

Ask the Editor – General Q&A Twitter chat

HarlequinSYTYCW: Welcome to Ask the Editor – a General Q&A Twitter #sytycw2 chat! Any question, any topic -- this is your chance to ask the editors!

HarlequinSYTYCW: We have 4 @HarlequinBooks editors with us to answer your #sytycw2 questions...

HarlequinSYTYCW: .@KScheibling is Senior Editor of Harlequin American Romance and @EmilyRodmell is an editor for Love Inspired #sytycw2

HarlequinSYTYCW: @LauraBarth2011 is Assistant Editor for Harlequin Blaze & American Romance #sytycw2

HarlequinSYTYCW: And last but not least, Patience Bloom (@paysh) is a @HarlequinBooks Senior Editor at Harlequin Romantic Suspense #sytycw2

KScheibling: Ask away! #sytycw2

EmilyRodmell: Hello everyone. :) #sytycw2

Jamiemichebks: @HarlequinBooks Should an agented author enter the #SYTYCW2 contest AND submit traditionally via her agent? Overkill or smart?

EmilyRodmell: @jamiemichebks It would probably be overkill to submit the same manuscript both places at the same time, but different ms ok. #sytycw2

KScheibling: @jamiemichebks You can submit one manuscript through the contest, and a different one the regular route. #sytycw2

MarySClem: When submitting a MS, do you require a cover page? What type of font do you prefer? #sytycw2

LauraBarth2011: @MarySClem A cover page is a good idea, a brief synopsis and a query letter too. Any font is fine--just make it readable. #sytycw2

Talinaperkins: What is the lead time for books? How long from revisions to publication? Thanks! #sytycw2

KScheibling: @trishabartle I'm revising July 2012 books now. #sytycw2

EmilyRodmell: @trishabartle Lead time is different for each line. Some have short turnaround (like Love Inspired Historical) others long #sytycw2

paysh: @trishabartle It's different for every book. Ideally, from contract to publication the time is about a year. Ideally. :) #sytycw2

WriterLauraR: Superromance--even balance of romance and external plot?

KScheibling: @WriterLauraR Pretty much. World length for Supers has gone up, so room for subplots, too. But also keep focus on big romance. #sytycw2

CristalRyder: @LauraBarth2011 Hi Laura *waves* Will Blaze consider very hot works or is there a heat level? For us erotic romance authors :) #sytycw2

LauraBarth2011: @CristalRyder Hey, Cristal! There's no heat level, but Blaze is more about sensuality and romance than just explicit sex. #sytycw2

Talinaperkins: After submission to Cravings, how long does it normally take to hear back from the editor? #SYTYCW2

EmilyRodmell: @talinaperkins Response time varies according to editor. But I'd give the line at least 3 months before following up. #sytycw2

Paysh: @talinaperkins It always depends, as with most submissions. Ideally between 6 weeks and 3 months. #sytycw2

RLAeverydaysme: What is the preferred time span for the story? Would a longer period feel too rushed, or shorter too shallow? #sytycw2

Paysh: @RLAeverydaysme Again, varies. Sometimes 24 hours, sometimes a year. Really depends on what's right for story. #sytycw2

KScheibling: @RLAeverydaysme Time span totally depends on story. Some fall in love in a week, some a year. #sytycw2

Spacekitten: For the contest, if we are not chosen as winner/finalist, can we sub the same ms after winners are announced? #sytycw2

EmilyRodmell: @spacekitten You can sub same ms if you don't win contest. LIH bought author last year who didn't win contest & subbed the normal way #sytycw2

Jamiemichebks: How many books per year do you typically want your authors to be capable of writing? #SYTYCW2

KScheibling: @jamiemichebks Depends on word length of books. With new Supers length of 85K, it would be hard to write more than 3/year, for example. #sytycw2

Paysh: @jamiemichebks I like at least 2 books a year for RS. #sytycw2

LauraBarth2011: Eventually, I'd like my authors to be capable of writing 3 books a year, but in the beginning it may be 1 or 2. #sytycw2

KScheibling: @jamiemichebks Also depends on author ability, time in their career, etc. #sytycw2

EmilyRodmell: @jamiemichebks We love it if authors can write up to three books a year but it's not expected of brand new authors #sytycw2

trishabartle: Uh oh, Supers are 85k now? It doesn't say that on the guidelines and the MS I'm submitted for the contest is 75k. #sytycw2

KScheibling: @trishabartle That's ok. Word length JUST announced. You're fine. Eds will still acquire shorter for a while, then ask to expand. #sytycw2

trishabartle: @KScheibling Awesome, good. Now I can stop panicking. ;) #sytycw2

ElizabethReid4: What line is acquiring the most new authors? #sytycw2

EmilyRodmell: @ElizabethReid4 I know Love Inspired Historical has bought almost 20 new authors in the past few years. #sytycw2

Paysh: @ElizabethReid4 Good question. 99.9% of the lines are open to new authors. #sytycw2

KScheibling: @ElizabethReid4 All lines acquiring. I'm definitely on the lookout at Amer Rom. Looking for fresh family oriented stories. #sytycw2

CWGrundlin: #sytycw2 Lets say I received a rejection letter, can I rework the book and submit it again?

Paysh: @CWGrundlin Generally if we ask to see book again, I would counsel revising. But best would be a new project. #sytycw2

MelindaBPierce: #sytycw2 Are there any successful co-authors writing for any of the series? Not sure if this has been asked yet! Thanks!

EmilyRodmell: @MelindaBPierce I know we have at least two pairs in Love Inspired writing under a joined pseudonym. #sytycw2

LauraBarth2011: @MelindaBPierce Tori Carrington, Daly Thompson... I'm sure there are others, although they're rare. #sytycw2

Talinaperkins: @KScheibling Just curious, what is the reason behind increased word count? #SYTYCW2 (for Superromance)

KScheibling: @talinaperkins Longer stories mean more complexity. Supers used to be 80-85, and it's just gone back. I loved those longer stories! #sytycw2

@KScheibling As a reader so do !! As writer I see an opportunity to flesh out my characters and their stories. #SYTYCW2

KScheibling: @talinaperkins When I started at HQ, I worked at Supers. They're close to my heart! #sytycw2

Cindyjackrimo: Have heard conflicting thing on this- if you have connected books- same town, same family etc- should you mention in query? #sytycw2

LauraBarth2011: @cindyjackrimo Mention in query, but only send one. #sytycw2

EmilyRodmell: @cindyjachrimo You can always mention that, but it's unlikely that we'd buy more than one at first. But good to know for future. #sytycw2

Paysh: @cindyjachrimo It doesn't hurt to mention connected books in query but you want to sell your main great story first. #sytycw2

Paula_Graves: Any plans to lengthen other lines? Say, oh, Intrigue? (she asks hopefully) #sytycw2

Paysh: @Paula_Graves Intrigue is staying the same but RS is lengthening to 70-75K starting with Jan 2013 titles. #sytycw2

Trishabartle: Do you meet with your newly-signed authors? Fly them to headquarters, perhaps? ;) #sytycw2

EmilyRodmell: @trishabartle We love to see our newly signed authors at conferences when we can, and they're always welcome to come by the office. #sytycw2

LauraBarth2011: @trishabartle We often meet them at conferences and sometimes they come to visit the office, but sadly we can't fly them all here. #sytycw2

KScheibling: @trishabartle RWA National is a great op to meet our new authors. I look forward to putting a face to a name. #sytycw2

KScheibling: @paysh @trishabartle Hey -- authors could fly us out to meet them! That would be good, too. :-) #sytycw2

LauraBarth2011: It's always exciting to meet authors you've worked with but never seen. #sytycw2

CheesegirlLiz: #sytycw2 Any market for romances set in small town uppermidwest, like MN or WI. Seems like everything is east or west coast that I see.

EmilyRodmell: @CheesegirlLiz It depends on the line. For LI and some others yes. Probably less so for ones like Desire. #sytycw2

KScheibling: @CheesegirlLiz Oh, for sure. We've done lot of WI and MN in AR. Supers, too. #sytycw2

Trishabartle: @KScheibling Oh good. My Super is set in Minnesota. #sytycw2

Paysh: @CheesegirlLiz I see no problem with those settings! I enjoy both states. #sytycw2

HarlequinSYTYCW: I remember a Reader Service subscription that was 50 bks, each set in a different state. Was that AR, @KScheibling?

CristalRyder: @LauraBarth2011 What is the current turn around time for Blaze, for a requested ms and from the slush pile? #sytycw2

LauraBarth2011: @CristalRyder There's no particular turn around time. It depends on which editor has your manuscript and what else is on her plate. We do try to get back to people in 3-5 months. Waiting longer probably means we're really considering it. #sytycw2

CristalRyder: @LauraBarth2011 Thanks. That's encouraging then :) #sytycw2

LauraBarth2011: @CristalRyder See, it's good to wait. ;-) #sytycw2

CristalRyder: @LauraBarth2011 That's what my mom said "all good things come to those who wait " :) #patient #sytycw2

SusanLute: #sytycw2 With the longer word length, do Supers trend a little more mainstream?

KScheibling: @SusanLute Yes. #sytycw2

WriterLauraR: @KScheibling #sytycw2 How long is wait on response to slush submission for AR?

KScheibling: @WriterLauraR Gah. I have one or two I've had on my desk a while. :(We're trying for 4 months. #sytycw2

LauraBarth2011: @WriterLauraR Please see my response to Cristal's question about Blaze. The same goes for American. #sytycw2

WriterLauraR: @LauraBarth2011 @CristalRyder #sytycw2 Longer wait may mean good news?

LauraBarth2011: @WriterLauraR Some of the things I hang onto the longest are the most promising. #sytycw2

Edwardian_era: #sytycw2 How important is social media for HQN authors? Is the brand (category line) enough, or shld new writers expect 2 b deeply involved?

EmilyRodmell: @edwardian_era The more passionate you are about your book and getting the word out there, the better it might sell. #sytycw2

Edwardian_era: @EmilyRodmell Thanks Emily! Good to know that it is important for HQN authors as well. #sytycw2

Loribcrawford: What is a typical contract length for your authors? What happens to the book after the rights revert? If they revert. #sytycw2

Paysh: @loribcrawford Every contract is different though series is fairly standard. When rights revert, it's back in the author's hands. #sytycw2

Loribcrawford: @paysh Is it possible for the author to keep it intact with the cover and make it available on a backlist? #sytycw2

Paysh: @loribcrawford Very good question. I'm not sure about that. I can check! #sytycw2

EmilyRodmell: @paysh @loribcrawford I believe that Harlequin owns the rights to the cover art if the ms rights revert.

Paula_Graves: My understanding, too. RT @EmilyRodmell I believe that Harlequin owns the rights to the cover art if the ms rights revert. #sytycw2

Paysh: @loribcrawford The cover art is property of Harlequin so it won't go to author. #sytycw2

Loribcrawford: @paysh Is that something that can be contracted, maybe? #sytycw2

Paysh: @loribcrawford You can contract art if you're publishing independently, but Harlequin has its own art department for its books. #sytycw2

LisaMarieModell: Best line to target for Alaska/fishermen stories? Or does it depend upon the story/WC? Targeting SR but would it be better for AR? #sytycw2

KScheibling: @LisaMarieModell Depends on story, yes. Think more about the treatment of the story than the hero's profession. #sytycw2

Jamiemichelebk: @LisaMarieModell I have to tell you: I'm reading a Harlequin Presents set in Alaska right now! "Her Bad, Bad Boss." #SYTYCW2

LisaMarieModell: @jamiemichelebk Alaska is a great place for romance, for sure. Last frontier and "cowboy" type spirit! I'll have to check that out! #sytycw2

EmilyRodmell: @LisaMarieModell Love Inspired had a whole series called Alaskan Bride Rush #sytycw2

Paula_Graves: @EmilyRodmell @LisaMarieModell Intrigue has had some Alaska-set stories, too. #sytycw2

LauraBarth2011: @LisaMarieModell Check out Jennifer LaBrecque's Blaze series, Alaskan Heat. #sytycw2

Paula_Graves: If you have an author who writes for two different lines, could they write a series across the two lines? #sytycw2

KScheibling: @Paula_Graves Yes, that has happened! Judy Christenberry wrote her Randalls series across American Romance and Intrigue. Very popular. #sytycw2

AmalieBerlin: Wondering what happens to a ms when the full was requested by an editor but comes in after the editor goes? #sytycw2

EmilyRodmell: @AmalieBerlin It will go to another editor. Either the one's replacement or perhaps the EA. #sytycw2

AmalieBerlin: @EmilyRodmell Good to know! Thank you. I had a mental image of manuscript orphanage! :) #sytycw2

Paysh: @AmalieBerlin I would send it in again and explain in cover letter that it was requested by so-and-so.

Paysh: @AmalieBerlin I mean, send it in the first time with cover letter. Misread! Don't send in twice. #sytycw2

EmilyRodmell: @AmalieBerlin If you're worried, you can always call the editorial assistant to check. #sytycw2

WriterLauraR: @KScheibling Thanks for detail! Developing empathy for editors. Can appreciate how tricky it is to balance everything. #sytycw2

Trishabartle: Will other entries for the contest be contacted for contract besides the winner? #sytycw2

KScheibling: @trishabartle Unfortunately, no. Only 1 winner, so one person contacted. Unless we find more than one! We'd LOVE that. #sytycw2

Trishabartle: @KScheibling So, if I don't win, should I said it again as regular submission? Or would that be a hint that you don't want it? #sytycw2

KScheibling: @trishabartle If you don't win, doesn't mean your manuscript isn't good. You can absolutely sub it after the contest. #sytycw2

LisaMarieModell: Better to enter or sub the old-fashioned way? Or either? One or the other, right? #SYTYCW2

@LisaMarieModell Do! It's an unusual HP, but it's nice to know that setting doesn't have to dictate which series you can sell to. #SYTYCW2

Paysh: @LisaMarieModell Take a chance and enter the contest! :) #sytycw2

CWGrundling: @HarlequinSYTYCW Do the ones that don't win get a letter saying why they did not make it? #sytycw2

KScheibling: @CWGrundling Answered this below. No, we will only be contacting the winner. #sytycw2

Becky_Lees: @EmilyRodmell @MelindaBPierce #sytycw2 What are the names of the LI writing duos? So I can look them up. Thanks!

EmilyRodmell: @Becky_Lees Emma Miller, Hannah Alexander and Pam Andrews are all duos. #sytycw2

MsOliviaMiles: May I ask who will be judging the entries? Will they be sorted and read by the editorial team of the targeted line? #sytycw2

KScheibling: @MsOliviaMiles Yes, the entries will be read by the editors of the targeted lines. See contest rules and FAQs for full details. #sytycw2

ElizabethReid4: If an editor has asked me to revise and resubmit, do I need to rush it back? Is there a timeline for me to turn it around? #sytycw2

LauraBarth2011: @ElizabethReid4 There's no timeline, but you want to get it back as soon as possible while still doing the best job you can. #sytycw2

KScheibling: @ElizabethReid4 I want to see it back quickly. Requested revisions means I'm really interested. Don't miss out on opportunity! #sytycw2

EmilyRodmell: @ElizabethReid4 I like to see it as soon as you can do it justice. Don't wait a year, but don't turn it around in 2 days. #sytycw2

McLibby: @HarlequinSYTYCW What's the typical, if there is such a thing, turn around time on manuscripts? #sytycw2

EmilyRodmell: @McLibby All lines aim for 3 months, but it's not always possible. #sytycw2

Harrischanning: #sytycw2 what is the average wait time between resubbed rewrite acceptance/rejection?

KScheibling: @harrischanning Usually quicker than w/ slush. 1-2 months? #sytycw2

Harrischanning: #sytycw2 is there a market for American historical romances?

EmilyRodmell: @harrischanning There are two lines in HQN that accept historicals: Harlequin Historical and Love Inspired Historical #sytycw2

Harrischanning: #sytycw2 @EmilyRodmell great, when my current WIP is done, I'm sending it! :)

LisaMarieModell: @paysh Thanks so much for your time and encouragement Kathleen, Patience, Emily, all the awesome editors at HQ! #sytycw2

BetteMaybee: #sytycw2 Is it unheard of to base a 4 book family series (American line) on a contemporary romance? Just presented this idea to my agent.

KSchiebling: @BetteMaybee If I'm understanding yr question, not at all. #sytycw2

Trishabartle: If not starting with an agent, to Harlequin authors typically get one once they're published? #sytycw2

EmilyRodmell: @trishabartle Not all Harlequin authors have agents. It's a personal choice. They're not required. #sytycw2

KSchiebling: @trishabartle Some do, some don't. Depends on career vision, goals, personal preference. #sytycw2

Paula_Graves: @trishabartle I've sold 19 books without an agent. Not sure I recommend it, necessarily, but it happens. #sytycw2

Trishabartle: @Paula_Graves At least you get to keep 100% of your earnings. :) No sharing. #sytycw2

Paula_Graves: @trishabartle Yes, but could an agent have furthered my career more than I have so far? #burningquestion #sytycw2

Loribcrawford: That's encouraging. RT @Paula_Graves: I've sold 19 books without an agent. Not sure I recommend it, necessarily, but it happens. #sytycw2

LisaMarieModell: @trishabartle This is a great question, one I had also...#sytycw2

Harrischanning: @KScheibling #sytycw2 It's been almost 13 months since I resubbed. What do I do?

LauraBarth2011 @harrischanning Email the editorial assistant for a status update. #sytycw2

Harrischanning: @LauraBarth2011 #sytycw2 I'll do that. Thank you so much.

Clarissayip: I have a full mss with one of the editors, should I wait before subbing another story to the same editor? #sytycw2

EmilyRodmell: @clarissayip Yes, wait to hear back on one ms before subbing another. #sytycw2

KSchiebling: @clarissayip Yes, wait for reply. We don't accept multiple subs. #sytycw2

LauraBarth2011: @clarissayip Yes. #sytycw2

Paysh: @clarissayip I would wait until you know status of first one. #sytycw2

EmilyRodmell: @clarissayip You can always sub to the #sytycw2 contest while you're waiting.

Clarissayip: @EmilyRodmell I thought about subbing to the contest, but from what i understand, a writer can't be published, correct? #sytycw2

@clarissayip Last answer. Yes, published authors not eligible for contest. #sytycw2

Trishabartle: Are movie rights ever sold? I don't think I've heard of a movie from a Harlequin book... #sytycw2

KScheibling: @trishabartle Oh, it has happened! Several HQ movies made in the late 90s. Authors have been contacted before by film agents... #sytycw2

Paysh: @trishabartle Debbie Macomber has movies from her Harlequin books. There have been many. #sytycw2

Trishabartle: @KScheibling @paysh Cool! Okay, now I want to watch some. #sytycw2

Paysh: @paysh @trishabartle And I can think of one favorite with Rick Springfield in it! Title escapes. #sytycw2

HarlequinSYTYCW: @trishabartle I'm pretty sure there's a new Debbie Macomber TV movie on Hallmark channel this year... #sytycw2

LisaMarieModell: Didn't the Hallmark channel do lots of movies that were originally published by Harlequin? #sytycw2

Paysh: @trishabartle "Diamond Girl" (I think) with Jonathan Cake. #sytycw2

Paula_Graves: @trishabartle @KScheibling @paysh You can still catch some of them on Lifetime now and then #harlequinmovies #sytycw2

KScheibling: @paysh A Change of Place? Or Diamond Girl? #sytycw2

Paysh: @KScheibling Yes. And I'll admit right here and now that I OWN BOTH MOVIES...and watch them secretly because they're awesome. #sytycw2

KScheibling: @paysh Ah, hahahahahahahaha! Another Rick Springfield fan! #sytycw2

Paysh: @KScheibling Don't tell anyone. I do love Rick. He wears these frightening white 1994 pleated pants in Change of Place #sytycw2

Talinaperkins: @HarlequinSYTYCW 2nd Mrs. Miracle movie I think #SYTYCW2

Trishabartle: I have a lot of movie watching to do! #sytycw2

Athina_paris: @HarlequinSYTYCW @pasyh @KScheiblimng @EmilyRodmell @LauraBarth2011 What do you find most annoying, ramblings or bad grammar?

EmilyRodmell: @athina_paris I used to be a copy editor in my former life, so bad grammar drives me crazy. #sytycw2

Athina_paris: @HarlequinSYTYCW What are the popular genres now? Does that then not bode well for writers of 'different'?

KScheibling: Many pop genres – paranormal, contemporary, inspirational, and more. There's never just one that's at the top!

Jaxjillian: @HarlequinSYTYCW Q: How does a tragic love story fit into your series? #sytycw2

KScheibling: All of our books have happy endings. No tragedies in series romance, sorry.

AmalieBerlin: @EmilyRodmell Can you sub to other offices/lines while waiting to hear on a full at one? #SYTYCW2

KScheibling: We prefer not. Better for you to hear back in case there is advice about your writing you could use to improve your other manuscripts.

HarlequinSYTYCW: Wow, so many great questions! Unfortunately time for our chat to end. We'll have the transcript up later today! #sytycw2

HarlequinSYTYCW: Huge thanks to @KScheibling, @EmilyRodmell, @paysh and @LauraBarth2011 for answering everyone's questions today! #sytycw2

Trishabartle: Thanks, editors! You've been super helpful. #sytycw2

KScheibling: Thanks for your questions, everyone! #sytycw2

LisaMarieModell: I was a Hallmark channel addict for awhile-had to turn it off! Thanks again for your wonderful chat and answering our questions! #sytycw2

Clarissayip: Thank you, ladies! You were all very helpful and wonderful! #sytycw2

Loribcrawford: Thanks everyone for your wonderful insight. #sytycw2

EmilyRodmell: Thanks for chatting with us. Just to put in a pitch. I'm actively on the lookout for Christian historical romance. Send them my way #sytycw2

LauraBarth: Thanks for all your great questions! #sytycw2

AmalieBerlin: I echo Big Thanks for the answers! #SYTYCW2

Talinaperkins: Thank you ladies! This chat was a pleasure and very helpful! #SYTYCW2

Paysh: Thanks for all the great questions! #sytycw2