \_\_\_\_**

Does the pacing flow well throughout the entry and push the story forward, holding the reader’s interest?

**The Voice/tone (10 points). \_\_\_\_**

Is the author’s presentation of the story smooth and interesting, using a fresh and unique voice with a consistent tone throughout the entry?

**Showing vs. Telling (10 points). \_\_\_\_**

Are actions and emotions shown rather than told? Do they pull the reader into the scene or does it feel as though you are reading a journal entry?

**Comments:**

**Other elements (Total 20 points):**

**Accuracy/believability (10 points). \_\_\_\_**

Is the world/setting believable?

**Plot (10 points). \_\_\_\_**

Does this entry ignite your flame and make you want to read more?

**Final Comments:**