

## The Watty Awards Official Contest Rules - 2026 (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 at time of entry (a “**Minor**”), their parent(s) or legal guardian(s) (“**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 11:00:00 AM EDT on July 2, 2026 through 11:59:59 PM EDT on July 23, 2026 (“**Entry Period**”). Visit the Contest profile at <https://www.wattpad.com/user/TheWattys> (the “**Contest Profile**”) (also available in Spanish [here](#), Filipino [here](#), Portuguese [here](#), and Indonesian [here](#)) and follow the instructions provided (“**Instructions**”) on how to submit your Story (each, an “**Entry**”). All Entries must be received by 11:59:59 PM EDT on July 23, 2026 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, 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 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 Eligible Languages (defined below) and Entrants must select one of the categories (each a “**Category**” and collectively, the “**Categories**”) specified below and in the Contest Profile during submission. Sponsor’s judging team reserves the right to re-categorize any Entry if it is determined to better fit an alternate Category.
- Stories that are part of a series are eligible provided the Entry is the first story in a sequential series or a stand-alone story in a collection. Sequels or stories that require knowledge of a previous book to be understood are ineligible.
- Each Entry may only be submitted once.
- 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](#).
- Entries must not disparage the goodwill and business reputation of Sponsor and/or any of its content licensors, as applicable.
- All Entries must, in addition to the above, meet the following criteria. Each Entry must be:

- written in English, Filipino, Español, Português, or Bahasa Indonesia (the “**Eligible Languages**”);
- original to the Entrant;
- posted on the Website on or after January 1, 2024, but submitted to the Wattys during the Entry Period. You can finish it at any time before you submit your Entry;
- marked complete on the Website. Stories marked as “Ongoing” or changed to “Ongoing” after submission will be disqualified;
- at least forty thousand (40,000) words in length in all Eligible Languages, as reflected in the Wattpad desktop experience; and
- submitted to the Wattys for the first time (with the exception of resubmissions, which are permitted provided the story has not previously won a Watty Award). Ongoing stories are not eligible and will be disqualified.

**Sponsor reserves the right to reject any Entry for any reason. Entries must not be part of the Wattpad Originals program. Any story that is already part of the Wattpad Originals catalogue, or joins the program during the 2026 Entry Period, is ineligible.**

2. **CATEGORIES:** Entries are eligible to enter into any of the Categories listed below. For more details on each Category, visit the Contest Profile. The following list outlines all Categories for the Contest:

- Romance (Mature)
- Romance (Non-Mature)
- Speculative Fiction
- Mystery, Action & Thriller
- Wildcard

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. Direct employees of Sponsor are not eligible to enter. Independent Contractors (“ICs”) and relatives of Wattpad employees are permitted to participate. However, if an IC or relative is shortlisted, Sponsor will evaluate prize eligibility to ensure fairness. If a physical or monetary prize is deemed inappropriate, the entry will be limited to the “Recognition-Only” category (as outlined below), remaining eligible for digital badges and community recognition but not monetary or physical awards.

All applicable federal, state/provincial and local laws apply. Participation is categorized into the following three tiers as outlined below. It is the Entrant’s responsibility to check which participation category applies to their specific jurisdiction.

- a. **“Full Eligibility”:** Entrants are eligible for all prizes, awards, and recognition.
- b. **Recognition-Only:** Entrants in regions currently subject to comprehensive international sanctions (including, but not limited to, territories sanctioned by the Office of Foreign

Assets Control (OFAC) of the US Department of the Treasury, such as Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Syria, or the Crimea, Donetsk, or Luhansk regions) are ineligible to receive monetary or physical prizes. Entrants from highly restricted regions, such as Russia or Venezuela, may also be subject to prize restrictions depending on current financial regulations at the time of award. These Entrants remain eligible to receive Honorable Mentions, digital badges, or community recognition.

- c. **“Void Where Prohibited”**: Entries are invalid in jurisdictions requiring specific local promotion licensing, registration, or bonding.

#### 4. SCREENING AND SHORTLIST SELECTION:

- a. **Screening Upon Submission**: Upon submission of English Entries, 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 is used to identify Entries which do not meet basic requirements.
- b. Approximately one hundred (100) shortlisted Entries in each Eligible Language for a total of five hundred (500) shortlisted Entries (each, a **“Shortlisted Entry”** and collectively, the **“Shortlisted Entries”**) will then be selected from all eligible Entries. The shortlist as selected by Wattpad’s official Wattys judging panel (the **“Shortlist”**) will be announced on or about September 15, 2026 on the Contest Profile. Shortlisted Entries may be 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.
- c. **Manual Shortlist Selection**: Shortlisted Entries in all Eligible Languages will be selected by manual editorial review in multiple phases using the criteria outlined in Section 5.
- d. All Shortlisted Entries will receive the following:
  - (i) A Shortlisted Entry profile banner;
  - (ii) A social media kit;
  - (iii) Promotion on the Wattys profile on Sponsor platform; and
  - (iv) An exclusive graphic to include on the Shortlisted Entry’s cover indicating their achievement.
- e. Once the Shortlist is announced, Entrants of Shortlisted Entries must refrain from editing the text, plot, or structure of the Shortlisted Entry until Winners are announced. Entrants may update the Story Cover or Story Description for marketing purposes during the Shortlist period, provided the **“Complete”** status of the Story is maintained. If an Entrant is not included on the Shortlist, they may resume editing their Story after September 15, 2026.

#### 5. WINNER SELECTION<sup>1</sup>:

- a. Winners Judging Process:

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

Beginning on or about July 23, 2026, Wattpad's official Wattys judging panel will review each of the entries and score them based on the following, equally weighted selection criteria:

- Hook
  - Goals, Motivation, and Conflict (GMCS)
  - Voice and Personality
  - Webnovel Quality and Flow
  - Readability
- b. **Number of Winners:** A total of seventy-five (75) winners (each a "**Winner**" and collectively, the "**Winners**") will be chosen from all of the Shortlisted Entries as follows: (i) fifteen (15) potential winners in English, (ii) fifteen (15) potential winners in Portuguese, (iii) fifteen (15) potential winners in Spanish, (iv) fifteen (15) potential winners in Filipino, and (v) fifteen (15) potential winners in Bahasa Indonesia Each Entrant is only eligible to win once per year and only in one Eligible Language, regardless of how many Entries they submit. Winners will be selected by the judging panels on or about October 15, 2026 and publicly announced on or around December 2, 2026. Sponsor reserves the right to select fewer than seventy-five (75) 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.
- c. **Grand Prize Winners:** One (1) grand prize Winner will be selected per Category as defined in Section 2 for each of the five (5) Eligible Languages (collectively, "**Grand Prize Winners**"), for a potential total of twenty-five (25) Grand Prize Winners.
- d. **Honorable Mentions:** In addition to the Winners, Sponsor may select a number of Entries from the Shortlist to receive "Honorable Mentions". These are hand-selected for showcasing a noteworthy voice or perspective and will receive specialized promotion on the Contest Profile.
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) may 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, pen name, Website username, Website profile photo, and likeness (as provided by the Entrant on the Website), for advertising and promotional purposes, in any manner, in any and all media now or hereafter devised including Sponsor's social media channels (e.g., Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, Meta, Pinterest, YouTube, and X), 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 Winners' social media kit;
- A Sponsor exclusive swag box;
- Promotion on the Wattys profile on Sponsor platform;
- Featuring opportunities across Sponsor platform;
- An exclusive graphic to include on the winning Entry's cover indicating the Winner's achievement;
- One thousand (1,000) Bonus Coins as defined in, and subject to, the [Payment Policy](#); and
- Priority consideration by WEBTOON Productions 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 prizes detailed in section 8(a), each of the Grand Prize Winners will receive a cash prize of one thousand U.S. dollars (\$1,000 USD).

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.

Prize(s) must be accepted as awarded and may not be substituted or transferred, except that Sponsor reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to substitute a prize of equal or greater monetary value if any prize cannot be awarded as described or becomes unavailable for any reason. Prize(s) are not transferable, not for resale and have no cash surrender value.

Bonus Coins expire within thirty (30) days of being earned. The Bonus Coins may be used to gain access to Wattpad Originals, however Wattpad Originals are not available in all regions. If you are located in a country where Wattpad Originals are not available, the Bonus Coins will not provide access to Wattpad Originals. If you normally have access to Wattpad Originals outside of this Contest, your ability to use any Bonus Coins will not be affected.

(c) For clarity, Shortlisted Entries selected as Honorable Mentions are ineligible for the standard Winner prize package.

(d) Physical prizes are available only to Winners residing within Sponsor's designated shipping regions. Winners located in restricted delivery areas or regions subject to international sanctions (the "Recognition-Only" tier) may be awarded an equivalent prize or digital recognition at Sponsor's sole discretion.

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

- Post portions or excerpts of the Entry/Story on the landing page of the Wattys website;
- Use Entry/Story to assist Sponsor in identifying creative trends and improving the Sponsor's evaluation models to better prioritize human storytelling; and
- Feature the Entry/Story on the Sponsor platform (website and mobile) and across all Sponsor social media channels (Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, Meta, Pinterest, YouTube, X, etc.) for any purpose connected to the Wattys.

**10. SPONSOR RIGHTS IN ALL SHORTLISTED, HONORABLE MENTIONS, AND WINNING STORIES:** Upon being included in the Shortlist, as an Honorable Mention, 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 portions 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, Meta, Pinterest, YouTube, X, etc.) for any purpose connected to the Contest;
- 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. Entrant represents and warrants that the Entry is a unique human expression and that they assume all associated risks regarding the legal record of ownership. If the Entry or information or materials provided by Entrant contains 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.

- (c) Entrant warrants that they possess all necessary rights to the cover art associated with the Entry. If the Entry is selected for a promotional opportunity and the associated cover art is found to contain elements of generative AI, Entrant warrants and agrees to provide an alternative, human-designed cover at Sponsor's request to facilitate such promotion.
- (d) Entrant acknowledges that they are solely responsible for the tools chosen during the creative process and assumes all legal, professional, or competitive risks associated with the use of any generative AI tools.

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(IES), 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. WITHOUT LIMITING THE GENERALITY OF THE FOREGOING, BY PARTICIPATING IN THIS CONTEST, TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT PERMITTED BY APPLICABLE LAW, EACH ENTRANT: (A) RELEASES THE RELEASED PARTIES FROM ANY AND ALL LIABILITY, LOSS OR DAMAGE THAT THE ENTRANT MAY INCUR IN CONNECTION WITH THE ENTRANT'S PARTICIPATION IN THIS CONTEST AND, IF APPLICABLE, WITH RESPECT TO THE AWARD, RECEIPT, POSSESSION AND/OR USE OR MISUSE OF A PRIZE AND NOTIFICATIONS IN RESPECT OF PRIZES; (B) AGREES THAT UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WILL THE ENTRANT BE PERMITTED TO OBTAIN AWARDS FOR, AND HEREBY WAIVES ALL RIGHTS TO CLAIM, PUNITIVE, INCIDENTAL, CONSEQUENTIAL, OR ANY OTHER DAMAGES; (C) AGREES THAT ALL CAUSES OF ACTION ARISING OUT OF OR CONNECTED WITH THIS CONTEST, OR ANY PRIZE AWARDED, SHALL BE RESOLVED INDIVIDUALLY, WITHOUT RESORT TO ANY FORM OF CLASS ACTION; AND (D) AGREES THAT ANY AND ALL CLAIMS, JUDGMENTS, AND AWARD 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 OR TO HAVE DAMAGES MULTIPLIED OR OTHERWISE INCREASED. SOME U.S. STATES DO NOT ALLOW THE LIMITATION OR EXCLUSION OF LIABILITY FOR INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES AND THEREFORE THE ABOVE LIMITATIONS OR EXCLUSIONS MAY NOT APPLY TO YOU IN WHOLE OR IN PART.

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.
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. By participating, Entrants acknowledge that their Entry and relevant account information may be shared with WEBTOON Productions or affiliated third-party entertainment and publishing partners for professional

evaluation. For Winners, Sponsor may share name and contact information with third-party subprocessors specifically to facilitate the delivery of the exclusive swag box or the processing of monetary awards.

17. **WINNER'S LIST:** You may request the names of the winners (available after December 2, 2026), by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Sponsor at the address below for receipt by no later than **January 2, 2027**.
18. **SPONSOR/ADMINISTRATOR:** Wattpad Corp., 36 Wellington Street East, Suite 200, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5E 1C7. This Contest is in no way sponsored, endorsed or administered by, or associated with Meta, TikTok, YouTube, X, Pinterest, Apple Inc. or Google LLC.