

2012 Linda Howard Award of Excellence Contest

Presented by Southern Magic, RWA's Birmingham Chapter

Score Sheet

Entry Number:		Points Total:	00 (max 100)
Category:		Judge Number:	XX
Entry Title:		Return to Coordinator By:	

- 5 - Got it. Send it in.
- 4 - Almost. Send it in, but expect revisions
- 3 - On The Right Track. Revise more.
- 2 - Keep At It.
- 1 - Got the Muse.

Judges: Do not worry about the mechanics, such as format, margins and spacing. The coordinators will verify mechanics are acceptable.

Please be sure to give explanations/comments especially for 3 to 1 points.

_____ Do the first few paragraphs hook you into reading more?
Comments:

_____ Does the mood of the opening seem appropriate for the plot?
Comments:

_____ Is the beginning conflict/tension clear or hinted at?
Comments:

_____ Is the writing easy to read?
Comments:

_____ Is the writing tight (no unnecessary verbiage)?
Comments:

_____ Does the writer start building characterization immediately through actions, dialogue, narrative, mannerisms, etc?
Comments:

_____ Does the story have a good balance of dialogue and narrative?
Comments:

_____ Does the dialogue sound realistic for the storyline?
Comments:

_____ Does the dialogue move the story forward?
Comments:

_____ Is background information used to move the story forward without info dump?

Comments:

_____ Are the point of view changes easy to follow?

Comments:

_____ Does the story show more than tell?

Comments:

_____ (Series only) Is the attraction between hero and heroine believable or
(All others) Is the lead character interesting and believable?

Comments:

_____ Does the lead character(s) appear likeable or redeemable enough to make you want to read further?

Comments:

_____ Do you feel the emotions of the hero and/or heroine as the story progresses?

Comments:

_____ Does the writing make skillful use of effective comparison and/or figurative language?

Comments:

_____ Do the grammar, punctuation and spelling in this entry generally meet accepted standards?

Comments:

_____ Do vivid descriptions place the reader in the scene with the characters?

Comments:

_____ Is the motivation clear for the lead character?

Comments:

_____ After completing the selection, how much did you want to read more of the story?

Comments:

Additional Comments.

What are one or two strengths of this entry?

What are one or two areas of possible improvements?