The Emily Contest Score Sheet
League of Romance Writers

MANUSCRIPT TITLE	ENTRANT #	JUDGE #

What the point values mean:

• **Excellent, ready to submit**	**5 points**
• **Almost there, needs only a little polish**	**4 points**
• **Average, shows promise**	**3 points**
• **Below average, needs work or elements that do not appear in the entry**	**2 points**

JUDGE INSTRUCTIONS:

- increments (.5) may be used to calculate a section score to give a fractional total score. No section may be greater than the possible subtotal shown. Total score examples: 80.5; 100. Please use a calculator to verify your scores.
- Please feel free to make comments on the manuscript by typing directly onto the manuscript. Do not use track changes.
- The judge's comments section will expand as you type into it.
- On the scoring sheet, scores of 2 or 3 must be explained in the comments or in the body of the entry. Be very clear.
- Judges should keep all comments positive and constructive and not harsh and critical. The goal of this contest is growth and encouragement, not discouragement. Comments are the reason our entrants enter.

NOTICE: *ALL ENTRANTS AND FIRST ROUND JUDGES ARE TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS TO EACH OTHER; THEREFORE, NO NAMES SHALL APPEAR ON THIS SCORE SHEET OR ON THE ENTRANT'S MANUSCRIPT. Do not put your name on this scoring guide.*

ABOUT THE JUDGE (Judges, please place a typed X on all lines that apply)

____Traditionally Published in Romance

____Self-Published in Romance

____Published in a Genre other than Romance

____Experienced Judge

STYLE – 30 Points	Your Score	Total possible
Shows rather than tells.		5
Style is easy-to-read with a rhythm created by varied sentence length and structure and smooth transitions.		5
Descriptions are vivid and give the reader a sense of time and place.		5
Information is fed in naturally, as needed—not too much or too little at a time.		5
Narrative, dialogue, action, and introspection are interwoven and balanced, and viewpoint is handled well.		5
Grammar, punctuation, and spelling do not detract from the story.		5
Section Total		**30**

Judge Comments

PLOT/CONFLICT – 25 Points	Your Score	Total possible
The opening (hook) draws reader immediately into story.		5
Pacing is appropriate. Each scene promotes and advances plot.		5
Basis for romantic relationship begins in an intriguing manner. If romantic protagonists do not meet, there are sufficient hints that the novel will have a central romantic focus, or if in the category with novel with romantic elements, that these elements will be present in future chapters, even if they do not form the basis of the story in the opening.		5
External and internal conflicts are evident and strong enough to sustain a novel length manuscript.		5
Chapter / Scene ending hooks are compelling and entice the reader to turn the page.		5
Section Total		**25**
Judge Comments		

DIALOGUE – 15 Points	Your Score	Total possible
Each character has a distinctive voice.		5
Dialogue is natural and moves the story forward and is not used merely for exposition.		5
Dialogue is appropriate for time, place, and characters.		5
Section Total		**15**
Judge Comments		

CHARACTERIZATION – 15 Points	Your Score	Total possible
All the characters are sympathetic and well written. compelling, three-dimensional, strong enough to justify their starring role.		5
Goals and motivations for primary characters are apparent and consistent.		5
Characters' actions and thoughts are appropriate, consistent, and believable (including secondary characters).		5
Section Total		**15**
Judge Comments		

FITS CATEGORY ENTERED – 5 Points	Your Score	Total possible
The Entry fits the Category in which it was entered, with the plot, characters, and setting appropriate to the category. Judges, you will place your entrant's score only in the category entered. The rest are left blank.		
• Contemporary – Plot and characters appear complex and intriguing enough to propel a full-length novel.		5
• Fantasy, Futuristic & Paranormal – World building, magic/paranormal elements, and characters suited to a fantasy/futuristic/paranormal story		

• Historical – Setting, action, and characters' worldview are appropriate for the time period.		
• Novel With RE – Set in any time period, in any sub-genre, with the primary focus on story, characterization, and with hints of a romantic potential.		
• Romantic Suspense – The story starts with suspenseful or mysterious elements and at least hints of a romantic potential.		
• Young Adult – Voice and subject are age appropriate, with a protagonist strong enough to handle her/his own issues.		
Section Total		**5**
Judge Comments		

GENERAL IMPRESSION – 5 Points	**Your Score**	**Total possible**
Is your interest piqued? Did these pages reel you in? Are you wondering what will happen next?		5
Is the storyline original and fresh, or does it bring an interesting twist to a familiar trope?		5
Section Total		**10**
Total of all sections		**100**
Additional Judge Comments (optional if comments above. If no comments above, comments are required here)		