

## 2012 GOLDEN PALM CONTEST

The Florida Romance Writers, a chapter of Romance Writers of America, is proud to announce the **Golden Palm Contest** for unpublished writers.

***You can be the next winner!***

At least one published author will judge each entry on the first round. Participating editors and agents will judge the final round. All submissions will remain anonymous to the judges. For a non-published author, this is the perfect opportunity to avoid the slush pile and get your work critiqued by an editor or agent. Previously, two finalists sold as a result of the Golden Palm Contest.

### **Categories and Final Round Judges:**

**Short/Long Contemporary:** TBD

**Single Title:** TBD

**Mainstream with Romantic Elements:** TBD

**Historical:** TBD

**Paranormal/Fantasy/Sci-Fi/Time Travel:** TBD

While there isn't a specific Romantic Suspense category, a writer can enter their manuscript in any category that would be the closest fit.

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### **Purpose**

The purpose of the FRW Golden Palm Contest is to challenge and inspire unpublished authors of romance as well as to help prepare for the process of sending proposals to editors.

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### **Eligibility:**

The Golden Palm Contest is open to any writer who has never been contracted in book-length fiction (40,000 words or more) from any publisher. The entry is for a story with a projected length of over 40,000 words. You may enter as many entries as you like, but **EACH ENTRY** cannot be entered in more than **ONE CATEGORY**. Any manuscript that has previously been a finalist or won in the Golden Palm is not eligible for entry.

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**Entry Procedure:**

1. Email **Entry Form and Entry to appropriate category Email Address** listed below. (Electronic Entries only, no paper entries accepted.)
  
2. We accept two forms of Payment:
  - a) Send a **check/money order payable Florida Romance Writers** (\$20 for FRW member/\$30 for non-members)  
Florida Romance Writers  
c/o FRW Treasurer Teresa Davant  
P. O. Box 430744  
Miami, FL 33243  
  
Include your name, entry, category, phone number and email address with check.
  
  - b) Or pay via PayPal. [www.paypal.com](http://www.paypal.com). For your convenience, Website button is \_\_\_\_\_.  
  
Please include in the PayPal Notes your name, entry, category and email address.
  
3. Entrants will be notified of receipt of entry and payment.

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**Entry Fees:**

The entry fee for FRW Members is \$20. For all others the entry fee is \$30.00.

RWA Members who would like to **join** FRW can send \$40 for membership and the contest at the same time (\$20 membership + \$30 contest fee = \$50.) (Annual membership dues to FRW, payable each January, is currently \$40 per year.)

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**Entry Deadline:**

To qualify, all entries and PayPal payments must be received by Wednesday, August 15, 2012, midnight EST. Mailed checks must be **postmarked** by August 15, 2012, midnight EST.

Any entry monies received after that time will be returned and the entry disqualified.

*Note: FRW reserves the right to return all entries and fees if the minimum entry number of ten (10) for each category is not received. FRW reserves the right to cap the contest at 150, and to change final judges if necessary. Entrants will be contacted and will have the option to place their entry in another category.*

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### **Entry Details/Checklist:**

Entries will be accepted in **electronic** (e-mail) transmissions **ONLY**. See below for the formatting guidelines. If you have problems sending electronically, the Contest Coordinator will try to help you.

Each emailed Entry should include two attachments and be sent to **the appropriate category email address:**

\_\_\_\_\_ (1) Entry with a maximum of 25 pages, double-spaced.

\_\_\_\_\_ One (1) completed Entry Form for **each entry**.

\_\_\_\_\_ One (1) check or money order made out to “**Florida Romance Writers**” for the applicable entry fee and sent by mail to the Treasurer. Or you may use the **PayPal** button. All entry fees along with entry and entry form must be received by the deadline, midnight, August 15, 2012. Mailed checks must be postmarked by midnight, August 15, 2012.

\_\_\_\_\_ Author’s name, Manuscript Title, Category must be listed in the subject line of the e-mail entry. (example: Jane Austin, Pride and Prejudice, Single Title.)

\_\_\_\_\_ You will receive an email confirmation of the arrival of entry. If you do not receive a confirmation within five days of sending, please e-mail **Contest Coordinator** to check on the status.

\_\_\_\_\_ Entries should be received in **.RTF** (rich text format) format only and should be formatted in standard manuscript format, ready for printing. This includes header and page number (please, no names in header).

\_\_\_\_\_ Should you advance to the **final round**, you will be required to e-mail a **corrected** entry to the coordinator within **seven (7) days** for mailing to the editor/agent of the category you’re entering. Editors or Agents and the categories they judge are listed above.

\_\_\_\_\_ All judged entries will be returned to you by e-mail after the finalists are announced.

## **Entry Format:**

1. Entry must be presented in proper standard manuscript format (double-spaced, approximately 1" margins, size 12-pt font, Courier or New Times Roman). Hard to read fonts will be disqualified.
2. Header on the manuscript should contain **title and category** in the upper left corner and the **page number** in the right corner. (For combined categories, ie: Paranormal/Fantasy/Sci-Fi/Time Travel), please also specify which sub-category your entry fits into.
3. The name of the author must **NOT** appear anywhere on the manuscript or the entry will be disqualified!
4. The same manuscript may **NOT** be entered into more than one category. Pick the category that best fits your manuscript entry. Any entry that has won or placed as a final in the contest will not be eligible for reentry.
5. Judges: If you are a contestant, you may not judge the same category in which you are entered.

*Note: If the above rules aren't met, the entry may be disqualified and the entry fee may not be refunded.*

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## **Judging:**

**First Round:** The first round will be judged by experienced judges and published authors. Each entry will be judged by (3) judges with at least one (1) being a published author. The lowest score will be dropped. The final round contestants will be chosen by the average of the final two scores. The top three entries in each category will advance to the final round. (In the event of a tie, a discrepancy judge will be used.)

Judges are encouraged to type comments directly on the manuscript and on the score sheet.

**Final Round:** The finalists in each category will be ranked by an editor/agent, and the editor/agent will be encouraged to give a brief evaluation.

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## **Notification**

First round finalists will be notified by approximately, Tuesday, October 23, 2012.

Announcement of the Winners will be made at the Conference Cruise, Thursday, January 24th – Monday, January 28, 2013. Announcement to those who aren't attending will be made approximately Jan 29th-31, 2013 by phone and/or email.

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## **Awards**

First Place in each category will received \$25, along with a Certificate and a Golden Palm pin. Second and third in each category will receive a certificate. An announcement will be made in the RWR.

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**E-mail your entries and entry forms to the following Email addresses:**

<b>Short/Long Category</b>	<a href="mailto:frwshortlong@yahoo.com">frwshortlong@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Historical</b>	<a href="mailto:frwhistorical@yahoo.com">frwhistorical@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Single Title</b>	<a href="mailto:frwsingletitle@yahoo.com">frwsingletitle@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Mainstream with romantic elements</b>	<a href="mailto:frwmainstream@yahoo.com">frwmainstream@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Paranormal/Sci-fi/Fantasy</b>	<a href="mailto:frwparascifan@yahoo.com">frwparascifan@yahoo.com</a>

## **Checks should be mailed to:**

Florida Romance Writers  
c/o Teresa Davant, FRW Treasurer  
P. O. Box 430744  
Miami, FL 33243

Or payments may be made through PayPal [www.paypal.com](http://www.paypal.com)  
Payable [frw\\_goldenpalm@hotmail.com](mailto:frw_goldenpalm@hotmail.com)

**Any questions about this contest may be directed to:**

**LYN MAY** [frwcoordinator@yahoo.com](mailto:frwcoordinator@yahoo.com)  
**Contest Coordinator for the Golden Palm**  
**Florida Romance Writers**