



ENTRIES ARE INVITED FOR THE



Romantic Novel Awards 2017 (Including the RoNA ROSE Award)

Administered and awarded by the Romantic Novelists' Association

PLEASE READ THESE RULES CAREFULLY

THE CONDITIONS AND RULES WILL BE STRICTLY ADHERED TO

1. The **RoNA** awards are open to members and non-members of the RNA and are given for seven categories of Romantic Novel (see rule 18 below). The category winners will be announced at an awards event in March 2017. Entries may be submitted by a publisher, agent or author. There is an administration fee of £15.00 for each title submitted that is written by a current RNA member, with an additional fee of £50 for each title submitted by authors, authors' agents or publishers where authors are **not** current RNA members, i.e. a total fee of £65 per title entered. The seven RoNA winners (one from each category) automatically go forward to form the short-list for the RNA's Romantic Novel of the Year Award. The overall winner of the Romantic Novel of the Year Award will be chosen by a judging panel.
2. Entries must be published by a traditional publisher (see rule 9) or where self-published or author subsidised a novel is only eligible if the author is currently a Full or Independent Author member of the RNA.
3. Titles that have been self-published first and then later accepted for publication by a traditional publisher can be entered for the awards. The new publication date must be within the qualifying period but there is no limit as to the time lapse in between self-publication and the later qualifying publication.
4. Entries must be written in the English language.
5. With the exception of rule 3 above, entries are eligible only if **first publication in English in any market** takes place **within the qualifying period**, which is the twelve month period between **1st January 2016 and 31st December 2016 inclusive**. Entrants will be required to provide the date of the first published edition. (For serials, the final extract must be published within the qualifying period). Entrants will be required to provide the date of the first published edition (or final extract).
6. Entries may be submitted in hardback, paperback or electronic (digital) format as a PDF file provided that first publication falls within the qualifying period "See rule 5 above."). Serials may be submitted in typescript or electronic (digital) format provided that one copy of the magazine containing the final extract is also enclosed.
7. No entry for the RoNA Awards may be submitted more than once (e.g. after previous entry in a different format or under a different imprint or with a different title or a different author name). See also rule 12 below.
8. Entries are only eligible if the author is living and working in the UK or Eire at the time of submission, or is a Commonwealth citizen living outside the UK, or if first publication of the work is by a UK based publisher and takes place in the UK. Entrants may be asked to prove citizenship and/or domicile. Authors living outside the UK must be contactable by email.
9. For the purposes of these rules a traditional publisher shall mean one which meets the criteria on which eligibility for membership of the RNA is determined. These criteria include the following:

The publisher must be properly established as a bona fide business and have a significant number of recently published authors on its lists (normally at least ten), and/or a significant publishing track record (normally spanning at least two years), and must not have required the author to bear any part of the cost of preproduction or production of any submitted book, and must not have tasked the author with editing, copy editing, typesetting, cover design, commercial distribution, or any other publication process, and must not have required the author to buy any copies.
10. On all questions of eligibility of entries the organisers' decision shall be final.
11. Authors may submit a maximum of two entries and publishers a maximum of fifteen entries. The total number of entries for the awards over the seven award categories is capped at 300.
12. Each title may only be submitted to one of the RoNA award categories and must meet the criteria for that category as described below under rule 18.

13. Publishers should inform authors that their book has been entered for an award. Equally, authors or agents should advise the publisher if they make an individual entry.
14. **Entries should be submitted as soon as possible before 1st October 2016, which is, without exception, the closing date for all books published before 15th November 2016.** Only books with a publishing date between 16th November 2016 and 31st December 2016, where advance copies are not available by 1st October 2016, may be submitted later with prior permission from the organiser, but in no case may they be submitted later than 1st November 2016. Four copies of each title entered are required or, in the case of ebooks, one PDF file which can be copied at least four times. It is in the interests of publishers/authors to submit entries as early as possible as once the total number of entries has been reached the contest will be closed.
15. Each entry will go to a team of three preliminary readers and a shortlist of potential winners for each category will be identified from the results of this assessment. The shortlists for each category will be announced in January/February 2017. The titles on these lists then go for a further, fourth, assessment and the winner of each category will be announced at the RoNA Awards Event to be held in March 2017.
16. Shortlisted authors are requested to be available for publicity purposes and to attend the awards event. Please note that the RNA does not undertake to pay for entrants, publishers, agents or individual authors to attend the awards event. It is the responsibility of the shortlisted authors and their agents/publishers to make sure they book tickets for the awards in plenty of time.
17. Publishers or authors of shortlisted titles will be expected to supply details of a publicity contact (if available) for each author, together with an author photograph, large digital image of the book cover, press release and any other relevant information. Publishers or authors should also be prepared to provide a reasonable number of additional copies of each shortlisted title for PR purposes.
18. Each book submitted must meet the relevant RoNA category description for the category in which the book is entered:

PLEASE NOTE: entries for all categories should have romance as a main over-arching theme, i.e. the romance has to be apparent throughout the book. Any novel submitted should embody a deep and moving love story in the traditional sense, or be a novel in which the romantic content and love interest is at the core of the story. The seven Categories of RoNA (each having an equal-status award) are:

- (i) **The RONA for a Contemporary Romantic Novel:** Mainstream romantic novels set post 1960. This category can include romantic suspense and erotic romance.
- (ii) **The RONA for an Epic Romantic Novel:** Romantic novels with a broad and sweeping scope. May be either contemporary or historical and may include time-slip.
- (iii) **The RONA for an Historical Romantic Novel:** A romantic novel set pre-1960.
- (iv) **The RONA for a Romantic Comedy Novel:** A romantic novel intended to be consistently humorous or amusing.
- (v) **The RONA for a Paranormal or Speculative Romantic Novel:** A romantic novel that may be paranormal, fantasy, science fiction, time-slip etc.
- (vi) **RoNA Rose:** for print serials and print books that are only available for a limited period of time, as well as shorter works of romantic fiction. **RoNA Rose** entries may be **(a) romantic magazine serials, (b) romantic novellas, (c) category romances**, meaning novels published in a recognised romance series on a regular schedule, or **(d) short romances**. The main focus of any submission **MUST** be on a central romantic relationship. Entries may be modern, period or historical. The minimum word length is 30,000 words and the maximum word length approximately 75 000.
- (vii) **The RONA for a Young Adult Romantic Novel:** A romantic novel where the main characters are teenagers or young adults.

Entries will be judged in the category for which they have been entered so please make sure to choose the right one!

The awards open on 6th June 2016 and entries should be made online via the RNA website.
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