

RWA® Mystery/Suspense Chapter presents
The Daphne du Maurier Award
FOR EXCELLENCE IN MYSTERY/SUSPENSE
UNPUBLISHED DIVISION 2017
PARANORMAL/TIME TRAVEL/FUTURISTIC (PTTF)
ROMANTIC MYSTERY/SUSPENSE
SAMPLE SCORE SHEET

SCORING (123 points max.)

5 = excellent (publishable)

4 = good (close to being publishable, but still needs minor work)

3 = average (but not special)

2 = (shows promise, but needs improvement)

1 = poor (needs major work)

Important: Please comment liberally on both the score sheet and the manuscript. This is a contest for unpublished writers, and entrants both need and rely on your comments to help them in their writing process. Contests are one of the most important ways to obtain feedback. For any question scored 3 or less, the Daphne Committee strongly urges that you include comments and/or an explanation.

BEGINNING OF MANUSCRIPT

___ Does the hook pull you into the story?

___ Does the author reveal the right amount of information, not too much or too little?

___ Is there an idea/foreshadow of the mystery/suspense to come in the opening pages?

COMMENTS:

PLOT/PACING

___ Is the plot original and well-executed?

___ Does the plot have the potential to sustain an entire book in paranormal romance?

___ Is the pacing appropriate to paranormal romantic suspense?

COMMENTS:

CHARACTERIZATION

___ Are the characters skillfully developed?

___ Are the characters appropriate to the plot?

___ Is the mythology or tradition surrounding the characters logical, or is there an explanation why it's not? (For example, genies live in bottle, vampires stay out of the sun, etc.)?

___ In the opening pages, is there an idea or foreshadowing of the romantic relationship to come?

___ Are the characters' actions and reactions believable?

PARANORMAL/TIME TRAVEL/FUTURISTIC SPECIFIC

___ Is the paranormal element integral to the story? (In other words, it can't be taken out without the story falling apart.)

___ Are the paranormal aspects blended with the romantic mystery/suspense theme?

___ Is the author's concept of world-building believable?

COMMENTS:

DIALOGUE/NARRATIVE

___ Does the dialogue ring true of the theme?

___ Is there a good balance between dialogue and narrative?

___ Do the dialogue and narrative progress the story and help build the suspense?

COMMENTS:

SETTING

___ Does the setting give a sense of time and place and set the mood of the story?

___ Is the setting interwoven into the plot and does it enhance the story rather than pull the reader from it?

___ Are the details significant to the story? Do they move the plot along?

COMMENTS:

POINT OF VIEW

___ Is the POV clear at all times?

COMMENTS:

STYLE/VOICE

___ Is the writing vivid and evocative? Does it have a certain spark that keeps you reading?

___ Are sentence structure and length varied?

___ Is the entry free of typos and errors in spelling, grammar, and punctuation?

COMMENTS:

OPTIONAL BONUS POINTS

Check all that apply – Worth 1 additional point each

___ Was the entry a compelling read?

___ Would you like to read the entire book?

___ Would you recommend this book to a friend if it were published?

TIE BREAKER STATEMENT

Please mark ONE (1) statement that best describes this particular entry. This will be added to the total score ONLY in the event of a tie-breaker.

- 6. This manuscript is superb – masterfully written.
- 5. A wonderful read.
- 4. An entertaining read.
- 3. Well done.
- 2. Somewhat enjoyable.
- 1. Some good moments.

OVERALL MANUSCRIPT COMMENTS (feel free to add comments to the manuscript or add them here):

Optional – Judge's Name:

Sample