

WEST HOUSTON RWA -- *EMILY* CONTEST -- 2009 Judge # \_\_\_\_\_

Manuscript Title \_\_\_\_\_

Number \_\_\_\_\_

Point Total \_\_\_\_\_

Possible points: 100

- Scoring:**
- 5      **Excellent, ready to submit**
  - 4      **Almost there, needs only a little polish**
  - 3      **Average, shows promise**
  - 2      **Below average, needs work**
  - 1      **Major problems. Author may not be aware of this element.**

**JUDGES:** Please do not give a score of *zero*. Please write a comment if a score of 1 or 2 is given.

**STYLE -- 30 points**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Shows rather than tells.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Style is easy-to-read with a rhythm created by varied sentence length and structure and smooth transitions.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Descriptions are vivid and give reader a sense of time and place.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Information is fed in naturally, as needed—not too much or too little at a time.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Narrative, dialogue, action and introspection interwoven and balanced and viewpoint is handled well.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Grammar, punctuation and spelling do not detract from the story.

Subtotal Score: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

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**PLOT/CONFLICT – 20 points**

- \_\_\_\_\_ The opening draws reader immediately into story.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pacing is appropriate. Each scene promotes and advances plot.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Basis for romantic relationship begins in an intriguing manner. If hero/heroine do not meet, there are sufficient hints that it will be intriguing.
- \_\_\_\_\_ External and internal conflict are evident and strong enough to sustain a novel length manuscript.

Subtotal Score: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

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**DIALOGUE -- 15 points**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Each character has a distinctive voice.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Dialogue is natural and moves the story forward, is not used merely for exposition.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Dialogue is appropriate for time and place.

Subtotal Score: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

**CHARACTERIZATION-HEROINE -- 15 points**

\_\_\_\_\_ She is a compelling, three-dimensional person , strong enough to justify her starring role.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Motivation is apparent, actions and reactions are believable and consistent.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Goals are introduced and are believable. Subtotal Score: \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**CHARACTERIZATION-HERO -- 15 points**

\_\_\_\_\_ He is a compelling, three-dimensional person , strong enough to justify his starring role.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Motivation is apparent, actions and reactions are believable and consistent.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Goals are introduced and are believable. Subtotal Score: \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**GENERAL IMPRESSION—5 points**

\_\_\_\_\_ Is your interest piqued? Did these pages reel you in? Are you wondering what will happen next?  
Would you buy this book to find out how it ends?  
Subtotal Score: \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Judge's Name** (optional) \_\_\_\_\_ Published in romance \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_  
Completed judge training \_\_\_\_\_ RWA Pro \_\_\_\_\_