

26th Annual Orange Rose Contest
for Unpublished Writers
Romance Writers of America – Orange County Chapter
Official Rules

1. The Contest is limited to the first 150 Entries.
 2. Contest Deadline is April 11, 2009.
 3. Entry fees received after April 11, 2009 will be returned, and the manuscripts destroyed.
Send check, entry form, release and manuscripts to: **Charlotte Lobb, 1843 W. 244th St., Torrance, CA 90501.**
Make check payable to OCC/RWA . You may also pay through PayPal at our website www.occrwa.org
 4. Contest is open to any writer meeting the following criteria:
 5. Must be a member in good standing of RWA National.
 6. Has not published or been contracted in book-length fiction in the last five years.
 7. If one is accepted before June 30, 2009, entry(ies) must be withdrawn.
 8. Writer will be required to sign a statement confirming no offer for publication has been accepted.
 9. The entry must have a projected minimum length of 50,000 words. Categories are:

Contemporary Category Romance	Historical
Mainstream w/Romantic Elements	Inspirational
Paranormal/Time Travel/Fantasy	Romantic Suspense
Single Title Romance (over 70,000 words)	Erotic Romance
 10. **Hard-copy entries shall consist of:**
 11. One title page with author's name, phone number, address, E-mail address (if available), manuscript title, category, projected length.
 12. FIVE copies each of a synopsis and beginning of unpublished manuscript (55 pages total maximum).
 13. A #10 standard business SASE with first-class postage sufficient for 3 ounces for return of preliminary score sheets in July.
(Check www.USPS.com for appropriate rate.)
- Manuscripts will not be returned and will be destroyed.
14. A self-addressed stamped postcard for verification of receipt of entry, if so desired.
 15. **Electronic entries** – Non-U.S. resident RWA members **ONLY** may elect to submit their manuscripts electronically in .RTF format. Submit attached copy of manuscript along with completed entry form/release, title page (and payment via PayPal) to orangerose@occrwa.org
- THE TOTAL SUBMISSION INCLUDING SYNOPSIS SHALL BE NO MORE THAN 55 PAGES. ANY ADDITIONAL PAGES WILL BE REMOVED BY CONTEST COORDINATOR AND DESTROYED BEFORE JUDGING!**
16. Entries must consist of good quality copies, and be formatted as follows:
 17. Neatly typed on one side of white, 8 ½" by 11" paper, double-spaced (including synopsis). Readable 12 pt font such as Times New Roman, Courier New, etc.
 18. One-inch margins on top, bottom and both sides. Unjustified right margins.
 19. Header with manuscript title on left and page number on right.
 20. Prologue header should also state 'Prologue' after the title.
 21. Your name is to appear on the title page only. Do not put your name on your manuscript!
 22. Submit entry as loose pages only. Use SMALL binder clips to hold it together. **DO NOT BEND OR STAPLE.**
 23. Enter as many different manuscripts as you wish, but each manuscript may only be entered in one category.
 24. Each separate entry must be accompanied by an official entry form, a signed release and the entry fee.
 25. Preliminary judging will be done on a point basis, with all manuscripts judged by three published authors. The three scores will be averaged to reach the preliminary score.
 26. Finalists are chosen by their overall score, NOT by category. A finalist's manuscript must be among the top ten scoring manuscripts receiving a minimum of 70% of the possible points (a score of 136 or higher).
 27. Finalists will be announced July 11, 2009 at the OCC/RWA's monthly meeting.
These manuscripts will be read by two acquiring editors. Their scores will be averaged to determine the winners.
Winners will be announced and awards presented to the top four scoring manuscripts on October 10, 2009 at the OCC/RWA's monthly meeting. Winners receive OCC/RWA's highly coveted Orange Rose Certificate and payment in the form of a check as follows: 1st - \$100, 2nd - \$75, 3rd - \$50, and 4th - \$25. Finalists and winners not in attendance will be notified by phone or E-mail.
 28. Failure to comply with any of the above rules will result in disqualification. The OCC/RWA's Board of Directors will resolve any disputes that may arise. Their decision will be final.
 29. The contest cannot be held liable for any failure of the delivery of entries due to the USPS, or your chosen method of delivery. Contact Contest Coordinator, Charlotte Lobb, with any questions: E-mail: orangerose@occrwa.org or PH 310/325-3184.