

# 2012 Linda Howard Award of Excellence Contest

Presented by Southern Magic, RWA's Birmingham Chapter

## IMPORTANT DATES

- Must be emailed by **October 15, 2011 – 10 p.m. central**
- Finalists should be announced by **January 7, 2012**
- **Revised final entries must be emailed by January 17, 2012 (with synopses)**
- Winners should be announced on **March 17, 2012**

## ELIGIBILITY

- All work must be the author's original work and the author has not been contracted for publication five years prior to the entry deadline. Published authors must not be contracted (by RWA publishing standards) in the past five years. Authors contracted after October 15, 2006, are not eligible.
- **Previous winners and finalists** may not re-enter the same manuscript, even in edited format. They may enter another manuscript.
- Entrants may enter as many manuscripts as they wish, however, each manuscript may only be entered in one category.
- Failure to comply with any of the rules may disqualify the entry resulting in a forfeit of the entry fee.

## SCORING

- Three judges will fill out a detailed score sheet on each entry. Comments on manuscripts will be requested but not required. Lowest score of the three will be dropped.
- Other entries will be returned after finalists are announced.
- First place will receive a metal bookmark. Second to fifth place will receive a certificate.

## FORMAT

- Standard manuscript format: double space, one inch margins, no more than 25 lines per page with header (Title/Contest category upper left, Page number upper right)
- **Your name must not appear on the manuscript** or your entry will be disqualified and entry fee forfeited.
- **First 25 pages** or less of each entry. The 25 pages includes prologue if applicable. Send to respective category coordinator listed on the next page.
- **All entries must be saved in .rtf format.**

## FEE

- Non-RWA Members \$30; RWA Members \$25; Southern Magic Members \$20
- Send funds and then the entry. If you agree to judge two or more entries, you will receive a \$5 discount on your entry fee.
- Two ways to pay:
  - 1) Check or money order to be made payable to SOUTHERN MAGIC in U.S. Dollars and mailed with a completed and signed entry form to contest coordinator. Do not send entry until we notify you of receipt of funds. Must be received before deadline. Email category coordinator for address.
  - 2) Or pay by PayPal, send funds to [treasurer@southernmagic.org](mailto:treasurer@southernmagic.org). In the comment section of PayPal, type the category of your entry.

# 2012 Linda Howard Award of Excellence Contest

Presented by Southern Magic, RWA's Birmingham Chapter

## ENTRY:

- Email Category (show below).
  - Subject line of email: Title/Category/PayPal (or other method of payment).
  - Completed entry form pasted inside.
  - Attach entry in rtf format
  - Entry saved by title of manuscript. E.g., PRIDE AND PREJUDICE.rft
- Receipt of funds for the entry and emailing of the entry with entry form to the Linda Howard Award of Excellence category coordinator constitutes your agreement to the conditions therein of the entry form.
- IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE AN ACKNOWLEDGE OF RECEIVING YOUR FUNDS AND YOUR ENTRY BY THE DEADLINE, PLEASE NOTIFY CONTEST COORDINATOR IMMEDIATELY.
- If you agree to judge two or more entries, you will receive a \$5 discount on your entry fee.

## If You're a Finalist:

- *Finalists to provide synopses with final, re-edited entry. This will be returned to category coordinator via email.*
- In a single category, if less than ten entries are received, the authors will be placed in their alternate category and notified.

## Categories

### Series/Short & Long Contemporary

Romance-based series novels. Word count: 40,000 to 90,000

Final Judge - Editor: Susan Litman, **Harlequin**

Final Judge – Agent: Nalini Akolekar, **Spencerhil Associates, Ltd.**

### Single Title

Romance-based novels published as individual titles. Word count: 90,000 to 110,000

Final Judge - Editor: Deb Werksman, **Sourcebooks**

Final Judge – Agent: Jessica Alvarez, **Bookends, LLC**

### Suspense (series or single title)

Romance-based novels that include an element of mystery or suspense. Word count: 40,000 to 110,000

Final Judge - Editor: Kristin Sevick, **Tor/Forge**

Final Judge – Agent: Joyce Holland, **D4EO**

### Historical

Romance-based novels with non-contemporary settings, including regency & gothic romances. Word count: 40,000 to 110,000

Final Judge - Editor: Megan Records, **Kensington**

Final Judge – Agent: Jill Marr, **Sandra Dijkstra Literary Agency**

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

Romance-based novels of any time setting that contain elements such as time-travel, paranormal or fantasy themes. Word count: 90,000 to 110,000

Final Judge - Editor: Melissa Frain, **Tor/Forge**

Final Judge – Agent: Marlene Stringer, **The Stringer Literary Agency**

# 2012 Linda Howard Award of Excellence Contest

Presented by Southern Magic, RWA's Birmingham Chapter

## Young Adult

Romance-based novels published for the Young Adult market. Word count: 40,000 or more

Final Judge – Editor: TBA

Final Judge – Agent: Laura Bradford, **Bradford Literary Agency**

## The Write Magic

For Southern Magic members only

Final Judge - Editor: Debra Dixon, Editor, **Bell Bridge Books**

Final Judge – Agent: Paige Wheeler, Agent, **Folio Literary Agency**

## Contest coordinator:

**Heather Leonard – [HNLeonard@gmail.com](mailto:HNLeonard@gmail.com)**

Send entries to:

### Series/Short & Long Contemporary

Heather Leonard

[HNLeonard@gmail.com](mailto:HNLeonard@gmail.com)

### Single Title

Chris Bailey

[Crb.writes@bham.rr.com](mailto:Crb.writes@bham.rr.com)

### Romantic Suspense (series or single title)

Heather Leonard

[HNLeonard@gmail.com](mailto:HNLeonard@gmail.com)

### Historical

Naima Bryant

[nbryant@bellsouth.net](mailto:nbryant@bellsouth.net)

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

Suzanne Johnson

[Suzannej3523@gmail.com](mailto:Suzannej3523@gmail.com)

### Young Adult

Lisa Dunick

[lmsdunick@gmail.com](mailto:lmsdunick@gmail.com)

For questions about The Write Magic category, contact the contest coordinator. All Southern Magic members who either final in their category or earn a score of 90 or higher will be automatically entered into The Write Magic category final round.