

Rakuten Kobo Originals Holiday Rom-Com Writing Contest  
OFFICIAL RULES  
For inquiries, please email [kobo-originals@rakuten.com](mailto:kobo-originals@rakuten.com)

**NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO PARTICIPATE OR RECEIVE PRIZES.**

**SPONSORED BY**

Rakuten Kobo Inc., 150 John Street, Toronto, Ontario, CANADA M5V 3E3 (the "Sponsor" or "Rakuten Kobo"). No purchase necessary to participate in the Contest or receive prizes.

**COMPETITION PERIOD**

The Rakuten Kobo Originals Holiday Rom-Com Writing Contest (the "Contest") submission period begins on June 14, 2024, at 12:00:01 a.m. Eastern Standard Time ("EST") and ends on August 15, 2024, at 11:59:59 p.m. EST (the "Contest Period"). The Sponsor's servers are the official time keeping device for this Contest. The time that an Entry is received by the Sponsor will be the time at which it is received by the Sponsor's mail server or web server (as applicable) as determined in accordance with the applicable server's clock.

**KEY DATES**

Submissions open: June 14, 2024

Submissions close: August 15, 2024

Shortlist selection: During the months of June to August 2024

Shortlist announced: During the month of August 2024

Final selection by author judges: End of August 2024 at the latest

Winner Announcement: September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024

**ELIGIBILITY**

To be eligible, submissions must be unpublished works written by the Entrant, classified under the winter holiday-themed romantic-comedy genre. Submissions must be a previously unpublished novella between 15,000 – 20,000 maximum words in length and written in the

English language, written by a legal resident of CANADA who has reached the age of majority in their respective jurisdiction at the time of entry (each entrant, an "Entrant").

Entrants may write and submit a story together (with two or more people). The story then only needs to be submitted once, but it counts as a participation for each writer individually. So, you may not submit a story both together and individually.

Use of Artificial Intelligence-based tools:

Participants are strictly prohibited from utilizing artificial intelligence (AI)-based tools, software, or services for the creation, assistance, or modification of their contest submissions. This includes, but is not limited to, AI-driven writing assistants, language models, content generators, and any form of automated creativity tools. The intent of this contest is to showcase and celebrate the unique, original creativity and thought process of human authors. As such, all submissions must be the sole, original work of the participant, created without the aid of AI.

Employees of Sponsor or any of its respective affiliates, subsidiaries, advertising agencies, representatives, agents, or any other company or individual involved with the design, production, execution or distribution of the Competition and their immediate family (spouse, parents and step-parents, siblings and step-siblings, and children and step-children) and household members (people who share the same residence at least three (3) months out of the year) of each such employee are not eligible. Participation constitutes Entrant's full and unconditional agreement to these Official Rules and the Sponsor's decisions, which, subject to applicable law, are final and binding in all matters related to the Competition. Winning a Prize is contingent upon fulfilling all requirements set forth herein.

## **HOW TO ENTER**

### **NO PURCHASE NECESSARY.**

#### **To enter:**

Entrants must fill out the web form at the following web address:

<https://form.jotform.com/241365920138253>

Entries must include:

- Full author name;
- Email address and phone number;
- Mailing address;
- Name of the novella being submitted;
- 200-word maximum description on what makes the novella a winning entry;
- A .pdf or .docx version of the manuscript submission.

## **CRITERIA FOR JUDGING**

Work will be judged on the criteria set out below (note: judges may consider any other factors they deem appropriate):

- Excellence of writing;
- Use of language;
- Interpretation and style of writing;
- Level of interest to the general public of the subject matter;

The decision of the judging committees whether a work is eligible shall be binding.

All Entries must be received before 11:59 pm, EST August 15, 2024. Limit is one entry per person for the Competition. Entries that exceed this limit will invalidate all Entries previously made by that Entrant.

Jury: Our shortlist will be determined by our Kobo Reading Experts who will choose the top 5 stories and the winner will be selected by the Kobo Originals Acquisitions Editor.

## **ENTRY VERIFICATION**

If the identity of an Entrant is disputed, the Entrant will be deemed to be the name on the Entry. An Entrant may be required to provide proof of Canadian citizenship or legal residency of Canada.

Entries are subject to verification and may be disqualified if they are late, misdirected, incomplete, illegible, irregular, submitted through illicit means, not original to the Entrant(s), or if they contain any false statements or do not conform to or satisfy any condition of these Official Rules. The Sponsor reserves the right in its sole discretion to disqualify any individual who is found to be tampering with the entry process or the operation of the Competition.

## **OWNERSHIP OF ENTRY**

All rights to all submissions are retained by the Entrant.

## **PRIZE DESCRIPTION**

The potential Winner will be receive:

1. a Kobo eReader and sleep cover;

2. The opportunity to enter into a publishing agreement with Kobo Originals and have their novella published exclusively as a Kobo Original eBook (collectively the "Prize").

Approximate Retail Value of the Prize is \$2,000 CAD.

Note: If the winning Entry is written by two or more authors, each Entrant will receive their own device and sleep cover.

## **PRIZE DRAW**

All shortlist judging will take place from June to August 2024. The shortlist will be announced August 2024. Winners will be chosen before the end of August 2024. The Winner(s) will be publicly announced September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

Winner must respond within five (5) business days of notification to the contact number provided in the notification. If the winner does not respond in accordance with the Official Rules or the winner does not comply with the Official Rules, the Winner will forfeit the Prize.

The Winner must complete and submit a Declaration and Release form ("Form") to receive the Prize.

Odds of winning depend on the number of eligible Entries.

## **ENTRY CONDITIONS AND RELEASE**

By entering, each Entrant agrees to: (a) comply with and be bound by these Official Rules and the decisions of the Sponsor and/or the Competition judges which are binding and final in all matters relating to this Competition; (b) release and hold harmless the Sponsor and its parent, subsidiary, and affiliated companies, the prize suppliers and any other organizations responsible for sponsoring, fulfilling, administering, advertising or promoting the Competition, and all of their respective past and present officers, directors, employees, agents and representatives (collectively, the "Released Parties") from and against any and all claims, expenses, and liability.

## **PUBLICITY AND PERSONAL INFORMATION**

Except where prohibited by law, by submitting personal information to the Sponsor, Entrants consent to the Sponsor's collection, use and disclosure of such personal information for the purposes: (1) of administering and publicizing the Competition; (2) of detecting and protecting the Sponsor, its affiliates, and other third parties against error and fraud and other illegal activity; (3) as otherwise disclosed to the Entrant and for which the Sponsor obtains Entrant's consent;

and (4) as permitted or required by law, all without payment or consideration. Information collected from Entrants is subject to the Sponsor's Privacy Policy, which is available at [www.kobo.com/privacypolicy](http://www.kobo.com/privacypolicy).

## **GENERAL CONDITIONS**

The Sponsor reserves the right to cancel, suspend and/or modify the Competition, or any part of it, including these Official Rules if any fraud, technical failures or any other factor beyond the Sponsor's reasonable control impairs the integrity or proper functioning of the Competition, as determined by the Sponsor in its sole discretion. If for any reason the Sponsor is unable to fully operate the Competition as set out in these Official Rules, the Sponsor, at its discretion, may elect to hold a random drawing from among all eligible entries received up to the date of discontinuance for any or all of the Prizes offered herein. The Sponsor reserves the right in its sole discretion to disqualify any individual it finds to be tampering with the entry process or the operation of the Competition or to be acting in violation of these Official Rules or in an unsportsmanlike or disruptive manner. Any attempt by any person to deliberately undermine the legitimate operation of the Competition may be a violation of criminal and civil law, and, should such an attempt be made, the Sponsor reserves the right to seek damages from any such person to the fullest extent permitted by law. The Sponsor's failure to enforce any term of these Official Rules shall not constitute a waiver of that provision.

## **LIMITATIONS OF LIABILITY**

The Released Parties are not responsible for: (1) any incorrect or inaccurate information, whether caused by Entrant, printing errors or by any of the equipment or programming associated with or utilized in the Competition; (2) technical failures of any kind, including, but not limited to malfunctions, interruptions, or disconnections in phone lines or network hardware or software; (3) unauthorized human intervention in any part of the entry process or the Competition; (4) technical or human error which may occur in the administration of the Competition or the processing of entries. If for any reason an Entrant's Entry is confirmed to have been erroneously deleted, lost, or otherwise destroyed or corrupted, Entrant's sole remedy is another Entry in the Competition, if possible. No more than the stated number of Prizes will be awarded. In the event that production, technical, seeding, programming or any other reasons cause more than stated number of Prizes as set forth in these Official Rules to be available and/or claimed, the Sponsor reserves the right to award only the stated number of Prizes by a random drawing among all legitimate, unawarded, eligible prize claims.

## **DISPUTES**

The Competition is governed by the laws of Ontario and the laws of Canada applicable therein, and is subject to all applicable federal, provincial, state and municipal laws and regulations and

is void where prohibited by law. Participation constitutes Entrant's full and unconditional agreement to these Official Rules and the Sponsor's decisions, which are final and binding in all matters related to the Competition. By entering the Competition, the courts of the Province of Ontario, Canada shall have jurisdiction to entertain any action or other legal proceedings based on any provision of these Official Rules or the running of this Competition.

Any litigation respecting the conduct or organization of a publicity contest may be submitted to the Régie des alcools, des courses et des jeux for a ruling. Any litigation respecting the awarding of a prize may be submitted to the Régie only for the purpose of helping the parties reach a settlement.

## **COMPETITION RESULTS**

For a copy of these Official Rules, or for a list of winners (which will have only the winners' name and title of the winning work) send a hand-printed, self-addressed, stamped envelope to Rakuten Kobo Originals Holiday Rom-Com Writing Contest c/o Rakuten Kobo Marketing, Sponsor and administrator: Rakuten Kobo Inc. 150 John Street, Toronto, Ontario, CANADA M5V 3E3. Requests must be received by the latest December 31, 2024.