

**2010 THE LINDA HOWARD AWARD OF EXCELLENCE
UNPUBLISHED WRITERS CONTEST**

Series Short/Long Contemporary

Final judge Susan Litman, Editor, Silhouette Special Edition

First - THE TYCOON'S MARRIAGE DEAL by Louise D Cobb & Karen Daughtry*

Second - SECOND CHANCE MOM by Jennie Moening w/a Jenna Rutland *

Third - LOVES FUGITIVE by Kathy Hind w/a Kaily Hart

Fourth - HEAD GAMES by Denise Cychosz

Fifth - COMING HOME by Jennifer Lou Harris

Romantic Suspense (series & single title)

Final judge Megan McKeever, Associate Editor, Pocket Books (Simon & Schuster)

First - THE LAST MAGICIAN by Linda Baxter and Ann Fischer w/a E.J. Brighton*

Second - DEATH OF AN ISLAND TART by Janice Croom*

Third - GAMES OF TRANCE by Sherrie Super

Fourth - THE YARD MAN by G. Jillian Stone

Fifth - THE GAVEL'S ECHO by Anne-Marie Carroll

Single Title

Final judge Latoya Smith, Editor, Grand Central Publishers

First - VERDICT by Jean Mason

Second - PASSION by Jeanell Bolton

Third - NONI'S VISION by Shelia Tenold

Fourth - AND HE COOKS, TOO by Barbara Kroon

Fifth - A DIFFERENT BEAT by Susan Breeden

Honorable Mention - GETTING LUCKY by Katie Graykowski

Unique Genres (Paranormal, Futuristic, Fantasy, and Time Travel)

Final judge Heather Osborn, Acquisitions Editor, Tor

First - DEAR HEART by Alison Leake *

Second - RED MOUNTAIN by Heather Leonard *

Third - DEMONS IN DIXIE by Alexandra George

Fourth - SHADOW WORLD by Rashda Khan

Fifth - MOONLIGHT by Lisa Kessler

Historical Romance

Final judge Alicia Condon, VP, Editorial Director, Dorchester

First - WHEN A HEART DARES by Kathleen Bittner Roth *

Second - THE BLACK DAGGER by Barbara Huddleston

Third - THE SPY ON THE ORLEANS ROAD by Elizabeth McCord

Fourth - DEFENSIVE MEASURES by Alyssa Fernandez

Fifth - THE STORM AFTER by Gina Hooten Popp

Inspirational

Final judge Tina James, Editor, Steeple Hill

First - HOPE FOR THE FUTURE by Pam Mantovani

Second - FAITH, FAMILY AND THE GIRL NEXT DOOR by Susan Johnson

Third - BEACH RENTAL by Grace R. Greene

Young Adult

Final judge Natasha Wilson, Senior Editor, Harlequin Teen

First - MAGIC SCHOOL DROP-OUT by Liese Sherwood-Fabre

Second - LOVE AND SALT by Elizabeth Langston

Third - SUGAR HIGH by Bethany Cunningham

Fourth - REAL GUYS LIKE PINK by Micki Gibson

Fifth - MAIL ORDER BOYFRIEND by Denise Hale

Romantic Sensual and Sizzling (Erotica)

Final judge Raelene Gorlinsky, Publisher & Editor, Ellora's Cave

First - THE SILKIE'S SALVATION by Laura L. Webb *

Second - THE VISCOUNT'S PLEASURE HOUSE by S.N. Webb

Third - THE LOVING OF LORD LOXLEY by Madeline Smyth

The Write Magic (For Southern Magic Members only)

Final judge Sara Megibow, Associate Agent, Nelson Literary Agency

First - RED MOUNTAIN by Heather Leonard

Second - SHADOW WORLD by Rashda Khan

Third - DEMONS IN DIXIE by Alexandra George

*full requested