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## 2019 LAURA Short Fiction Award Contest

The purpose of the LAURA Short Fiction Award is to provide a benefit exclusive to WWW members—separate and apart from the WILLA Literary Award and the DOWNING Journalism Award—to celebrate short fiction.

### 2019 Criteria and Rules

#### 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 titled "Moonlit Trail" would be "LAURA – Moonlit Trail."
3. The following information *must* be included **in the body of the e-mail message**:
  - author's name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address
  - story title
  - 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. The story e-mail attachment must be double-spaced, 12-point type. Preferred fonts are Times, Times New Roman, or Courier New. 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, 2019 to LAURA Award coordinator Amy Nowak Swierczek at this email address: amy@amynowak.com
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 Award 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 screener. The screeners remain anonymous to everyone except the LAURA Award Coordinator.
3. The coordinator also 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. It is not necessary to provide the final judge with a rubric.
4. The screeners will 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 three scores** and submits these to the final judge, who will determine **first, second, and third place**. The authors will be notified by email that their stories are finalists for the award. The titles and authors will be announced on the WWW website.
5. The authors of the stories will not be notified of their final placement prior to the announcement at the WWW conference.

### **Awards**

1. Placement will be announced by the LAURA Committee at the LAURA/DOWNING Awards Banquet during the WWW conference.
2. Authors of the three winning stories will receive certificates, and their stories will be published in the LAURA Journal on the WWW website.