

**ChickLit Writers of the World RWA® Chapter 204 presents:
*The 7th Annual Get Your Stiletto in the Door Writing Contest***

CONTEST RULES

The Contest is open to any writer who has never been contracted in book-length fiction (40,000 words or more) from any publisher.

Also eligible to enter are:

Any writer who has been published but not contracted for a minimum of five (5) years may enter any category; or

Any writer who has been published but not contracted for a minimum of three (3) years may enter any category except those they've been contracted or published in.

There is no limit to the number of entries per author or per category, but each entry may be entered in **ONLY ONE** category. Any manuscript that has previously finished in the Stiletto (including any honorable mention) is not eligible for entry.

Membership in Romance Writers of America® and/or ChickLit Writers of the World (CLW) is not a requirement for entry.

Deadline

Entries must be received **ELECTRONICALLY NO LATER** than September 6, 2011, 11:59PM EDT. Early entries will be held until all entries are received. An **ELECTRONIC ENTRY** received after September 6, 2011, 11:59PM EDT will not be sent to the first-round judges.

Category Descriptions

Single Title (Contemporary, Contemporary Series): If your heroine, like Bridget Jones, reveals her innermost fears and unsightly blemishes on the way to self-acceptance, she'll fit in with the classics of the genre. (Think: *Too Good to Be True* by Kristan Higgins, *Easy on the Eyes* by Jane Porter)

Women's Fiction (Mainstream): Finding a dreamy man isn't the only challenge women face. If your central plot revolves around another obstacle in your heroine's life—with romance on the side—she'll be at home in this category. (Think: *Something Borrowed* by Emily Giffin, *Twenties Girl* by Sophie Kinsella)

Note: *Trying to figure out the difference between Single Title and Women's Fiction (Mainstream)? Single Title entries are romance-focused and will usually have the happily-ever-after ending. Women's Fiction is less about the romance and more about the journey through life.*

Mystery/Suspense (Suspense, Mystery, Thriller): If your heroine's primary goal is to solve a mystery, track the bad guy, or escape the villain, she belongs in this category. (Think: Living La Vida Lola by Misa Ramirez, Sex Murder and a Double Latte by Kyra Davis)

Paranormal (Paranormal, Fantasy, Time Travel): If you built another world as the background for your ghost-hunting, spell-casting, time-traveling heroine, your manuscript will fit into this category. (Think: Undead and Unwed by MaryJanice Davidson, Midnight at Casa Dracula by Marta Acosta)

Young Adult: It's less about the boys; more about the poise. If your teen heroine is sassy, classy, and has wit to spare, she'll fit in right here. (Think: Lifted by Wendy Toliver, Princess Diaries by Meg Cabot)

Enter

Stiletto entries open July 1st! Check back for more information later.

Submit one (1) Electronic Entry of no more than the **FIRST 5,000 words** of your manuscript (judged) and one (1) Electronic Synopsis of no more than 500 words (not judged) in the **same** document.

Note: *Because the synopsis is not judged, it is optional but highly recommended. Also, if it exceeds the 500 word limit, the entire entry will be disqualified.*

FORMATTING & SUBMITTING YOUR ENTRY:

Use one-inch margins.

Use 12 pt. or larger Courier, New Times Roman or similar legible font. (Smaller fonts will not be accepted and could cause the entry to be disqualified.)

Entry should be double-spaced (both synopsis and entry).

Each page should have a one-line header with Title and category on the left side and page number on the right side.

CONTESTANT'S NAME MAY NOT APPEAR ON THE ENTRY. ANY ENTRY WITH THE CONTESTANT'S NAME WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.

To remove your name from properties:

In Word '07: File, go to Prepare, go to Properties, go to Summary

In Word '03: File, go to Properties, go to Summary

Entries must be received in **RTF** (Rich Text Format) files **ONLY**. (To convert your file to RTF, open the document, go into File, click on Save As and choose RTF format. This will create a new document with the same title in RTF format.)

Document title should be the **title** of the manuscript **only**.

Combine all manuscript pages and synopsis in one file. Paste synopsis before the beginning of the manuscript pages. All pages should be in standard manuscript format.

- 1) Entry Form will be filled in at time of submission.
- 2) Synopsis – not judged (No more than 500 words)
- 3) Entry (No more than 5,000 – Hint: don't try to squeeze in as many words as possible to reach the 5,000 word count; end the entry where it feels natural, i.e., end of scene, end of chapter, etc.)

Your entry will be given an entry number and submitted to the coordinator of the category you have selected on the entry form. You will be sent a confirmation email with the entry number. **If there are multiple authors of an entry, the second author must fill in an entry form and reference the entry number.**

Enter as many times as you wish, but a separate payment and entry form must be received for each entry. **Entries without completed entry form and payment will not be judged.**

PAYMENT

Entry Fee: \$15 CLW Members; \$25 all others. Payment may be submitted using Paypal, personal check on US bank, or Money Order in US funds. Payment must reference entry number.

Checks & Money Orders must be postmarked no later than September 6, 2011 (make checks or Money Order to "ChickLit Writers of the World #204") and sent to:

**Lori McDonald
P. O. Box 1721
San Ramon, CA 94583**

Payments **made by check or money order** must be **received by September 6, 2011.**

If the entry fee is not received by the payment deadline, the fee **will be returned to the entrant and the entry will be disqualified.**

JUDGING

Each entry will have four first-round judges; the lowest score will be dropped to eliminate discrepancy judging.

All four entries and score sheets will be returned to the entrants.

The top qualifying three finalists (or more in case of a tie) must receive a score totaling at least 105 points (75% of 140 points) to advance to the final round.

Finalists will be announced on or about October 20, 2011.

Final Round Slate Judges for 2011:

Single Title:

Agent: Paige Wheeler, Folio Literary Management

Editor: TBA

E-Publisher: TBA

Women's Fiction:

Agent: Victoria Sanders, Victoria Sanders & Associates

Editor: TBA

E-Publisher: Rhonda Stapleton, Carina Press

Mystery/Suspense:

Agent: Elaine Spencer, The Knight Agency

Editor: TBA

E-Publisher: Kelli Collins, Ellora's Cave

Paranormal:

Agent: TBA

Editor: TBA

E-Publisher: Jennifer Miller, Samhain

Young Adult:

Agent: Susan Hawk, The Bent Agency

Editor: Leah Hultenschmidt, Sourcebooks

E-Publisher: Heather Howland, Entangled Publishing

Louboutin Stiletto Award:

Judge: Agent Lois Winston

Winners

Winners will be announced on or about December 20, 2011.

The first place entry in each category will receive a \$50 Amazon Gift Card.

Results will be published in the Romance Writers Report *RWR*®.

DISCLAIMER:

Entrants warrant they have read the rules and guidelines governing the 7th Annual Get Your Stiletto in the Door Writing Contest and attest to their eligibility. They understand that judging is subjective and agree to abide by these rules and accept the decisions of the judges and contest coordinators as final.

They agree to hold harmless the ChickLit Writers of the World RWA® Chapter #204, the contest coordinators, and contest judges for any and all disputes arising from this contest or from circumstances beyond their control.

Questions: Please contact the Contest Coordinator at contest@chicklitwriters.com.