

# End Results Fiction Critique

## Coeur du Bois Chapter of RWA

Entry Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Genre: \_\_\_\_\_

Return to coordinator by: \_\_\_\_\_

### SCORING:

5 = Outstanding

4 = Superior

3 = Good. On the right track.

2 = Needs Improvement. Keep at it.

1 = Needs major changes or rethinking

The following are simply reactions from another writer/reader. We hope you will find them useful; take them or leave them as you wish.

### OPENING SCENE:

\_\_\_\_\_ Do the first few paragraphs “grab” you or otherwise “lure” you in?

\_\_\_\_\_ Does the mood of the opening seem appropriate for the plot?

\_\_\_\_\_ Is the beginning conflict/tension clear or hinted at?

\_\_\_\_\_ Do you have a sense of time and place?

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### CHARACTERIZATION:

\_\_\_\_\_ Does the writer start building characterization immediately through actions, dialogue, narrative, mannerisms, etc?

#### *Main Character:*

\_\_\_\_\_ Does the lead character appear likeable or redeemable despite flaws/faults enough to make you want to read further?

\_\_\_\_\_ Are his/her actions well motivated?

\_\_\_\_\_ Does (s)he come alive? Do you get a clear picture of the type of person (s)he is?

#### *Villain/Secondary Character:*

\_\_\_\_\_ Are his/her actions well motivated?

\_\_\_\_\_ Does the secondary characters work? Are they interesting? Do they provide a contrast to the protagonist? Do they help drive the narrative, or are they just placeholders?

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### STORY DEVELOPMENT

\_\_\_\_\_ Is the story well-paced?

\_\_\_\_\_ Did each scene develop the story?

\_\_\_\_\_ Is the plot plausible or, if not, does the skill of the writer suspend disbelief so that it doesn't matter?

\_\_\_\_\_ Are secondary characters adequately developed and do they contribute to the development of the story?

\_\_\_\_\_ Does the setting enhance the story? Does the author create an effective atmosphere?

\_\_\_\_\_ Does background information enhance and support the story without being intrusive?

\_\_\_\_\_ Does conflict (internal or external) flow naturally from the character/s or does it seem forced?

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

#### DIALOGUE AND NARRATIVE

\_\_\_\_\_ Does the narrative provide imagery? Can you easily picture the characters and setting?

\_\_\_\_\_ Is the narrative interesting and necessary? Does it add to the story's appeal?

\_\_\_\_\_ Does the dialogue read naturally?

\_\_\_\_\_ Does the dialogue move the story forward?

\_\_\_\_\_ Do the characters all "talk" exactly alike or are there differences?

\_\_\_\_\_ Is there a good balance between dialogue and narrative?

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

#### WRITING TECHNIQUES:

\_\_\_\_\_ Does the writer make effective use of comparisons and/or figurative language?

\_\_\_\_\_ Do vivid descriptions place the reader in the scene with the characters?

\_\_\_\_\_ Does the author have a unique voice that makes this manuscript stand out?

\_\_\_\_\_ Is the writing fresh and free of clichés?

\_\_\_\_\_ Does the story show more than tell?

\_\_\_\_\_ Are transitions of time/place/points-of-view handled well?

\_\_\_\_\_ Is any of the writing humorous, scary, tense, or does it otherwise trigger an emotional reaction?

\_\_\_\_\_ Is the writing tight (no unnecessary verbiage)?

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

#### MECHANICS

\_\_\_\_\_ Do the grammar, punctuation and spelling in this entry generally meet accepted standards?

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**SUB-GENRE SPECIFIC SECTION**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Are the genre elements introduced in a timely manner?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Has the author created an interesting and believable world/situation?
- \_\_\_\_\_ If a relationship is introduced, is the attraction between the characters believable?
- \_\_\_\_\_ If a crime/puzzle is introduced, are there clues and foreshadowing to the resolution?

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**SYNOPSIS**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Is the story line clear?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Does the projected story fulfill genre requirements and end satisfactorily?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Is the synopsis free of unimportant details that detract from the storyline?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Is the projected conflict strong enough to sustain an entire book?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Are loose ends tied up?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Are there elements of freshness and originality in the storyline and its development?

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**OVERALL**

What are one or two strengths of this entry?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What are one or two areas of possible improvement?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

After completing the selection, did you want to read more of the story?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_