

# Valley Forge Romance Writers THE KEYSTONE CONTEST 2025 SCORE SHEET

Judge Number:

Judge Profile:

<input type="checkbox"/> Published in romance	<input type="checkbox"/> Published in non-romance	<input type="checkbox"/> Unpublished	<input type="checkbox"/> Award-winning	<input type="checkbox"/> Reader	<input type="checkbox"/>
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**Score each category on a scale of 1 to 5, whole points only, where:**

**1=poor** (needs major work)

**2=fair** (shows promise, but needs improvement)

**3=average** (good, but not special)

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

**5=excellent** (publishable)

*Comments are mandatory for any score of 1, 2, or 3.*

Score	Category
<b>0</b>	<b>1. CHARACTERS</b> Skillfully developed; multidimensional; believable and interesting; sympathetic and likable; clear, distinct, and consistent voices <b>Comments:</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>2. CENTRAL RELATIONSHIP</b> Believable and compelling; emotional connection; logically developed and builds throughout the scene <b>Comments:</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>3. GOALS</b> Clearly stated for characters; actionable; personal to each character <b>Comments:</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>4. MOTIVATIONS</b> Strong; believable and consistent with individual characters and circumstances <b>Comments:</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>5. CONFLICT</b> Strong and clear; believable; good usage of internal and external conflict; tied to goals and motivations; not based on simple misunderstanding <b>Comments:</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>6. PLOT</b> Plausible; avoids cliché; interesting; scene moves the plot along; clear growth of character and development of conflict <b>Comments:</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>7. HOOK</b> Engaging and intriguing <b>Comments:</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>8. PACING</b> Scene moved at a smooth rate; flows through the highs and lows of the conflicts; Dialogue and Narrative are appropriately balanced for the style of the story <b>Comments:</b>

Score	Category
0	<b>9. DIALOGUE &amp; NARRATIVE</b> Balanced; progress the story; Dialogue is natural, believable and individual to the characters; Narrative is necessary and does not overwhelm reader with information <b>Comments:</b>
0	<b>10. SETTING</b> Sense of time and place; set the mood; enhanced the story; interwoven into plot <b>Comments:</b>
0	<b>11. STYLE</b> Varied sentence structure and length; actions and emotions "shown, not told"; senses well utilized; presentation of story smooth and interesting <b>Comments:</b>
0	<b>12. KEYSTONE</b> Scene is integral to plot, character arcs, and/or conflict of the full story <b>Comments:</b>
0	<b>TOTAL POINTS</b> <b>(highest possible - 60 points)</b>

**OVERALL MANUSCRIPT COMMENTS:**

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