

The 2009 Emily Contest

We're 20 Years Old!!

The mission of The Emily is to professionally support writers and guide them toward a path to publication.

News Flash: The Emily is now accepting **ELECTRONIC** and **PAPER** entries.

Contest Timeline:

- **October 7, 2008 – Deadline for all submissions/fee payments to be received**
- December 31, 2008 – Finalists notified by telephone and/or e-mail
- January, 2009 – Non-finalist entries/score sheets returned
- February 14, 2009 – Winners announced at the West Houston Emily Awards Luncheon
- February, 2009 – Finalist entries/score sheets returned
- February 27, 2009 – Finalists submit entries for Best of the Best judging
- April, 2009 – Announcement of the Best of the Best winner!

Categories and Finalist Judges:

Note: Multi-cultural, inspirational romances and romantic suspense should be entered in the appropriate category based on time period and length.

Contemporary Single Title: 90,000 + words, marketed as a single title book, includes these types:

- Single Title— Mainstream Romance.
- Romantic Suspense—Suspense is a major element of the plot.
- Women's Fiction—novels which deal with women's relationships and women's issues, including romance, self-reliance and attainment of personal goals. (**A separate score sheet will be used for Women's Fiction if it is specified in the manuscript heading.**)

2009 Finalist Judges:

- Agent – Elizabeth Pomada, Larsen-Pomada Literary Agents
- Editor – Kerry Donovan, NAL

Contemporary Series: Under 75,000 words, marketed as a series book, includes these types:

- (Overall) Contemporary Series — 75,000.
- Short Contemporary — 50 – 60,000.
- Long Contemporary — 60-75,000.
- Romantic Suspense — 50-75,000.

2009 Finalist Judges:

- Agent – Patti Steele-Perkins, Steele-Perkins Literary Agency
- Editor – Patience Smith, Silhouette

Historical: All types and length, marketed as a historical book, includes these types:

- Short Historical— Word count 50-110,000.
- Long Historical— Word count over 110,000.
- Regency—primary settings during the Regency period, typically 1800-1820.

2009 Finalist Judges:

- Agent – Paige Wheeler, Folio Literary Management
- Editor – Tessa Woodward, Avon

Paranormal: 50,000+ words, having one or more of the following elements:

- Science fiction Futuristic Fantasy Horror/otherworldly beings
- Shape-shifters Near future Time travel Possessed objects
- Alternate history Alternate timelines Reincarnation
- Witches/witchcraft Psychic abilities

Each entry must state the type and/or targeted market of the manuscript you are entering.

2009 Finalist Judges:

- Agent – Maura Kye-Casella, Denise Marcil Literary Agency
- Editor – Allison Brandau, Berkley

If you have any questions, please contact your Emily Category Coordinator.

Best of the Best Judging:

The Best of the Best manuscript will be selected by booksellers from the first place manuscripts of each of the four categories. The winner will be awarded a detailed critique of the first three chapters and synopsis by **Leis Peterson, Berkeley.**

Contest Rules

Entry Requirements and Format:

Competition for *The Emily* is open to both published and unpublished writers. Unpublished authors may enter in any category as long as they are not contracted to an agent or publisher by October 7, 2008. Published authors may enter only in a category in which they have not published in the past five years.

Entries may be limited to the first 60 submissions in each category. Participation is limited to one entry per person per category. However, entrants may enter more than one category.

Each entry should include the first thirty-five pages of your manuscript, including a prologue if applicable. Manuscripts must be double-spaced with 25 lines per page, one-inch margins all around, and in Courier New 12 pt or Times Roman 14 pt font. Example Style sheets for each font can be downloaded from the website.

At the top of each manuscript page in the header, place the following information:

- On the Left side of the header:
 - The Title of your book
 - Word Count
 - Type of Story and/or targeted market
- On the Right side of the header:
 - the Page Number

See the Style Sheets for examples. Your name should NOT appear anywhere on the manuscript. **This is mandatory.**

First Round Judging:

Every effort will be made to have at least one published and one experienced judge for each entry. Judges will be given a comprehensive score sheet to use. They are encouraged to comment either on the score sheet or on the manuscript or both. For electronic manuscript comments are inserted and highlighted. For paper manuscripts, comments are written directly on the manuscripts. A third judge will be used for any entry whose two scores differ by at least 20 points when one of those scores is at least 85 percent of the total points possible. Final judging for each category will be done by both an editor and an agent. The decision of the judges is final.

Entry Fee:

- Member of West Houston RWA Chapter - \$20
- Non-members - \$30

Electronic Submission:

- Find the appropriate Emily Category Coordinator listed on the entry form.
- Fill out the Emily Entry Form with all the required information, including the Contest Waiver box. This is required for your entry to be accepted electronically-- this checked box constitutes your signature. Save your entry form file as an Word doc file using the name "EntryForm_Your Name_Category"
- Prepare your manuscript according to the acceptable formats. Save your manuscript file as a **RTF** (rich text format) file using the name "Manuscript_Your Name_Category."
- On the subject line of the email message with your submission, enter "2009 Emily Contest Category"
- Attach your entry form and manuscript and submit to the Emily Category Coordinator.
- Entrants must submit their fee payment at the same time as their entry. Payment will be verified before the entry is allowed into the contest. Please consider the deadline of October 7, 2008 when determining your own date and form of payment.
- **PayPal payment of entry fee:** Use the "Pay Fee" links provided at <http://www.whrwa.com/emily>.
 - In the PayPal options box, enter your Name and the Contest Category in which the entry should be judged. This is important, so that the appropriate Contest Coordinator can be notified of your payment.

West Houston RWA

Review your payment Pa

If the information below is correct, click **Pay Now** to complete your payment.
[View PayPal policies](#) and your payment source rights.

Description	Unit Price
Emily2009-Member	\$20.00

+ In the note area, please provide YOUR NAME and CATEGORY.

Click on the + to get the box [Enter gift certificate, reward](#)

(There is a second image on the next page.)

West Houston RWA

Review your payment

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If the information below is correct, click **Pay Now** to complete your payment.

[View PayPal policies](#) and your payment source rights.

Description	Unit Price
Emily2008-Member Enter Your Name and Category in the Box	\$20.00

In the note area, please provide YOUR NAME and CATEGORY.

[Enter gift certificate, reward](#)

- Once receipt of the payment is verified, the Emily Category Coordinator will contact you via e-mail confirming your submission into the Emily Contest.
- **Check payment of entry fee:** Please make out a check payable to WHRWA for the appropriate fee. Allow sufficient time for the Emily Category Coordinator to receive your payment. Include a printed copy of the entry form. Once your payment is received, the Emily Category Coordinator will contact you via e-mail confirming your submission into the Emily Contest.

Paper Submission:

- Print out two copies of your manuscript according to the acceptable formats, bind with mini-clips,
- Save a copy of your manuscript on a CD in RTF format
- Emily Entry Form, filled out
- Entry fee (check payable to WHRWA)
- Submit all of the above items to the appropriate Emily Contest Coordinator listed on the entry form.
- Mail entries in a flat rate Priority Mail envelope or flat rate International Mail envelope. It has the best mail rate.
- Include a SASE (**stamps must be used for the return postage**) for the return of the entry.
- For foreign entries include an additional amount to purchase postage for the return entry. \$12.00 U.S. for entries from Canada and Mexico. \$20.00U.S. for entries from all other countries.
- SASEs with insufficient postage or no return SASE means your entry will **not** be returned after judging.
- **ENTRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED IF SIGNATURE IS REQUIRED FOR DELIVERY.**

All entries must be received by the **Emily Contest deadline, October 7, 2008**. Entries received after the deadline will be returned.

First place winners will receive the coveted **EMILY Pin**. All other finalists will receive a certificate. The **EMILY Awards** will be presented on **February 14, 2009** at the West Houston RWA® Chapter Emily Awards Ceremony. Finalists need not be present to win. If not present, winners will be notified by phone after the award ceremony.

If you have questions, please contact your Emily Category Coordinator or e-mail: Emily@whrwa.com.

Good Luck and Good Writing!!