

The Watty Awards Official Contest Rules (the “Official Rules”)

By participating in The Watty Awards (“**Contest**” or “**Wattys**”), each entrant and, if an entrant is under the age of majority in their jurisdiction (a “**Minor**”) at time of entry, their parent(s) or legal guardian(s) (collectively “**Entrant**” or “**you**”) agrees to be bound by these Official Rules and the decisions of Wattpad Corp. (“**Sponsor**”), which are final and binding in all matters.

1. **HOW TO ENTER: NO PURCHASE OF ANY KIND IS NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN.** To participate in the Contest, you must submit your entry of an original story (“**Story**”) through Wattpad.com (“**Website**”) during the period beginning at 11:00 am EDT on July 15, 2024 through 11:59 pm EDT on August 6, 2024 (“**Entry Period**”). Visit the Contest profile at <https://www.wattpad.com/user/TheWattys> (the “**Contest Profile**”) (also available in Spanish [here](#) and Filipino [here](#)) and follow the instructions provided (“**Instructions**”) on how to submit your Story (each, an “**Entry**”). All Entries must be received by 11:59 pm EDT on August 6, 2024 to be eligible. Eligible Entrants may enter as many times as they wish (with unique Entries) during the Entry Period but only one Entry per Entrant may win a prize. If you do not already have a Website account, you will be required to create one in order to enter. Creating an account is free as of the publication of these Official Rules. All Website terms and conditions apply (see <https://policies.wattpad.com/> for full details). Accounts or Entries generated by script, macro, artificial intelligence (including, without limitation, ChatGPT), or other automated means will be void. Website’s clock will be the official time-keeping device for the Contest.

All Entries must meet the following criteria:

- Entries must comply with all Instructions specified on the Contest Profile (incorporated herein by reference).
- Each Entrant must have all rights necessary to post and submit their Entry.
- Entries, including cover pages, images, and illustrations, must not infringe on the intellectual property or other rights of any third party. It is each Entrant’s responsibility to ensure that they have all necessary rights to submit the Entry and to grant Sponsor the rights described in these Official Rules.
- Entries must qualify for one of the languages and one or more of the genres (collectively, the “**Genres**”) specified below and in the Contest Profile.
- Entries submitted as a sequel must a) qualify in one of the other Genres, b) be written in English, and c) not be the first book in the series. For clarity, English language Entries submitted to any Genre which are not the first book in the series will be assessed as a sequel. Sequels must be able to be assessed as a stand-alone story.
- Each Entry to the Completed Stories category may only be submitted once. Each Story which is eligible for the Ongoing Stories category (as defined below) may be submitted once annually (as long as it has not previously won a Watty).
- Each Entry may only win one award or prize in a single year.
- Entries must either qualify as a Completed Story or an Ongoing Story, but not both.
- Entries must not contain identifying information (e.g. names, addresses, phone numbers, e-mail addresses or mailing addresses) of any real person, including Entrant.

- Entries must adhere to Wattpad’s Content Guidelines found here: <https://support.wattpad.com/hc/en-us/articles/200774334-Content-Guidelines>
- Entries must not disparage the goodwill and business reputation of Sponsor and/or any of its content licensors, as applicable.
- All Entries to the Completed Stories category must, in addition to the above, meet the following criteria. Each Entry must be:
 - written in English, Filipino, or Spanish;
 - original to the Entrant;
 - posted on the Website on or after January 1, 2022;
 - marked complete on the Website
 - at least 50,000 words in length if written in English or at least 40,000 words in length if written in Filipino or Spanish, as reflected in the Wattpad desktop experience (each a “**Completed Story**” and collectively “**Completed Stories**”); and,
 - submitted to the Wattys for the first time.
- All Entries to the Ongoing Stories category must meet the following criteria. Each Entry must:
 - be written in English;
 - be original to the Entrant;
 - not be marked complete on the Website;
 - be at least 20,000 words in length, as reflected in the Wattpad desktop experience (each an “**Ongoing Story**” and collectively “**Ongoing Stories**”).
 - have been updated in at least 8 of the 10 weeks prior to the date you submit the Entry and each update must be a minimum of 500 words (each an “**Update**”).
 - have been created prior to June 5, 2024 and have received an Update in at least 80% of the weeks between the date you submit the Entry and the date on which Sponsor announces the Shortlisted Entries.
 - All Entry parts, including Updates, posted on Sponsor’s Website until October 14, 2024 will be considered as the total Entry in the Ongoing Stories category.

Sponsor reserves the right to reject any Entry for any reason.

2. **GENRES:** Entries in each of the languages and categories listed above in section 1 [How To Enter] are eligible to enter into any Genre. For more details on each Genre, visit the Contest Profile. The following list outlines all Genres for the Contest:

- Action & Thriller
- Fantasy
- Historical
- Horror
- Mystery & Detective
- Paranormal
- Romance
- Science Fiction

3. **ELIGIBILITY:** Open to legal residents of all countries and territories where participation in such a contest is allowed by law, who are at least 13 years of age. In the event an Entrant is a Minor, such Entrant must obtain written permission from their parent or legal guardian, who has agreed on such Minor's behalf as well as their own behalf to be bound by these Official Rules. Entrants agree to the Sponsor's Policies (found at <https://policies.wattpad.com/>), including the Content Guidelines, Terms of Service, and Privacy Policy. Employees, officers and directors of Sponsor and its parents, affiliates, subsidiaries, and advertising, promotion, and fulfillment agencies, and their immediate family members (spouse and parents, children, siblings and their respective spouses, regardless of where they reside) and those living in their same households, whether or not related, are not eligible to participate in the Contest. Contest is void where prohibited. All applicable federal, state/provincial and local laws apply.

4. **SHORTLIST SELECTION:** Shortlisted Entries (each, a "**Shortlisted Entry**" and collectively, the "**Shortlisted Entries**") will be selected from all eligible Entries received on or about September 27, 2024. The shortlist as selected by Wattpad's official Wattys judging panel (the "**Shortlist**") will be notified of their qualification into the next round of judging on or about October 1, 2024 via email. In all languages other than English, Sponsor shall use the selection process described in section 4(a). In the English language only, Sponsor shall use the selection process described in section 4(b). Shortlisted Entries are subject to verification, including verification of eligibility. If an Entrant is unable to verify Entrant's information, the Entrant will automatically be disqualified and their prize, if any, will be forfeited.
 - (a) **Manual Selection.** Shortlisted Entries will be selected by manual editorial review based equally on (i) creativity, (ii) originality and (iii) quality of writing including grammar, spelling and syntax (33% / 33% / 33%) using the criteria outlined in the Judging Criteria section of the Contest Profile. Shortlisted Entries will be sent to a judging panel of designated Wattpad Ambassadors for Winner Selection, as described below.
 - (b) **Machine Learning Model.** Sponsor uses machine learning to score content according to quality sentence structure and grammar (the "**ML Model**"). The ML Model reads the story text and tags to identify certain features and patterns. The ML Model then compares these features and patterns to those found in content submitted to the Wattys Awards from 2020-2022 and applies a score to how similar content is to our quality content groups. Entries are then further reviewed by human judges for Shortlist selection. Shortlisted Entries will be sent to a judging panel for Winner Selection, as described below.

5. **WINNER SELECTION¹:** A total of forty (40) winners (each a "**Winner**" and collectively, the "**Winners**") will be chosen from all of the Shortlisted Entries as follows: (i) ten (10) potential winners in English from Entries to the Completed Stories category, (ii) ten (10) potential winners in English from Entries to the Ongoing Stories category, (iii) ten (10) in Spanish, and (iv) ten (10) in Filipino. Of the Winners, up to two (2) in English [one (1) Completed Story and one (1) Ongoing Story] and up to one (1) in Filipino and one in (1) Spanish may be from an Entry participating in Sponsor's Wattpad Originals program. Each Entrant is only eligible to win once

¹ Sponsor reserves the right to add additional prizes and awards at any time, at Sponsor's sole discretion. New prizes and/or awards may have different selection criteria from those already listed. In the event that new prize(s) and/or award(s) are added, the selection criteria and prize will be detailed in a schedule, incorporated into these rules by reference.

per year, regardless of how many Entries they submit. Winners, including Entries given additional prizes as outlined below, will be selected by the judging panels on or about October 30, 2024. Sponsor reserves the right to select fewer than forty (40) Winners if, in its sole discretion, it does not receive a sufficient number of eligible and qualified Entries. Judging scores will not be revealed. The decisions of judges are final.

(a) **Special Prizes:** From all Winners, four (4) additional awards in each language, ("**Special Prizes**") will be given (for a potential total of twelve (12) Special Prize Winners) based on the following criteria:

- "Best Characters" will be awarded to a Winner with characters that resonated with Sponsor judges, to be determined in their sole discretion;
- "Most Engaging World" will be awarded to a Winner with rich world building that makes the reader feel like they can truly immerse themselves into the setting;
- "Biggest Twist" will be awarded to a Winner that shocks Sponsor judges with an unforeseeable twist; and
- "Catchiest Hook" will be awarded to a Winner that builds off an idea that is fresh, imaginative, and exciting.

(b) **Grand Prize Winners:** One (1) Winner will be selected from the pools of Winners from each language in the Completed Stories category and one (1) Winner will be selected from the pool of Winners in the Ongoing Stories category (collectively, "**Grand Prize Winners**"), for a potential total of four (4) Grand Prize Winners. Grand Prize Winners will achieve distinction in at least three of the four Special Prize criteria listed above at section 5(a).

6. **WINNER NOTIFICATION & REQUIREMENTS:** Sponsor or an agent of Sponsor will attempt to notify the Winners by email within seven (7) days of selection. Potential Winners (or their parent or legal guardian if they are a Minor) will be required to execute and return a Declaration of Eligibility and Release (the "**Declaration and Release**") form within seven (7) days of date of issuance. If the foregoing Declaration and Release is not returned within the specified time period, or in the case of any potential Winner who is a Minor, if such documents are not signed by the potential Winner's parent or legal guardian, winner notification is returned as undeliverable, or a potential Winner is not in compliance with these Official Rules, prize will be forfeited and, at Sponsor's discretion, a runner-up may be selected.
7. **PUBLICITY GRANT:** Entry in the Contest constitutes permission for Sponsor and its designees to use each Entrant's and Winner's Entry, as well as Entrant's name, website or social media handle or ID, biographical information, address (city and state/province) and likeness, for advertising and promotional purposes, in any manner, in any and all media now or hereafter devised, worldwide, in perpetuity, without further compensation, notification or permission, except where prohibited by law and as otherwise provided herein. The preceding expressly includes, without limitation, any video associated with any winning Entry.
8. **PRIZES:**

(a) All Winners will receive the following:

- A social media kit;
- Promotion on the Wattys profile on Sponsor platform;
- Featuring opportunities across Wattpad;
- A Wattys badge for their winning Entry; and,
- Priority consideration by Wattpad WEBTOON Studios for the Entry to be shown to third party entertainment and publishing partners. Wattpad will communicate directly with winners if there is interest.

(b) In addition to the prize detailed at section 8(a), *Winners of Special Prizes* will receive extra acknowledgement of their prize on the Wattys website at wattys.wattpad.com.

(c) In addition to the prizes detailed at section 8(a), the *Grand Prize Winners* will receive Five thousand U.S. dollars (USD \$5,000)

Winners will have no approvals over the final messaging used in conjunction with any winning Entry or its content. All other prize details are at Sponsor's sole discretion. All federal, state/provincial, local and other taxes are the sole responsibility of each Winner.

9. **SPONSOR RIGHTS IN ALL SUBMITTED STORIES:** In submitting an Entry/Story, each Entrant permits Sponsor to (permanently and free of charge):

- Post up to 30% of one chapter of the Entry/Story on the landing page of the Wattys website;
- Use Entry/Story to train Sponsor's ML Model; and
- Feature the Entry/Story on the Sponsor platform (website and mobile) and across all Sponsor social media channels (Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, X, etc.) for any purpose connected to the Wattys.

10. **SPONSOR RIGHTS IN ALL SHORTLISTED AND WINNING STORIES:** Upon begin included in the Shortlist and/or in accepting a prize, each Entrant agrees that Sponsor (and partners of Sponsor) may, permanently and free of charge:

- Take excerpts of the Entry/Story to create and distribute promotional materials, both for the Entry/Story and the Contest;
- Post no more than one chapter of the Entry/Story anywhere on the Wattys website;
- Feature the Entry/Story on the Sponsor's platform (website and mobile) and across all Sponsor's social media channels (Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, X, etc.);
- Use Entrant's name and likeness for promotional purposes related to the Wattys; and
- Upon Sponsor's request and without compensation of any kind, to execute any additional documents so as to effect, record or perfect the grant of rights contemplated by this subsection.

11. **WARRANTY:**

(a) Each Entrant hereby represents and warrants that any Entry and any other materials and/or information provided by such Entrant are original to Entrant and do not violate or infringe upon the copyrights, trademarks, rights of privacy, publicity, moral rights or

other intellectual property or other rights of any person or entity, and do not violate any rules or regulations contained in these Official Rules. If the Entry or information or materials provided by Entrant contain any material or elements that are not owned by Entrant and/or which are subject to the rights of third parties, Entrant represents Entrant has obtained, prior to submission of the Entry and information or materials, any and all releases and consents necessary to permit use and exploitation of the Entry and information and materials by Sponsor in the manner set forth in these Official Rules without additional compensation.

- (b) Each Entrant represents and warrants that the Entry and materials and/or information provided do not contain information considered by Entrant or any other third party to be confidential, and that the Entry, materials, and information provided do not violate any laws or regulations. Entrant agrees that Sponsor has the right to verify the ownership and originality of all Entries. In the event a submission is selected as a winning Entry, and Entrant's ownership, rights and the originality of the Entry cannot be verified to the satisfaction of Sponsor or is in any other way ineligible, Sponsor may select an alternate winner based on the same judging criteria. Sponsor shall not have any liability to Entrant for any direct, indirect, contributory, vicarious, secondary or other infringement or protection of any copyright in or to Entrant's Entry. Sponsor is not responsible for any unauthorized use of Entries by third parties.

12. **GENERAL RULES:** In the event of a dispute regarding any Entry, that Entry will be deemed made by the authorized holder of the Website account associated with the Entry at the time of the Entry submission and such Entrant must comply with these Official Rules and those outlined in the Contest Profile. Sponsor, its parents, affiliates, subsidiaries, and advertising, promotion, and fulfillment agencies and all of their respective officers, shareholders, directors, officers, employees, licensees, agents, representatives and assigns (collectively, "**Released Parties**") are not responsible for technical, hardware, software, or telephone malfunctions of any kind, lost or unavailable network connections, or failed, incorrect, incomplete, inaccurate, garbled or delayed electronic communications or for errors or difficulties of any kind whether human, mechanical, electronic, computer, network, typographical, printing or otherwise relating to or in connection with the Contest, including, without limitation, errors or difficulties which may occur in connection with the administration of the Contest, the processing or judging of Entries or in any Contest-related materials. Released Parties reserve the right at their sole discretion to disqualify any Entrant that tampers or attempts to tamper with the Entry process or the operation of the Contest, mobile application, or website (including the Website); violates the Official Rules; or acts in an unsportsmanlike or disruptive manner, or with intent to annoy, abuse, threaten, or harass any other person. Any attempt by any person to deliberately undermine the legitimate operation of the Contest may be a violation of criminal and civil law, and, should such an attempt be made, Sponsor reserves the right to seek damages (including attorneys' fees) and other remedies from any such person and Entrant to the fullest extent permitted by law. Sponsor's failure to enforce any term of these Official Rules will not constitute a waiver of that provision. Sponsor reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to cancel, terminate, modify or suspend the Contest if it is not capable of running as planned, including, but not limited to, infection by computer virus, tampering, unauthorized intervention, fraud, technical failures or any other problems. Released Parties will have no liability or responsibility for any claim arising in connection with participation in this Contest or the exploitation by a Released Party of any Entry.

Entrants assume all liability for any injury or damage caused, or claimed to be caused, by participation in this Contest.

13. **RELEASE/LIMITATIONS OF LIABILITY:** ENTRANTS HEREBY HOLD THE RELEASED PARTIES HARMLESS FROM AND AGAINST ANY THIRD-PARTY CLAIM ARISING FROM USE OF THE ENTRY, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION ANY CLAIM ARISING OUT OF OR IN CONNECTION WITH COPYRIGHT, TRADEMARK, RIGHTS OF PUBLICITY OR PRIVACY OR FALSE ENDORSEMENT. RELEASED PARTIES ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR LOST, LATE, DAMAGED, MISDIRECTED, ILLEGIBLE, INCOMPLETE, DELAYED, INACCURATE, GARBLED, STOLEN OR MUTILATED ENTRIES, OR FOR ANY COMPUTER, ONLINE, TELEPHONE OR TECHNICAL MALFUNCTIONS, DELAYS OR HUMAN ERRORS THAT OCCUR IN THE PROCESSING, TRANSMISSION OR RECEIPT OF ENTRIES, OR FOR INACCURATE TRANSCRIPTION OF ENTRY INFORMATION, OR FOR ENTRIES THAT ARE STOLEN, MISDIRECTED, GARBLED, LOST OR DELAYED BY COMPUTER TRANSMISSIONS, OR IF FOR ANY REASON, THE CONTEST IS NOT CAPABLE OF BEING CONDUCTED AS PLANNED, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO INFECTION BY COMPUTER VIRUSES, BUGS, TAMPERING, UNAUTHORIZED INTERVENTION, FRAUD, TECHNICAL FAILURES, OR OTHER CAUSES. RELEASED PARTIES ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR INCORRECT OR INACCURATE ENTRY INFORMATION WHETHER CAUSED BY INTERNET USERS OR BY ANY OF THE EQUIPMENT OR PROGRAMMING ASSOCIATED WITH OR UTILIZED IN THE CONTEST OR BY ANY TECHNICAL OR HUMAN ERROR THAT MAY OCCUR IN THE PROCESSING OF THE ENTRIES IN THE CONTEST.
14. **DISPUTES:** This Contest and the rights and obligations of Sponsor and Entrants will be governed by and controlled by the laws of the Province of Ontario, applicable to contracts made and performed therein without reference to the applicable choice of law provisions. All actions, proceedings or litigation relating hereto will be instituted and prosecuted solely within the City of Toronto, Ontario. Entrant agrees that: (i) any and all disputes, claims and causes of action arising out of or connected with this Contest shall be resolved individually, without resort to any form of class action; (ii) any and all claims, judgments and awards shall be limited to actual out-of-pocket costs incurred, including costs associated with entering this Contest, and in no event will entrant be permitted to obtain attorneys' fees or other legal costs; and (iii) under no circumstances will entrant be permitted to obtain awards for, and entrant hereby waives all rights to claim, punitive, incidental and consequential damages and any other damages, other than for actual out-of-pocket expenses, and any and all rights to have damages multiplied or otherwise increased.
15. **SEVERABILITY:** The invalidity or unenforceability of any provision (or part of a provision) of the Official Rules shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any other provision (or part of a provision) and the invalid provision (or part of a provision) shall be deemed to be severable.
16. **USE OF DATA:** Information submitted in connection with this Contest is governed by Sponsor's Privacy Policy (available at <https://policies.wattpad.com/privacy/>) and by participating in the Contest, each Entrant acknowledges that Entrant has read and accepted the Privacy Policy and agrees to Sponsor's usage of their personal information for the purpose of conducting and promoting the Contest. Sponsor prohibits entry by, and does not knowingly collect personal information from, anyone under thirteen (13) years of age.

17. **WINNER'S LIST:** You may request the names of the winners (available after December 10, 2024), by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Sponsor at the address below for receipt by no later than **February 1, 2025**.

18. **SPONSOR/ADMINISTRATOR:** Wattpad Corp., 36 Wellington Street East, Suite 200, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5E 1C7.