

RWA[®] Mystery/Suspense Chapter presents

The Daphne du Maurier Award

FOR EXCELLENCE IN MYSTERY/SUSPENSE
PUBLISHED DIVISION 2010

SCORESHEET

Entry Title: _____

Entry number: _____

Final Score: _____

Category: _____

Judge number: _____

Please check your **Contest Information Sheet** in your book packet to determine which authors wish their score sheets returned.

- If the author **does not** request the return of scores, comments are not necessary.
- If the author **does** request the return of scores, anything scored 3 and under requires a comment.

PART 1: On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the worst score and 5 being the best, how did the author fulfill the following criteria?

OPENING

___ Opening hook: is it a real attention grabber?

COMMENTS: _____

___ Opening pages: does the author reveal the right amount of information, not too much or too little, to compel you to read on?

COMMENTS: _____

PLOT/PACING

___ Is the story original and well-executed?

COMMENTS: _____

___ Is the pacing appropriate to this category?

COMMENTS: _____

CHARACTERIZATION

___ Are the characters appropriate to the storyline?

COMMENTS: _____

___ Are the characters skillfully developed?

COMMENTS: _____

VOICE/POINT OF VIEW

___ Is the author's voice/style unique or fresh?

COMMENTS: _____

___ Is POV always clear?

COMMENTS: _____

DIALOGUE/NARRATIVE

- ___ Is there a good balance between dialogue and narrative?
- ___ Does the dialogue progress the story and help build the suspense?
- ___ Does the narrative progress the story and help build the suspense?
- ___ Does the dialogue ring true (normal and conversational, not too stiff and unnatural)?

COMMENTS: _____

STORY DETAILS

- ___ Does the conflict arise naturally from the situation (is not forced)?

COMMENTS: _____

- ___ Does the setting enhance the story (it's not intrusive)?

COMMENTS: _____

- ___ Are there enough twists and turns to keep the reader guessing?

COMMENTS: _____

- ___ Is the ending believable?

COMMENTS: _____

___ Does the ending tie up all the loose ends?

COMMENTS: _____

OPTIONAL BONUS POINT (*worth 1 additional point*)

___ Is the entry a compelling read?

OPTIONAL BONUS POINT (*worth 1 additional point*)

___ Would you buy this book?

OPTIONAL BONUS POINT (*worth 1 additional point*)

___ Would you recommend this book to a friend?

TOTAL POINTS (Maximum total 88) _____

PART 2 (For informational purposes *and* to be used as a tie-breaker if needed)

Select one statement that best describes this particular entry compared to the others you have read in the category:

- _____ 10. An excellent book; one of the best I've read lately
- _____ 9. This book is superb; masterfully written
- _____ 8. A wonderful read
- _____ 7. An entertaining read
- _____ 6. Well done
- _____ 5. Somewhat enjoyable
- _____ 4. Some good moments
- _____ 3. A struggle to complete the reading
- _____ 2. Not compelling
- _____ 1. Entered in the wrong category

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Optional: Judge's Signature