

The Carolyn Readers Choice Award, 2018

~ a contest for 2017 published books ~

The Carolyn Award was created in 2013 to honor Carolyn Williamson, a founding member of the North Texas chapter of RWA. She has served the chapter in almost every capacity and is one of the earliest members of RWA as well.

Since 1983, Carolyn has pursued her dream of being a published romance author. She faithfully writes and attends meetings, workshops, and conferences in pursuit of the knowledge that finally turned her dream into reality.

Her dedication and perseverance is an inspiration to many.

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Timeline

- November 14, 2017 ~ contest open for registration, entries and early bird payments of \$20
- November 14, 2017 through February 14, 2018 ~ receipt of entries
- December 14, 2017 ~ contest price goes up to \$25
- February 14, 2018 through March 21, 2017 ~ first round judging
- March 28, 2018 through April 4, 2018 ~ finalists notified via email
- April 6, 2018 ~ finalists officially announced
- April 11, 2018 through May 2, 2018 ~ final round judging
- May 2, 2018 through May 4, 2018 ~ winners notified via email
- May 4, 2018 ~ winners official announced
- July 2018** ~ ad appears on RT Daily Blog page

Eligibility

- The Carolyn Readers Choice Award contest is open to all authors of traditional, e-published, and self-published books.
 - Only the author or the publisher may submit an entry.
 - Entries must represent the author's own original work.
- No anthologies or story collections accepted. Individual shorts and anthology stories may be entered into one of the five categories. No anthology as a whole is eligible.
- Authors or publishers may enter more than one book.
- No more than two books per author may be entered into a given category.
- Books may be entered in one category only.

- Original copyright or first printing date must be between January 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017.
- Membership in Romance Writers of America® is NOT required.

Categories

Please note: categories will be capped at 30 entries; if a category does not receive at least 10 entries by the deadline, authors will be notified and entries will be withdrawn from the contest or transferred to a different category as per the entrant's request. Should the entrant decide to withdraw from the contest, a full refund will be issued.

All lengths of stories will compete in these **six** categories. There are no additional categories for novellas or individual anthology stories.

- Erotic Romance
- Historical Romance
- Contemporary Romance
- Romantic Suspense
- Series Action Adventure Romance
- Specialized Romance: Alternate Earth Histories, Dystopian, Futuristic, Fantasy, Time Travel, Urban Fantasy

Costs

- Early bird entry fee: \$20 per entry
 - available from November 14 to December 14
- Regular entry fee: \$25 per entry
 - available from December 15 to February 14
- Requests for refunds (minus PayPal fees if applicable) will be considered on a case by case basis and will be discussed & determined by the NTRWA board.
- Any cost associated with the distribution of the book to judges is the sole responsibility of the author or publisher.

The Prize

- The winners of each of the five categories will be featured on a banner ad on the RT Daily Blog page (collectively, not individually) for two weeks. The banner ad is a \$500+ value.
- Each finalist and winner will receive an appropriate website icon.

Judging

- Entries will be judged by romance readers certifying they are not members of any professional writing organization or associated with the publishing industry in any way other than as a reader.
- Entries will be judged by no fewer than five (5) judges in the first round as well as in the second round.
- The entries in each category with the top five highest score averages in the first round will be considered the finalists.
- The entry receiving the highest score in the final round will be the winner for that category.

How to enter

- Complete the entry form.
 - Each novel entered must have a separate entry form.
- Pay the entry fee via PayPal.
 - Each entry must have a separate payment.
 - Please contact the contest coordinator if you do not wish to pay via Paypal.
 - Requests for refunds (minus PayPal fees if applicable) will be considered on a case by case basis and will be discussed & determined by the NTRWA board.
- Submit your book.

Other Information

- **FORMAT**
 - Only PDF copies of your entry will be accepted.
 - PDF version can be finished PDF or a publisher approved Advanced Reader Copy.
 - The cover does not have to be included.
 - By sending an electronic copy, the author or publisher acknowledges that up to eight (8) copies may be sent out, five (5) to the original panel of judges, more if backup or discrepancy judging is needed.
 - The author or publisher accepts responsibility for any payment required for these copies.
 - While NTRWA requires judges to agree to NOT re-distribute or share electronic documents, NTRWA has no way to enforce this policy.
 - The author accepts this risk when sending an electronic document.
- **LENGTH**
 - Books of all length are accepted and will compete in the same categories. A good story is a good story.

- Minimum length: 10K
 - Maximum length: 110K
- REVIEWS
 - This contest is judged by READERS who may decide to leave a review of your book. That's their right as a reader.
- AGREEMENT
 - Entry in NTRWA's The Carolyn Readers Choice Award contest constitutes agreement by the author to conform to all contest rules, abide by the decision of the judges, and hold blameless NTRWA, The Carolyn Readers Choice Award contest coordinators and all judges.
 - In entering, the author agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the chapter, its officers, members, contest chair people, and all judges of the contest from liability for its/their actions arising from or relating to judging and handling of the entry and conducting, sponsoring and advertising the event.

** Scheduling of the ad depends upon the dates of RWA's National conference.