

CLARENDON HOUSE PUBLICATIONS

Submission Guidelines for Open Anthologies

For your convenience, here are the recently revised general submission guidelines. For details about each individual anthology, or if you have any questions, please contact me by email:

grant@clarendonhousebooks.com

How To Submit

I accept submissions through Clarendon House Publications and its email address: grant@clarendonhousebooks.com

Please don't post me anything, as I work through email only.

I need stories sent to me as Word documents. Anything more exotic will be refused.

Please use Shunn format BUT PLEASE ALSO INCLUDE IN THE DOCUMENT A 100 WORD AUTHOR BIO (with links if you wish). This is to save time later, if your submission is accepted.

Clarendon House Publications is based in the UK, but I accept submissions from authors all over the world, as long as they are in the correct format outlined above.

No submission fee is required.

Please don't submit more than one story to each anthology. This is so that each accepted author gets the same chance to win the paid anthology (see below).

I understand if you want to submit to more than one publisher at a time, but obviously I must know IMMEDIATELY if a story you've submitted to me has been accepted elsewhere.

Editing Submissions

It is a condition of submission that the author must be open to me correcting punctuation, spelling, grammar or any other technical basics without always contacting him or her.

If I have suggestions on how to improve a story in order to get it published, I will write back to the author and discuss things. As an editor, I am here to help authors make it, and all suggestions will be made with that in mind. If, after receiving feedback, the author does not wish to proceed, that is fine and will not bar future consideration for publication.

It is obviously in the author's best interests to ensure that the submission is in the best possible shape prior to sending it to me. If the submission takes too much time to fix, it is likely to be rejected. It also follows from this that submissions must be the FINAL version as far as the authors are concerned — I will not be able to entertain any adjustments to documents (other than proofreading fixes as above) once they have been received.

What I'm Looking For In General

I'm looking for well-crafted stories. That means stories which have been designed to appeal to readers, not long, rambling first drafts or shapeless, incomplete collections of words which don't make internal sense. Detailed guidance on what can be considered a 'well-crafted story' is given in my book How Stories Really Work.

Inner Circle Writers' Group Anthologies are usually available in paperback and ebook formats.

Please note that I cannot consider novel excerpts, or anything with illustrations or photographs.

Rights

When I publish a story, I only ask that that story not be tangled up in any other prior agreement and be exclusive to Clarendon House for one year after the date of publication. don't ask for other rights, or place any limits on what you can do with your story after the exclusivity period.

Copyright

Copyright remains with you at all times.

Word Count

Maximum word counts vary for each anthology. The general limit is 5,000 words, but flash fiction anthologies obviously have lower limits than that.

No minimum.

Censorship

Nothing sexually or violently graphic or gratuitous will be accepted.

Payment

Each accepted author receives a free e-copy of the complete anthology upon publication. As you can imagine, in an anthology with 10 or more authors, monetary payments to each author are not feasible.

BUT...

Competition

Inner Circle Writers' Group anthologies each have a competition, in which the readers vote for the best story in each volume. The author of the best story in each volume is then offered an opportunity to publish a collection of his or her short stories with Clarendon House Publications — upon which royalties are paid. Accepted authors therefore have a path to becoming paid authors.

There have been several winners of such competitions so far, and three such paid collections have been published at this writing.

The onus is therefore on the author to write the best quality story that he or she can so that the door can be opened to commercial returns.

Marketing

I strongly recommend that each accepted author purchase THREE copies of the paperback book once released — one for their own collection (it's important to validate one's own progress as a published author); one for a family member, friend, or influencer; and one for their local library.

Other marketing advice includes using social media to spread the word, contacting friends and family, and so on.

Those authors who have individual collections published through Clarendon House are also invited to join a special Facebook group in which marketing knowledge and successes are shared and in which the newly published authors can find support.

Response Times

I aim to reply to all submissions within three weeks, although I will sometimes go over this during busy periods. If you're waiting for a reply from me, please keep an eye on your junk mail folder, as some replies do end up there. If you grow concerned, or have any questions about anything, you can always email me at grant@clarendonhousebooks.com

Unsolicited Manuscripts

Please note that I do not usually accept unsolicited manuscripts.

However, I have established a Fast Track Submissions Process which consists of a series of steps which a new author could follow to move forward with Clarendon House. You can read about that [here](#).

PLEASE NOTE that the process must be followed strictly and in depth, or your submission will not receive any attention.

Guide

I provide a detailed guide of products and services available from Clarendon House which is directly downloadable [here](#).

This includes pricing for editing, marketing and other services and information about the massive discounts which are available to members of the [Inner Circle Writers Group](#) and subscribers to the [magazine](#). (No charges are made for editing an accepted manuscript.)

No email address is required to download the guide.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

grant@clarendonhousebooks.com