

THE SHEILA WRITING COMPETITION
WOMEN'S FICTION WITH ROMANTIC ELEMENTS and CHICK LIT SCORE SHEET

Entry Title _____ Entry number _____ Judge
 number _____

Category _____ **Final Score** _____
 Judge profile: [] published in romance [] published in non-romance [] unpublished [] award winning [] RWA
 PRO

Scoring (100 pts. max.): 1=poor (needs major work), **2=fair** (shows promise, but needs improvement),
3=average (but not special), **4=good** (close to being publishable, but still needs minor work), **5=excellent**
 (publishable)

ATTENTION JUDGE: Manuscripts have been screened for infractions of contest rules. Please circle items that need improvement in each of the following categories. Write comments on score sheet, manuscript, and/or separate piece of paper. Read manuscript pages first, then synopsis.

CHAPTERS	Book starts in the correct place; interesting hook; good introduction of character(s) and plot
MAIN CHARACTERS	Skillfully developed; multidimensional; believable and interesting; good physical description; sympathetic and likable. Do they have distinct personalities with recognizable character traits?
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MAIN CHARACTERS	Believable, emotional, logically developed based on characters' goals, motivations, and conflicts--both internal and external.
SECONDARY CHARACTERS	Necessary; non-intrusive (covered in synopsis if not introduced in submitted pages)
SETTING	Sense of time and place; sets the mood; enhances the story; interwoven into plot
DIALOGUE	Natural; believable; well-balanced with narrative; progresses the story; characters' voices consistent and individual to their personalities
NARRATIVE	Well balanced with dialogue; interesting; necessary; progresses the story; does not overwhelm reader with information
PACING	Story moves at a smooth rate; flows through the highs and lows of the conflicts
TRANSITION	Smooth; appropriate; necessary; non-intrusive
CONFLICT	Strong enough to sustain a story; motivated and believable; good usage of

	internal and external conflict; not based on simple misunderstanding (NOTE: in mainstream the conflict does not have to be between a hero/heroine. It can be between a mother/daughter, sisters, husband/wife, friends, etc.)
VIEWPOINT	Proper usage of point of view; changes well done, logical, and important; viewpoint didn't bounce from character to character excessively or inappropriately
MOTIVATIONS	Both internal and external motivations believable and consistent with individual characters and circumstances
DEVELOPMENT	Initial hook to draw reader into story; actions and emotions "shown, not told"; senses well utilized; relationship progresses satisfactorily
PLOT LINE	Unique; skillfully developed; plausible; avoided cliché; interesting conflict
SYNOPSIS	Complete, well thought-out, informative, avoided cliché; all loose ends and subplots tied up; all goals, motivations, and conflicts of main characters stated and satisfactorily resolved or explained; free of unimportant details
RESEARCH	Accurate; non-intrusive; interesting; important
ROMANTIC ELEMENTS	Does the romance make sense? Does it move the story along? (NOTE: the romance in this category will be a subplot. Refer to the synopsis if not introduced in submitted pages)
STYLE	Appealing style; varied sentence structure and length; presentation of story smooth and interesting; each scene moved plot along
MARKET	Appropriate for targeted line; plot appropriate. (Categories have been pre-screened. Most books have overlapping categories.)
MECHANICS	Professionally presented; free of typos, spelling, grammar and punctuation errors
	TOTAL POINTS (highest possible - 100 points)

OVERALL MANUSCRIPT COMMENTS (feel free to add comments to manuscript or include additional page for more detailed correspondence.):

