

Valley Forge Romance Writers present THE SHEILA 2010
WOMEN'S FICTION WITH ROMANTIC ELEMENTS / CHICK LIT SCORE SHEET

Entry Title: _____ Entry Number: _____

Judge Number: _____ Final Score: _____

Category: Women's Fiction with Romantic Elements

Target Publisher/Line: _____ Projected Length: _____

Judge Profile:

Published in romance; Published in non-romance; Unpublished; Award-winning; RWA PRO

ATTENTION JUDGE: Manuscripts have been screened for infractions of contest rules. Please read manuscript pages first, then synopsis. Please add comments to clarify your scores wherever possible. You may insert comments on the score sheet, manuscript, or synopsis.

Score each category on a scale of 1 to 5, where:

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)

Score	Category
	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

Score	Category
	<p>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.)</p>
	<p>VIEWPOINT Proper usage of point of view; changes well done, logical, and important; viewpoint didn't bounce from character to character excessively or inappropriately</p>
	<p>MOTIVATIONS Both internal and external motivations believable and consistent with individual characters and circumstances</p>
	<p>DEVELOPMENT Initial hook to draw reader into story; actions and emotions "shown, not told"; senses well utilized; relationship progresses satisfactorily</p>
	<p>PLOT LINE Unique; skillfully developed; plausible; avoided cliché; interesting conflict</p>
	<p>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</p>
	<p>RESEARCH Accurate; non-intrusive; interesting; important</p>
	<p>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)</p>
	<p>STYLE Appealing style; varied sentence structure and length; presentation of story smooth and interesting; each scene moved plot along</p>
	<p>MARKET Appropriate for targeted line; plot appropriate. (Categories have been pre-screened. Most books have overlapping categories.)</p>
	<p>MECHANICS Professionally presented; free of typos, spelling, grammar and punctuation errors</p>
<p>0</p>	<p>TOTAL POINTS (highest possible - 100 points)</p>

OVERALL MANUSCRIPT COMMENTS:

(Please feel free to include additional comments in the body of the manuscript and synopsis.)