

LAURA Short Fiction Awards 2018 Criteria and Rules

Purposes

1. To provide a benefit for all WWW members separate and apart from the WILLA Literary Awards.
2. To celebrate short fiction.

Contest Rules -- General

1. WWW members in good standing are eligible to enter.
2. Each member may enter one short story per contest year. Short stories that have won or placed in previous LAURA contests are ineligible. The short story must be the author's original work, not contracted or under consideration for publication prior to the entry deadline, and not previously published in any form, print or electronic.
3. The short fiction story must feature a female protagonist and be set in the American West. For the purposes of this competition, the American West is defined as all of North America west of the Mississippi River.
4. Stories targeted for juvenile or adult markets will be accepted. There are no separate categories for juvenile and adult entries.
5. Entries must be no more than 5,000 words.

Formatting Rules for Entries

1. Stories must be submitted as a Word document in an e-mail attachment.
2. The subject line of the email must start with the word LAURA, followed by the title of the story. For example, the subject line for a story entitled "Moonlit Trail" would be "LAURA – Moonlit Trail."
3. The following information must be included in the body of the e-mail message: the author's name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address; the story title; the word count.
4. The file name of the attachment should consist of the story's title and may be followed by more words as long as they do not reveal the author's identity. **PLEASE NOTE: If the**

author's name appears anywhere in the attachment, the submission will be disqualified.

5. This e-mail attachment (the story) must be double-spaced, in 12-point type. Font such as Times, Times New Roman, or Courier New are preferred. The document should have one-inch margins on all sides and ragged right margins.

6. In the event of disqualification, entry fees will not be returned.

Entry Deadline & Fees

1. Entry fee is \$20, payable via PayPal on the WWW web site.

2. Entries should be e-mailed no later than April 30, 2018, to LAURA Award Coordinator Cindy Sandell at this email address: cisand@earthlink.net.

3. Entrant will receive e-mail confirmation of receipt of the entry. If confirmation of entry is not received within one week of submission, please e-mail the LAURA coordinator.

4. Story critiques will not be provided.

Judging

1. The WWW president-elect serves as the LAURA Award Coordinator. Other members of the LAURA committee are the WWW president and past president.

2. The coordinator recruits three WWW members to serve as preliminary screeners. The screeners may not themselves enter a story in the contest in the year they serve as a screener. The screeners remain anonymous to everyone except the LAURA Committee.

3. The coordinator also identifies and recruits a final judge. The final judge shall not be a member of WWW. She/he may be a librarian, creative writing instructor, or non-member author who has published short stories. He/she shall not be given a rubric.

4. The screeners score each entry according to a short story rubric provided them and submit these scores to the LAURA Award Coordinator. The coordinator identifies the stories with the top five scores and submits them to the final judge. The authors will be notified by e-mail that their stories are finalists for the award. The titles and authors will be announced on the WWW website. The final judge will decide the First-, Second-, and Third-place stories.

5. The two remaining stories will receive an Honorable Mention.

6. The authors of the stories will **not** be notified of their final placement prior to the announcement at the WWW conference.

Awards

1. The placement (first, second, third, and honorable mention awards) will be announced by the LAURA Committee at the LAURA Awards Luncheon during the WWW conference.

2. Authors of the five winning stories will receive certificates, and their stories will be published in the LAURA Journal on the WWW website.