

2017 TOUCHED BY LOVE AWARD CONTEST RULES

Deadline: Entry Form, nonrefundable fee (checks made out to FHL or by paid by Paypal) and manuscript must be **received** no later than **Midnight (11:59:59 p.m.) PST on April 1, 2017**. Entries and fees received after contest is officially closed will not be accepted.

Eligibility: Contest is open to all unpublished authors who have not accepted a publishing offer from a publisher or Self-Published a work of original fictional narrative prose of 20,000 words or more in the past three years. All work must be the author's original work. Previously entered manuscripts may be entered again, but no previous TBLA overall or category winning manuscripts may be entered even if revised. Entered works must not be published as long as they are under consideration for the TBLA Award or they will be disqualified. Entrants shall have all rights to the entry and not have granted any of them to a publisher or any other party or Self-Published the work while under consideration for the TBLA contest or they will be disqualified.

Definitions of Christin Fiction Romance: For the purposes of our contests FHL defines "Christian fiction" as follows: Stories written by writers whose worldview, influenced by their faith in the God of the Bible, is woven into the fabric of the book or manuscript. Entries in FHL's contest should not include inappropriate or gratuitous demonstration of sin, whether in language (profanity), violence, or sexual situations.

Christian Fiction Romance Categories:

Short Contemporary (under 75,000 words), Christian fiction where the love story is the main focus of the novel.

Long Contemporary (over 75,000 words) Christian fiction where the love story is the main focus of the novel.

Historical: Christian fiction set in a historical time period in which the love story is the main focus of the novel.

Entry fee: \$20.00 for members of the Faith, Hope and Love (FHL) chapter. \$25.00 for non-FHL members. Payments may be made through PayPal. Non-members can elect to join FHL and pay the member entry fee. Any checks must be made out to the FHL Chapter of RWA.

ENTRY FORMAT:

1. An entry consists of **up to the first 20 pages** of an unpublished manuscript and an unjudged synopsis (no more than two pages double-spaced) for a maximum of 22 total pages.
 2. The entry must be in **.doc or .rtf format**.
 3. The entry should have at least **one inch margins** all around.
 4. **Be 12 point font either Times New Roman, Courier or Courier New.**
 5. Entry and synopsis must be **double-spaced** using the same font (exactly 25 lines per page is acceptable also).
 6. **Chapter headings** (Chapter 1, Chapter 2...) should be **one-third to one-half down the page**.
 7. **Each chapter should start on a fresh page** (insert page break)
 8. The entry should **end with a complete sentence**.
 9. The author's name should not appear anywhere on the manuscript. **Remove all personal information from the computer document.**
 10. The **header** must have **manuscript title and projected or approximate word count** (as if a finished manuscript) on the left and page number on right.
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Example:

Love's Journey/ 60,000 words

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Optional: You may include your target publisher in the header to assist the judges in evaluating your manuscript.

Example: If you are writing a Short Contemporary targeted for Steeple Hill Love Inspire line your header would look like this:

Love's Journey/60,000 words, Steeple Hill: Love Inspired

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The Synopsis must be

1. Be in the **same font and format** as manuscript pages
2. Be in **same document** containing manuscript pages and synopsis.
3. Be put at the **end** of the manuscript pages
4. Be **formatted** with TITLE Synopsis on first line (at top of page), skip a line, next line begin synopsis information
5. Be **free** of all personal identifying information

ENTRY AND EMAIL INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Entrant may complete an **entry form** online and pay entry fee using **PayPal** OR mail an entry form and a **check** to the contest coordinator. (mailing instructions for entry forms and checks are on the entry form) Entry forms, contest fee and entry manuscript and synopsis are due **before midnight (11:59:59) PST, April 1, 2017.**
2. Address the email to the Contest Coordinator:

Kelly Ann Riley at RileyK1@aol.com

3. Please put **TBLA Contest and the contest category in the subject line.**
4. In the email body include the author's name, phone number, email address, mailing address, manuscript title, projected length, and category entered. Your name appears only in the email body, which is kept by the contest coordinator.
5. The **file name** should contain **the title of the manuscript.** Send the email and attached file to the contest coordinator before the deadline. Follow formatting guidelines listed above. The total attached submission is to be **no more than 22 double-spaced pages** with up to 20 pages of the beginning of the manuscript and a synopsis of not more than two pages. (synopsis is not judged)
6. **Attach to the email a copy** of entry and synopsis in **one** file in **.doc or .rtf format only.**
7. Enter as many manuscripts as you wish. *For each entry, the entrant must complete an online entry form and pay the entry fee with Paypal OR send an entry form and check to the contest coordinator. (Mailing information is on entry form)* Each entry should be emailed separately.

****Entrants who do not comply with the above rules may be disqualified and entry fee may be forfeited if entries are received late and/or corrections are not made by the deadline. Please contact your category coordinator if you need assistance prior to the deadline. We will be happy to work with you to solve the problem. ****

JUDGING:

A minimum of 5 entries must be received in a category for it to be judge or the category will be canceled and fees will be refunded to the entrants

Preliminary judging begins April 10, 2017. All manuscripts will be judged by three judges, one of which will be published or PRO. The highest two scores will be averaged for the preliminary score. The lowest score will be dropped.

Barring unforeseen circumstances, finalists will be notified no later than May 16, 2017. Finalist scores must be in the top 25% with an overall possible point total of 155.

Finalists will have three days to edit and polish their entries once they are sent their first round manuscripts and score sheets back. Failure to meet the 3-day deadline will result in the original entry being sent on to the final round judges.

Finalists will receive the opportunity to have their entry judged by three published inspirational authors. Scores will be averaged in order to establish a winner. The winner will be announced at the 2017 RWA National Conference. There will be three finalists in the three categories. There will be a winner in each category and an overall winner from the three categories.

The overall winner chosen from the three winners of the categories will receive a critique of their entry by an editor.

Critiquing Editor Raela Schoenherr, Acquisitions Editor, Bethany House Publishers The remaining two first place category entries will be sent to the editor to review (not critique). All finalists will receive a certificate acknowledging their placement in the contest. Any questions, contact contest coordinators Kelly Ann Riley at RileyK1@aol.com