

# Writer's Digest

17<sup>th</sup> Annual International Book Awards  
Commentary Sheet

**Author: Tom Kirkbride**  
**Title: The Gamadin – Word of Honor**  
**Category: Genre Fiction**

Judge's commentary:

**What did you like best about this book?**

The opening line of *The Gamadin—Word of Honor* is so powerful, there was no way I could stop reading. Tom Kirkbride's description of setting is vivid and allows readers to see colorful, three-dimensional images. He does a beautiful job with characterization, with powerful internal conflict and motivation. External conflict is evident from the first page. Each chapter ends on a hook, which will compel readers to continue all the way to "the end." Using some real life settings provides a nice backdrop to establish bearings. The back cover copy is intriguing and compelling. I appreciate the author bio inside the back cover.

**How can the author improve this book?**

There isn't much I'd change about this book because it is powerfully and skillfully written. The front cover is attractive and eye catching, but I would like to see the author's name in a bolder font so it can be seen from a distance. Fans of series fiction will look for his name. There are many places where this book can be marketed. Science fiction clubs and organizations would be a good place to start. Offer to speak to these groups as well as libraries and bookstores. An online presence with a website (interactive and constantly changing), a blog, and online social networking are natural marketing tools for this series.