



LOVE STORY OF THE YEAR 2011

(Formerly the RNA Romance Prize)

Administered and awarded by the Romantic Novelists' Association

PLEASE READ THESE RULES CAREFULLY

THE CONDITIONS AND RULES WILL BE STRICTLY ADHERED TO



- 1 The prize is open only to authors who are full members of the RNA.
- 2 The prize is for 'Category Romances', defined as romances with the main focus on the central romantic relationship. Both books and magazine serials are eligible. If in book form, entries must be published in a recognised romance series on a regular schedule. Entries may be modern, period or historical. The minimum length is 30,000 words. Entries must be in the English language.
- 3 Books published electronically are not eligible unless they have also been published in printed form in the UK. Their eligibility will be judged on whether the UK printed version complies with rule 4.
- 4 Books and serials are eligible only **IF FIRST UK PUBLICATION IN PRINTED FORM TAKES PLACE WITHIN THE QUALIFYING PERIOD AND IF THE FIRST PUBLISHED EDITION OF THE ENTRY (IRRESPECTIVE OF MARKET, FORMAT, OR TIMING OF THAT FIRST PUBLICATION) WAS EDITED IN THE UK.** Entrants will be required to provide the name of the UK editor of the first published edition and of that editor's publishing house.
- 5 The **Qualifying Period** is **1st July 2009 to 30th June 2010** inclusive. For serials, the final extract must be published within the Qualifying Period.
- 6 Self published and vanity published novels are not eligible. Books entered for the Romantic Novel of the Year Award (in any prize year) are not eligible. Books entered for the New Writer's Award (Joan Hessayon Trophy) may not be entered for the Love Story of the Year in the same year. No book may be entered for the Love Story of the Year more than once.
- 7 On all questions of eligibility of entries, the organiser's decision shall be final.
- 8 Authors may submit more than one entry. Such entries may be published by the same publisher. Entries may be submitted by a publisher, agent or author. Publishers or agents should inform authors that their book or serial has been entered for the prize.
- 9 Novels may be submitted in hardback or paperback form. Serials may be sent in typescript format so long as one copy of the magazine containing the final extract is also enclosed.
- 10 **Entries should be submitted ONLY BETWEEN 1st JUNE 2010 AND 31st JULY 2010.**
- 11 **Two** copies of each book or serial entered are required, plus the completed official entry form (which may be photocopied). Entries should be sent by post to the Hon. Prize Organiser at the address on the entry form. Authors are advised to keep a copy of the entry form and of these rules.
- 12 Each entry will go to a team of preliminary readers. It will get two reads. The shortlist will be announced in early 2011. Shortlisted authors will be informed by telephone or email.
- 13 Shortlisted authors will be required to supply **three** further copies of their title for the final judges. Novels or serials on the shortlist will be read by three final judges to choose the winner. The winner will be announced and the prize presented at the RNA's Annual Awards event in early 2011.
- 14 Shortlisted authors will be expected to be available for publicity purposes and to attend the RNA Annual Awards event. Failure to attend the event may disqualify the book in question.
- 15 The winner or the winner's agent and/or publisher will be expected to be available for media interviews. Authors living outside the UK must be contactable by email.
- 16 Publishers of shortlisted titles will be expected to supply details of a publicity contact for each author, together with an author photograph, digital image of the book cover, press release, AI sheet and author publicity questionnaire if available.
- 17 Publishers will be asked to provide a reasonable number of additional copies of each shortlisted title for PR purposes. Authors should therefore inform publishers of titles they have entered for the Love Story of the Year.
- 18 All books entered for the Love Story of the Year may also be eligible for the Romantic Comedy of the Year and the Historical/Period Romance of the Year (defined as books set before 1960). Readers will nominate a shortlist, which will be judged independently of the other awards.

Failure to comply with any of these Rules and Conditions renders the entry liable to disqualification. The Organiser's decision on disqualification shall be final.