

# BHP – Short Story Collection – Project Guidelines

## What are we proposing?

A collection of short stories with 2 stories per author.

We would allow 8,000 words as a budget of sorts.

The total combined word count for both stories should be 8,000 words or less.

This could be 2,000/6,000 or 3,000/5,000 or 4,000/4,000, etc.

We ask that authors try to come close to their full word budget.

This would result in +/- the same finished page count for each author.

## Theme

This will be a summer theme.

## How many authors?

We would like to see 10-15 authors involved in this project.

## Compensation

We propose to offer flat rate compensation and not a per-word compensation.

With our projected author comp. budget, each selected author would receive a total of \$100-\$200.

## Additional compensation

We like to promote every author we work with.

We offer author pages and will post a photo and bio on our website.

This will require the signing of releases which we will provide.

We also set up interviews and promote in other ways.

## Proposed Rights

We would like to buy all rights in all formats.

This means no prior or future use apart from being in this collection.

Has your story appeared in a top-flight, print magazine (and nowhere else)?

If so, we would “buy out” all future rights at the same rate as above.

## Submissions Window – When?

Our submissions window for this project will open September 15, 2022.

It will close September 30, 2022.

## Electronic Submissions

For this project, we will prefer electronic submissions via email.

If you would like to be considered, DM me on Twitter and I’ll send my email address.

## No simultaneous submission (sim. sub.)

We ask authors to give us 3 weeks to evaluate their stories with no sim. sub.

We will endeavor to have the last submission responses sent out by October 21, 2022.

## Contract Required

We will draft a contract for each author to enter into after we have selected their stories.

## Vetting

We will honor a pseudonym if you use one but your actual name must be known to us.

We vet our authors identity as well as other things about them.

We also vet the manuscripts we receive.

## Editing

We will work closely with each author and make suggestions as deemed necessary.

We do much of the editing ourselves.

We also work with outside editors.

## Description of the Collection

This is an early YA (age 12-18) collection.

We expect most readers to be one of three classes:

Middle school and high school students

Parents of children ages 12-18 and sometimes younger.

College students and other adults who continue to read early YA stories.

While we are not a so-called “Christian” press, we would like our readers to be confident of the standards we hold to in our books. This means setting a few boundaries for our writers and editors.

What are those boundaries?

## Sex

No sexual acts.

No sex related themes.

No fantasy sexual creatures (nymphs, satyrs, succubi, etc.)

Little or no sexual reference.

But—May allow mention of natural maturation and growth into adulthood.

## Language

No “hard” swearing.

But—May allow Biblical expressions in some contexts.

Also, keep euphemisms (darn, heck, etc.) to a minimum.

## Violence

No gratuitous violence.

No themes of abuse.

No self-injury (don’t give your characters tools to harm themselves with).

No acts of mutilation or disfigurement.

But—may allow mild, low-key mention of something that happened in the past.

## Gore

No gore.

Nothing visceral.

Prefer no blood, no guts, and no protruding bones.

But—May allow certain injuries in some contexts.

## Magic and the Occult

No spells.

No incantations.

No magic symbols or occult related symbols (“666”, pentagrams, etc.).

No wizards, no witches, no warlocks, no sorcerers, etc.

No magic or occult related creatures.

But—May allow recounting of traditional fairytales or related stories.

If in doubt on anything at all, please feel free to ask. – Don, Black Harbor Press