

# **The Pledge**

**I hereby solemnly swear to uphold the  
oath of the international Society of  
Doctors of Intrigue.**

**I promise to uphold the honor of beginnings which:  
grab me by the shoulders  
shake me up  
and  
throw me back in my chair.**

**Further,  
I promise to be loyal to beginnings which:  
have a first sentence that begs me to read more  
gives me hints as to details to come  
has hints that stir an unimaginable craving to read and read and**

**read until the secrets are revealed .  
And finally,  
I hereby dedicate my professional integrity to the pursuit of  
luscious language . . . words that sing.  
and  
the ideas that pull my heart strings, tickle my funny bone, and  
mesmerize my brain.**

**With this oath,  
I join the legions of authors worldwide  
who have reached the pinnacle of passion in the written word.**

**Forever and ever,  
yeah baby!!**

# Certificate of Achievement

You are hereby awarded the

## Doctorate of Intrigue

for distinguished service in the pursuit of  
Intriguing Beginnings

Go Forth,

Share you knowledge,

and,

**Rid the world of Drab Beginnings**

*Forever and ever  
Yeah Baby!*

# Scoring Rubric

## Intriguing Beginnings

### Score

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Criteria

- First sentence is unique.
- First sentence hints at unknown information.
- Paragraph builds upon first sentence.
- Details are imbedded in first paragraph rather than listed.
- Word choice is mature and varied.
- Last sentence leads reader to next paragraph.
- Varied sentence structure OR mimicked sentence structure.
- Paragraph assumes persona of narrator.

### Scoring:

- 5 = Exceeded expectation
- 4 = Criteria incorporated with success
- 3 = Criteria attempted with some success
- 2 = Criteria attempted with minimal success
- 1 = Criteria attempted with no success
- 0 = Criteria not attempted