RWA® Mystery/Suspense Chapter presents
The Daphne du Maurier Award
FOR EXCELLENCE IN MYSTERY/SUSPENSE
PUBLISHED DIVISION 2018
SAMPLE SCORE SHEET

SCORING (88 points max.)
5 = excellent
4 = good
3 = average
2 = fair
1 = poor

Important: We encourage comments both positive and encouraging. For any question scored 3 or less, the Daphne Committee strongly urges that you include comments and/or an explanation.

OPENING
_____ Opening hook: is it a real attention grabber?
_____ Opening pages: does the author reveal the right amount of information, not too much or too little, to compel you to read on?

COMMENTS:

PLOT/PACING
_____ Is the story original and well-executed?
_____ Is the pacing appropriate to this category?

COMMENTS:

CHARACTERIZATION
_____ Are the characters appropriate to the storyline?
_____ Are the characters skillfully developed?

COMMENTS:

VOICE/POINT OF VIEW
_____ Is the author's voice/style unique or fresh?
_____ Is POV always clear?

COMMENTS:

DIALOGUE/NARRATIVE

_____ Is there a good balance between dialogue and narrative?
_____ Does the dialogue progress the story and help build the suspense?
_____ Does the narrative progress the story and help build the suspense?
_____ Does the dialogue ring true (normal and conversational, not too stiff and unnatural)?

COMMENTS:

STORY DETAILS

_____ Does the conflict arise naturally from the situation (is not forced)?
_____ Does the setting enhance the story (it's not intrusive)?
_____ Are there enough twists and turns to keep the reader guessing?
_____ Is the ending believable?
_____ Does the ending tie up all the loose ends?

COMMENTS:

OPTIONAL BONUS POINT (worth 1 additional point)
_____ Is the entry a compelling read?
OPTIONAL BONUS POINT (worth 1 additional point)
_____ Would you buy this book?
OPTIONAL BONUS POINT (worth 1 additional point)
_____ Would you recommend this book to a friend?

Please mark ONE (1) statement that best describes this particular entry. This will be used as a tie-breaker.

_____ 10. An excellent book; one of the best I've read lately
_____ 9. This book is superb; masterfully written
_____ 8. A wonderful read
_____ 7. An entertaining read
_____ 6. Well done
_____ 5. Somewhat enjoyable
_____ 4. Some good moments
_____ 3. A struggle to complete the reading
_____ 2. Not compelling
_____ 1. Entered in the wrong category

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Optional – Judge's Name: