**Romance Writers of Australia**

**SELLING SUBMISSION**

**Score Sheet**

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| **Entry No.** |  | **Title:** |  | |
| **Judge No.** |  | **Sub-genre/Line** |  | |
| **TOTAL SCORE (Maximum: 90 marks)** | | | |  |

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| **JUDGES:**  You are asked to assess **READINESS FOR SUBMISSION**.  Refer to **Guidelines for Judges** before you begin. **PLEASE GIVE COMMENTS WHEREVER POSSIBLE.**  The scoring scheme is from 1 to 5. Zero is not a valid mark. Half-marks are acceptable.  5 = ready for submission;  4 = only minor adjustments needed;  3 = needs moderate revision;  2 = needs significant revision;  1 = major problem. |

**PART A – TARGETED GENRE/PUBLISHER**

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| Is the entry suitable for the targeted subgenre, publisher or line? If No, please advise alternatives:  (Mark Yes or No. A score is not applicable for this question.) |  |

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| **FOR ROMANCE ENTRIES:** does the synopsis focus on the growing relationship between the romantic couple above all other plot points?  **OR, FOR ROMANTIC ELEMENTS:** does the synopsis indicate a romantic involvement or strong relationship for the main character/s?  (Mark Yes or No. A score is not applicable for this question.) |  |

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| **PART B – Spelling, Grammar & Punctuation**  Remember you are marking readiness for submission, not perfection – a few errors can still be ready for submission. Do not mark based on personal preferences. Allow for tone and voice if applicable, especially in dialogue. Either US or Australian spelling is acceptable so long as it is consistent. | **Score** |
| Is the entry free of spelling errors?  (Max 5 marks) |  |
| Are the basics of grammar followed?  (Max 5 marks) |  |
| Are the basics of punctuation followed?  (Max 5 marks) |  |
| **If you gave less than full marks for any of these, either mark the errors on the entry, or explain here:** | |
| **Subtotal for SPELLING, GRAMMAR & PUNCTUATION (Maximum: 15 marks)** |  |

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| **PART C: The Writing**  **pLEASE MARK THIS SECTION FOR ALL eNTRIES** |  |
|  | **Score** |
| Did the opening lines/paragraph hook your interest?  (Max 5 marks) |  |
| Were the main character/s and their situation introduced, giving a sense of what the story is about?  (Max 5 marks) |  |
| Is there a clear sense of time and place?  (Max 5 marks) |  |
| Does the writing have a distinct style/voice that impacted positively on you? (Max 5 marks) |  |
| **Please comment to explain your marks here. If you gave less than full marks, please explain why.** |  |
| **Subtotal for Part C: STORY (Maximum 20 marks)** |  |

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| **PART D**  This section is separated into 3 parts – Synopsis, Query and Blurb - with questions that are specific to crafting each. |  |
| **THE SYNOPSIS**  PLEASE ONLY MARK THIS SECTION IN RELATION TO THE SYNOPSIS | **Score** |
| Did you get a good sense of the main character/s’ conflicts (internal and external)? Is the conflict strong and sustained through the entry?  (Max 5 marks) |  |
| Is the writing well-paced? Did it make you want to read the full manuscript?  (Max 5 marks) |  |
| Are the conflict/s resolved and all loose ends tied up? Is the resolution satisfying?  (Max 5 marks) |  |
| **Please comment to explain your mark here. If you gave less than full marks, please explain why.** | |
| **Subtotal for SYNOPSIS Maximum: 15 marks)** |  |

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| **THE QUERY LETTER**  Please only mark this section IN RELATION TO THE query letter | **Score** |
| Does the query letter give the title, genre and word count of the novel and author details?  (Max 5 marks) |  |
| Is the description of the novel enticing? Did it make you want to read the full manuscript?  (Max 5 marks) |  |
| Did you get a sense of the main character conflicts (internal and/or external)?  (Max 5 marks) |  |
| **Please comment to explain your mark here. If you gave less than full marks, please explain why.** | |
| **Subtotal for QUERY LETTER (Maximum: 15 marks)** |  |

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| **tHE BLURB**  Please only mark this section IN RELATION TO THE blurb | **Score** |
| Is the writing well paced? Is the blurb free of unessential details? Is it easy to read and understand?  (Max 5 marks) |  |
| Does the blurb intrigue you and make you want to buy the book?  (Max 5 marks) |  |
| Does the blurb give you a good sense of genre and hint at character conflict?  (Max 5 marks) |  |
| **Please comment to explain your mark here. If you gave less than full marks, please explain why.** | |
| **Subtotal for BLURB (Maximum: 15 marks)** |  |

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| **PART E – THE X-FACtOR**  **pLEASE MARK THIS SECTION FOR all ENTRIES**  *In this section we are looking for the potential, the special quality that would make an editor overlook any errors and ask to see the full manuscript, or entice the reader to buy the book. To mark this item, ignore the errors, and look for the potential.* | **Score** |
| **How do you rate the potential of this entry?**  Give a score from 1 to 10, where 1 = 'very poor' and 10 = 'if I were an editor, I’d want to see this novel'/’if I were a reader, I’d want to buy the book’.  (Max 10 marks) |  |
| **Please comment to explain your mark here.** | |
| **Subtotal for X-FACTOR (Maximum: 10 marks)** |  |

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| **SCORING**  **Please enter your subtotals from above:** | **Score** |
| Subtotal for PART B: SPELLING, GRAMMAR & PUNCTUATION (Maximum: 15 marks) |  |
| Subtotal for PART C: WRITING (Maximum: 20 marks) |  |
| Subtotal for PART D: SYNOPSIS (Maximum: 15 marks) |  |
| QUERY LETTER (Maximum: 15 marks) |  |
| BLURB (Maximum: 15 marks) |  |
| Subtotal for PART E: X-FACTOR (Maximum: 10 marks) |  |
| **TOTAL FOR THIS ENTRY (Maximum: 90 marks)** |  |

**proceed to NEXT page – Judge's sUmmary comments Judge’s SUMMARY Comments**

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| What were the particular strengths of this entry? Explain what you particularly like about this story and what worked well. |
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| What didn’t work so well and how could it be improved? |
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**about This judge:**

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|  | Published, Romance |
|  | Published, Other |
|  | Editor |
|  | Unpublished writer |
|  | Contest finalist/winner |
|  | Avid reader of the genre |