

**TOUCH OF MAGIC      2010**  
**Paranormal Romance Scoresheet**

Use these criteria for scoring paranormal romance, and paranormal with romantic elements. Each criterion is worth 5 points.

Romantic suspense is defined as a novel in which romance is the primary or a principle element, in which story line includes paranormal or fantasy (including time travel) elements, and if set in an ordinary world, the elements clearly transform the world we know into a paranormal setting. As such, entries will be judged on elements in the context of the paranormal genre as well as romance.

**Assign points as follows:**

- 5 – ready for publishing!**
- 4 – minor tweaking is all that’s needed here**
- 3 – this area isn’t bad, but it does need some improvement before submitting**
- 2 – needs extensive reworking**
- 1 – needs better understanding of basic concepts in this area, then extensive reworking**

Our goal is to give the author *useful feedback* that she or he can use enroute to successfully publishing the work. Please comment on all areas to the extent possible. Comments are required for any score of 1 – 3, and highly recommended for any score of 4.

Entry title:

Entry#	Judge#
<b>1. Setting (10 points)</b>	
Criterion	Score (1-5)
Author created a plausible, yet non-ordinary world through setting OR through character traits (ie an ordinary world setting, but characters clearly posses paranormal characteristics).	
Author used five (or more) senses to put me in the world of the book.	
<b>Total points for Setting</b>	
<b>Comments:</b>	
<b>2. Characters (40 points)</b>	

Hero is likable, intriguing, or otherwise “heroic” enough to sustain the plot of a paranormal romance (factors include being clearly an alpha male, possessing paranormal characteristics, etc)	
Hero is fully developed. Not just a two-dimensional on-paper character, but author gives us a good sense of his motivation, goals and conflicts from the beginning of the story (or alludes to them sufficiently to be intriguing rather than leaving the reader missing something). He’s not perfect, but instead has intriguing flaws that help bring him to life.	
Hero is realistic within the author’s world. His actions/reactions are realistic, his dialogue give us a sense of his character, and sets him apart from the other characters.	
Heroine is likable, or at least intriguing (if she has less-than-likable characteristics), or otherwise meets expectations of a heroine in the plot of a paranormal romance (factors may include mental, emotional or physical strength, possessing paranormal characteristics, etc)	
Heroine is fully developed. Not just a two-dimensional on-paper character, but author gives us a good sense of her motivation, goals and conflicts from the beginning of the story (or alludes to them sufficiently to be intriguing rather than leaving the reader missing something). She’s not perfect, but instead has intriguing flaws that help bring her to life.	
Heroine is realistic within the author’s world. Her actions/reactions are realistic, her dialogue give us a sense of her character, and sets her apart from the other characters.	
Secondary characters are well-developed and necessary, without overshadowing hero/heroine. If no secondary characters are present, they are not missed.	
Villain/antagonist is introduced or alluded to, or if no villain (ie an external foe) is present, his/her presence is not missed.	
<b>Total points for Characters</b>	
<b>Comments:</b>	
<b>4. Dialogue (10 points)</b>	
Dialogue enhances the paranormal setting, furthers the plot and does not detract via over-use of unusual or hard to pronounce or define language.	
Dialogue tags are used appropriately and dialogue is easily attributable.	
<b>Total points for Dialogue</b>	
<b>Comments:</b>	

<b>5. Pacing (10 points)</b>	
Pacing is appropriate for a paranormal novel. There is appropriate balance between dialogue and narrative, and the action is suited to the genre.	
Backstory and other explanatory prose is layered in appropriately.	
<b>Total points for Pacing</b>	
<b>Comments:</b>	
<b>6. Plot/Conflict (30 points)</b>	
Author reveals an intriguing plot that is appropriate for the paranormal genre.	
Plot is fresh, or author's voice is distinctive and brings a fresh perspective.	
Paranormal elements are vital to the development of the story line.	
The type and degree of conflict are appropriate to the paranormal genre.	
Both external and internal conflict are present or alluded to.	
Romantic elements are present, or if hero/heroine haven't met, the romance is easily anticipated in the opening pages (ie set up so it's clear they'll meet, have conflict, etc). Note: the romance does not need to be at the core of the story, but a romantic element must be present.	
<b>Total points for Plot/Conflict</b>	
<b>Comments:</b>	
<b>7. Point of View (10 points)</b>	
Point of view is clear and effective. Author's voice does not intrude.	
Point of view switches are smooth and appropriate.	
<b>Total points for Point of View</b>	
<b>Comments:</b>	
<b>8. Mechanics (30 points)</b>	
Manuscript is professionally formatted. (do not take off points for odd page breaks caused by electronic transmission) Appropriate (readable) font is used in	

a standard type size, with standard margins. Author ended entry at an appropriate break (that is, not in the middle of a sentence).	
Spelling, grammar, and punctuation are correct.	
Sentence fragments, if any, are used effectively.	
Language is appropriate to the paranormal genre and adds to the story/setting.	
'Showing' outweighs 'telling'.	
Active verbs balance passive verbs as appropriate to the story and genre.	
<b>Total points for Mechanics</b>	
<b>Comments:</b>	
<b>9. Voice and other intangibles (10 points)</b>	
Author's voice shines through and lends itself well to the paranormal genre.	
The opening pages are intriguing, drawing me in and making me want to read more of the story.	
<b>Total points for Voice</b>	
<b>Comments:</b>	
<b>Total Score (150 possible)</b>	
<b>Other comments:</b>	
<b>Judge's info:</b>	
<b>Published, romance</b>	
<b>Published, other</b>	
<b>Un-published</b>	