

**\*\*New this year – All electronic.**

**Gear up to submit your polished chapter for a chance of getting in front of our awesome line up of final editor judges. (See below)**

**What Caroline Fyffe, a 2008 TARA Contest finalist, has to say about the TARA Contest.**

*I'm thrilled to tell you that as a result of your wonderful Tara contest I've sold my first book!! My western historical manuscript, *The Jingle of Spurs*, won the historical category and the full was requested by e-mail by Leah Hultenschmidt from Dorchester Publishing. In less than a month I was offered my very first book contract. It's a dream come true!! I can never thank you enough for your fabulous contest and the terrific people involved in coordinating it. Please look for my August 2009 release now titled, *Where The Wind Blows*. Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!  
Sincerely,  
~Caroline Fyffe*

**Fee:** \$25.00 (U.S. funds) per entry. **Pay with PayPal.** Fees are non-refundable.

**Deadline:** Entries must be received by May 1st, 2010.

**Contents:** The first chapter, 4,000 words max (actual word count), including prologue if applicable. *\*Word count will be verified.* No part of a second or any additional chapters will be judged.

**Note:** Per editor request, finalists must include a synopsis of up to 1,500 words at the time they submit revised entry for final judging.

Entries in all categories must be romantic fiction, with the exception of the women's fiction category. Women's fiction stories should be centered on the female protagonist. Short stories, nonfiction, and fiction in genres other than romance or women's fiction will not be accepted. Category Coordinators reserve the right to reject any entry that does not meet the acceptable industry standards for romantic fiction.

\*\*\* You may enter as many times as you wish, but each manuscript can only be entered once and only in a single category. Each submission must have its own postage paid flat rate return envelope. All fees and rules apply to each entry.

**Eligibility requirements:** The TARA Contest is open to unpublished writers and to any author who has not been published in the past three years and is not currently contracted for any novel-length work of fiction (40,000 + words) in any format (ebook, mass market, etc).

Manuscripts that have previously won the TARA or First Impressions contest may not be re-entered.

Ineligible entries will be immediately disqualified, and the entry fee forfeited.)

\*\*\*Past TARA Winners are eligible to enter a manuscript that has not previously won the TARA Award.

**Submission must include the following:**

1. Your entry *must consist of a required email version* uploaded to the [tararwa.com website](http://tararwa.com). No second chapters accepted of your book. The total entry may not exceed **4,000 words max, actual word count** (word count will be verified).
2. **Contest entry form and waiver** (see details below).
3. Fee of \$25.00 per entry for non-TARA members (U.S. funds); \$20.00 for TARA members.

**Contest entry form and waiver:** Each submission must include an original **Contest entry form and waiver**. The contest entry form and waiver are available on the TARA website.

**E-Mail questions to:** [TARAContest@gmail.com](mailto:TARAContest@gmail.com)

**Submission format:**

1. 8 1/2" x 11" or A4 (European size) document settings.
2. At least 1" margins on top, bottom, and sides.
3. Letter-quality, minimum 12 point font. Double spaced.
4. Manuscript title in upper left-hand corner.
5. Page number in upper right-hand corner.
6. Unjustified text, aligned left.
7. Author's name must not appear anywhere on the manuscript.
8. Deductions from final scoring will be made for manuscripts not in the standard format as defined above.

\*\*\**All entries will be uploaded electronically via the TARA website.*

**Number of Entries:** TARA reserves the right to eliminate a category if there aren't sufficient entries in the category.

**Judging:** Judging is based on the Diederich scale in the first round for a possible maximum score of 50 points. Individual judges are encouraged to make written comments directly on the manuscript and the score sheets. The degree and depth of the critique provided is at the discretion of the individual judge. A minimum of 2 judges read and score each entry. Judges will be either published authors or TARA-trained and certified judges.

**Note:** All judging is confidential. The Category Coordinators will not reveal the names of the judges.

**Finalists:** The top 3 finalists in each category are determined by averaging each entrants' scores and will be notified by the last week of June 2010 or the first week in July 2010. To be considered a finalist, an entry must have a minimum average score of at least 40 points. If there are no average scores of 40 or above in a particular category, TARA reserves the right to select no finalists in that category. All finalists will have an allotted amount of time (approximately 1 week) to review judges' critiques and make changes to her/his manuscript before it goes to the final-round judge.

**Note:** Per the request of our editor judges, *all finalist must submit a synopsis (up to 1500 words max) via email*. The finalists may also submit a revised version of their finalling manuscript. The synopsis and the revised manuscript (or the original manuscript on file, if the entrant does not revise) will be sent to the editor judge. ***ANY FINALIST WHO DOES NOT SUBMIT A SYNOPSIS IN THE FINAL ROUND WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.***

**Prizes:** Editor judges rank the top 3 entries in her/his respective categories. Top prize: Sterling silver TARA pendant. All finalists receive certificates. Winners are announced in the Romance Writers Report. Approximate date of winner notification is September 30, 2010.

**Failure to Comply:** Any entry failing to comply with the rules as stated herein will be disqualified and entry fee forfeited. No fees will be refunded on the basis of disqualification or withdrawal. The TARA Contest Chair reserves the right to return any entry that does not comply with contest rules.