



The Carla Crown Jewel of Books 2026

Official Rules

Open for Entries July 1, 2026

Fee: \$35.00 per entry

A maximum of 50 entries will be accepted.

Deadlines: Registration and contest fee must be submitted by 11:59pm CT August 1, 2026. Electronic or hard copies of books must be received by August 21, 2026.

If submitting an electronic copy, a PDF version must be emailed to thecarla@marakc.com. If submitting hard copies, three (3) copies of each title entered should be mailed to: Carla Bracale 9431 N Kenwood Ave. Kansas City, MO 64155

Eligibility:

- Open to any traditional/self- published author with an original copyright date of 2025. All hard copy books must be perfect bound. Multiple entries allowed. (*Note: Re-released, re-covered or renamed titles are not eligible.*)
- Books where AI has been used to write, generate, or create the actual text or plot of your novel are ineligible. AI use is allowed for research, generating ideas, lists, and other brainstorming tasks, much in the way one might use Google and other search engines. AI may be used as a spelling and grammar checker as well as generally copy editing by programs such as Grammarly and/or Autocrit. AI may be used to manage dictation and transcription. If you have questions, please contact the contest coordinator at [**thecarla@marakc.com**](mailto:thecarla@marakc.com).
- We will disqualify entries judged offensive to any marginalized community (BIPOC, LGBTQ+, Gender, Ethnicity, Weight, Size, Age, Ability, etc.).
- Any book that doesn't meet the eligibility requirements as outlined in the Carla Crown Jewel of Books rules will be disqualified.

Judging and Awards

- **Please Note: Contest judges will not use AI to judge entries.**
- First round will be judged by readers/fellow romance authors.
- **Final judging will be judged by a bookseller.**
- Awards: First place book will receive a trophy, \$100.00, as well as publicity on the MidAmerica Romance Authors website and social media sites.
- All finalists will receive a Finalist Certificate and will be announced on the MARA Website and social media sites.

- Finalists will be notified by the last week of October. The winner will be announced on or about November 30, 2026.

Registration and Payment

Registration should be done online at **Register Here.**

Payments can be made by check or with PayPal to **treasurer@marakc.com**

Checks can be mailed to: Carla Bracale 9431 N Kenwood Ave. Kansas City, MO 64155

Contact Information: e-mail **thecarla@marakc.com**