

COLORADO ROMANCE WRITERS BEVERLEY PUBLISHED CONTEST

Purpose

The purpose of the Beverley contest is to promote excellence in the romance genre by recognizing outstanding published novels and novellas. The Beverley will focus on the “hook” of each entry. The Beverley is named after the late Jo Beverley.

For the purposes of the Beverley Contest:

A “**Novel**” is a work of fiction of 40,000 words or more as determined by computer word count.

A “**Novella**” is a work of fiction of 20,000–40,000 words as determined by computer word count.

Entrants determine the appropriate category to enter based on computer word count. As authors cannot always be certain of the final word count after editing, for purposes of these rules, a small amount of flexibility (2 percent of the total word count) over or under a required word limit is permissible.

Scoring Overview

Each entry will be scored individually by three judges on a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being the lowest (poor) and 10 being the highest (excellent). The lowest score will be dropped, and the two remaining scores will be averaged. Members of CRW cannot judge other CRW members’ entries. There will be only one judging round. Judges will be required to read the first 30 pages of each entry and answer the following questions on the 1 to 10 scale:

1. How compelled were you to continue reading?
2. Did the novel appear to contain a central love story?
3. How well was the story edited?
4. How well did you like the characters?
5. Based on the cover and blurb, would you pick this book up at a bookstore? (As the Beverley is a digital only contest, the judge may need to check a retail site such as Amazon to read the blurb.)

These five scores will be averaged to find the entry’s final score.

The judge will then be required to list the entries in order of his/her preference for tie-breaking purposes.

The top five scoring entries in each category will be announced as finalists on or before June 30.

The winners will be announced on July 15.

Contest Eligibility

The Beverley is open to all romance authors, either independently or traditionally published, regardless of membership in CRW or RWA. Entrants must be 18 years of age by the date of entry.

Entry forms, fees, and digital files of entry must be received by May 1. Entry forms received after the deadline will not be processed and payment will be returned to the entrant.

Entry Requirements

A book entered in the Beverley Contest must:

- Be a work of original Romance Fiction, which means the work contains a central love story, and the resolution of the romance must be emotionally satisfying and optimistic.
- Have an English language publication date of the year prior to the year entered. For example, an entry in 2018 must have a 2017 publication date.

- Be submitted in pdf format, complete with copyright page.
- Be an English language edition.
- Meet the requirements for the category in which it is entered.
- Be accompanied by the \$25.00 entry fee.

If a novel/novella is published as part of a collection, it is not necessary for each work in the collection to be entered in the contest. Each work will be entered independently.

A collection of novels/novellas in one volume does not constitute a single entry; rather, each work must be entered and uploaded separately. The appropriate fee must be paid for each entry.

Entry Category Eligibility

The entrant selects the category, and this selection is final. A book may not be entered in more than one category. For example: a historical novel that has a strong suspense element may be entered in Romantic Suspense or Historical Romance, but not in both. Confirmations will be sent to the email addresses of the entrants.

Category Descriptions

All entries must contain a central love story and the resolution of the romance must be emotionally satisfying and optimistic.

With the exception of Erotic Romance, all categories may have varying levels of sensuality.

Contemporary Romance:

Novels that are set from 1950 to the present.

Erotic Romance

Novels in which strong, often explicit, sexual interaction is an inherent part of the love story, character growth and relationship development and could not be removed without damaging the storyline. These novels may contain elements of other romance subgenres (such as paranormal, historical, etc.).

Historical Romance:

Novels that are set prior to 1950.

Mainstream Fiction with a Central Romance

Mainstream Fiction novels in which themes or elements other than the romance are integral to the story even though a central love story and an emotionally satisfying and optimistic resolution to the romance are still present. This category is intended for romances that do not fit neatly into any other category due to their mainstream fiction nature but where the central romance could not be removed without damaging the storyline.

Paranormal Romance

Novels in which fantasy worlds or paranormal or science fiction elements are an integral part of the plot.

Romance Novella

Novellas are between 20,000 and 40,000 words.

Romance with Religious or Spiritual Elements

Novels in which religious or spiritual beliefs are an inherent part of the love story, character growth and relationship development and could not be removed without damaging the storyline. These novels may be set in the context of any religious or spiritual belief system of any culture.

Romantic Suspense

Novels in which suspense, mystery, or thriller elements constitute an integral part of the plot.

Young Adult Romance

Novels in which young adult life is an integral part of the plot.