



2022 Karen Harper Memorial Ignite the Flame Contest Submission Guidelines



Brick Tower Press
Habent Sua Fata Libelli

The Ignite the Flame contest is designed to reward writers who polish that critical scene in an **original** novel of romance fiction where the two protagonists meet and the spark of romance sizzles between them. In the language of the genre, this is the Meet-Cute scene. Each submission of ten pages (see submission criteria and format below for details) will be evaluated by at least three judges.

Prizes

The overall winner will receive the **Grand Prize of publication by Brick Tower Press, New York. Brick Tower will edit, typeset the interior, design a cover for both trade paper and ePub publication of the winner's novel in world markets.**

- The winner will be announced on Sweetest Day, October 15, 2022.
- The three top finalists will be refunded their entry fee.
- Judges' scoring sheets will be returned to all contestants to assist them in revising/editing their work.

Final Judge:

***U.S.A. Today* Best-selling romance author SIERA LONDON will judge the three finalist entries and determine the winner.**



Contest Eligibility:

- All writers may enter regardless of their publishing status. However, the excerpt from the entered novel may NOT be published or have a publishing contract. **Finalists will be asked to submit the full manuscript to verify it is complete with a minimum of 40,000 words.**
- The entry, whether revised in whole or in part, cannot previously have won first place in this contest in any prior year.

Submission Period: The contest is open from 12:01 AM August 1 to 11:59 p.m. August 31, 2022, Eastern Standard Time. Entries received after the deadline will not be processed and the entry fee will be refunded. Please be aware that electronic submissions may take longer to process. Any entry date-stamped after the 11:59 p.m. (EST) cut-off will not be accepted. Please submit early to avoid any disruptions to the transmission of your entry.

Entry Requirements

- Your entry must be a work of original romance fiction, neither published nor under a publishing contract, and may be in any of the following categories:
Contemporary Romance *Erotic Romance*
Romantic comedy *Paranormal Fantasy/Time Travel*
Romantic suspense *Young Adult/New Adult*
Historical Romance.
- The work must contain a central love story. The resolution of the romance must be emotionally satisfying and optimistic.
- Your entry must be submitted electronically and include the entry form, the manuscript pages, and the entry fee of \$30.00 per entry.

Submission Criteria

- Judging is based on ten pages showing the critical scene where your couple meets – whether it's for the first time or a reunion after a time apart – and that unforgettable spark of attraction that sizzles between them. All characters are welcome – ancient nobility or modern-day entrepreneurs, LGBTQ or straight, super stars or high school students, or not even quite human.

Submission Format

- The author's name **MUST NOT** appear anywhere on the actual submission.
- **All entries must be submitted online in .RTF format (rich text format). Entries in any other format will not be accepted.**
- Submit a maximum of ten (10) continuous pages from your *unpublished and uncontracted* novel-length manuscript. (minimum: 40,000 words).
- Include a header with the title of the manuscript and page number on every page in the left-hand corner. Example: *The Bride Can't Cook/Page 1*.
- If your submission is not the first chapter of your manuscript, you may include one page of set-up information. This will not be critiqued or judged and will not count toward your total pages. Please submit set-up and entry as one file. Label the set-up and the entry itself separately within your document. **DO NOT** submit the complete manuscript unless notified that you are a finalist.
- The entry must be in 12-point Times New Roman font, RTF format, double-spaced, with paragraphs indented half an inch on the first line only with one-inch margins.

Payment

- Payment must be made via PayPal. See button on the COFW Contest page.
- Payment is \$30.00 per entry.
- You may submit multiple entries by including an entry fee for each one.
- Confirmation of the receipt of your entry will be sent via email. If you do not receive a confirmation within 48 hours, please notify the contest coordinator: J.E. Irvin at ITF-Contest@cofwevents.org

Announcement of Finalists

The official list of finalists will be posted at www.cofwevents.org as well as on other social media sites September 21, 2022. Finalists will be contacted by email to submit complete manuscript on or before the posting date.