

Tampa Area Romance Authors  
FIRST IMPRESSIONS SCORE SHEET

TOTAL SCORE: \_\_\_\_\_

ENTRY # \_\_\_\_\_

JUDGE # \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE OF MANUSCRIPT \_\_\_\_\_

Scoring:

*The writers who judged your entry were given a three-page guide to help them give your work fair and reflective scores. The guide below, in addition to the questions in each scoring section and the judges' personal comments, was gleaned from this guide.*

10 or 8 = Compelling, original idea. Strong sense of conflict & movement. Natural and purposeful dialogue.

6 or 4 = Interesting, but somewhat ordinary, concept a little too conventional, but workable. Conflict present but may need clarifying or strengthening. Author needs to work on overall effectiveness of pacing or dialogue.

2 = Chapter doesn't evoke reader sympathy or interest at the level it should. Conflict and storyline unclear, pacing and dialogue not effective.

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\_\_\_\_\_ 1. CHARACTERIZATION: Are the characters compelling and well-rounded?  
Are their motivations clear? Are the hero/heroine instantly identifiable from secondary characters? Does the point of view technique effectively reveal the characters to the reader?

Comments \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. PLOT & CONFLICT: Does the story start at a good point with a strong sense of movement? Does at least one main character have clear external conflict and at least a hint of internal conflict? Is point of view consistent with the character whose head you are in? Will the conflict sustain the plot? Does the plot seem contrived? Do the scenes flow with effective transitions?

Comments \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. DIALOGUE: Is the dialogue purposeful, realistic, natural? Does it move the plot forward? Are the conversations engaging? Does it fit the time period? Are tags used effectively?

Comments \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. STYLE & PACING: Is the writer's voice unobtrusive? Is pacing appropriate to the story? Does the author effectively show action with a minimum of telling? Are the opening and closing hooks effective? Is the transition from narrative to internalization to action or dialogue smooth and balanced? Is the writer including too much backstory or background information, thus slowing the pace?

Comments \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_

Scoring:

*The final two areas were judged with the following criteria:*

5 or 4 = Accurate, clear and neatly executed. Minor errors do not obstruct meaning in a serious manner, or detract from the story.

3 or 2 = A few serious errors in sentence structure, usage, spelling, and punctuation.

1 = Further study needed in executing proper English form and usage, and on marketable presentation of manuscript.

5. MECHANICS: Are there major errors in usage? Is sentence structure correct? Are fragments used effectively? Are there obvious errors in spelling and punctuation?

Comments \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. PRESENTATION: Is the chapter prepared in the generally accepted manuscript format (1" margins, double spacing, page numbers, font, left justification, and size of type)?

Comments \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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Judges,

Please include additional comments. Did you want to read more? Could you feel the sexual tension between the protagonists? Any last thoughts of encouragement?

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Thank you for entering TARA's First Impression Contest!