Entry Title: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Category: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Judge #: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Judge Qualifications: (check all that apply) \_\_\_\_RWA PRO \_\_\_\_ RWA PAN \_\_\_\_ Trained Judge \_\_\_\_ Published Author \_\_\_\_ Agented Author \_\_\_\_Contest Finalist \_\_\_\_Contest Winner ­­­

**ATTENTION JUDGES:** You are encouraged to make comments in the manuscript, noting problems as well as things done well. You MUST provide written feedback on the score sheet as well as a numerical score. In the manuscript, please comment in **BOLD, BLUE LETTERS** to help the reader find your remarks.

Please **DO NOT** use Track Changes. “Track Changes” and “comment balloons” don’t transfer to all programs, so please do not use them. Remember: specific, constructive comments are important, for both revisions and encouragement.

Please score the following categories using a scale of 5-10. The questions are not to be answered individually, but are a general guideline for assessing a numerical score for each category.

10 = Excellent! Why are you entering this contest?

9 = Almost there, start querying after minor revisions.

8 = You’re close, recommend light revisions

7 = On the right track, recommend revisions (judge will provide feedback)

6 = Shows promise, but needs work (judge will provide feedback)

5 = Needs work, but keep at it (judge will provide feedback)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Score** | **Category** |
|  | **The Romance:** Is the relationship between the hero and heroine believable, the initial meet seeming to promise a compelling love story? If the hero and heroine have not yet met, are there sufficient hints that it will be believable, that the relationship will hold conflict, adventure, and/or desire appropriate to the genre?  **Comments:** |
|  | **PLOT/STORY:** Is the reader "hooked" or otherwise drawn into the story right away? Does the set-up handled establish the character or plot in an interesting or unusual light…or does it leave the reader confused? Is the conflict believably presented without relying on coincidence or misunderstanding? Are strong goals introduced for the hero/heroine? Is the motivation for action, behavior, and attitudes believable for the hero/heroine? Is the plot fresh and original, the idea appearing fresh? Is the plot strong enough to sustain word count? Is the story well-paced, or does it seem to lose momentum?  **Comments:** |
|  | **CHARACTERIZATION:** Based on the characters introduced so far, is/are the hero/heroine skillfully developed believable, sympathetic, and multi-dimensional? Are secondary characters necessary and non-intrusive? If no secondary characters have been introduced yet, is there sufficient material for the main character(s) to carry the chapter effectively by themselves? Are you drawn to the hero/heroine?  **Comments:** |
|  | **THE WRITING:** Is the voice unique or does it project a strong writing style? Is Point Of View easily understood? Does the background information provide a sense of time and place without causing confusion or seeming intrusive? Is the manuscript smooth and easy to read with a rhythm created by varied sentence length and structure? Does the writer "show" as well as tell the story? Is the writing void of stereotypes, awkward phrasing, and clichés?  **Comments:** |
|  | **OVERALL APPEAL:** Based on this entry, would you as a reader want to continue reading this book?  **Comments:** |
|  | **TOTAL SCORE (50 MAX)** |

(REQUIRED) Judge’s Overall Opinion: What are one or more things you feel were well done? What are one or more things you feel need work? Are there additional remarks you’d like to share with the author?