



Submission Guidelines

Overview:

Moonbeams and Starships Magazine publishes new, provocative, and emotional fantasy and science fiction. We publish stories and articles written exclusively by women and feature strong female protagonists.

We are accepting submissions for the new magazine. We are especially looking for new, emerging authors and Independent authors. We accept stories up to 25,000 words. The best length is between 2,500 and 7,500 words. We are also accepting submissions for art, both for the covers and for inside the magazine.

We accept original work only from women, and the stories must feature a strong female protagonist. If you write as a team, the woman must play a major role in the writing. We love diversity in our authors and in the stories we publish.

Cooperation and partnership is one of our core values. We will support you and appreciate your support of us. A rising tide floats all boats!

We ask all contributors to promote the magazine and the issue their story or art appears in on their social media channels and to their newsletter subscribers. To reward and incentivize our contributors for their cross promotion, we pay royalties and affiliate fees.

We expect to publish in each issue:

- * Two Novellas (1 fantasy, 1 science fiction)
- * Six Short Stories (3 fantasy, 3 science fiction)
- * Two Poems (1 fantasy, 1 science fiction)
- * Two Flash Fiction (1 fantasy, 1 science fiction)



Contents

[What We're Looking For](#) 3

[Fiction](#) 3

[Poetry](#) 3

[Nonfiction](#) 4

[Art](#) 4

[Author Payment](#) 5

[Other Information](#) 6

[Fiction and Non-fiction Submission Procedures](#) 7

[Things that will get your manuscript rejected](#) 8



We look forward to reading your story submissions!

Thank you for trusting us with your story.



Tora Moon
Editor-in-Chief



What we are looking for

Fiction

Moonbeams and Starships is looking for new, exciting, well-written stories with emotional depth. Explore emotions, from the raw and gritty to the light and fluffy, and everything in between. Violence, swearing, and some sex is okay (just not erotica, we have younger readers). The main protagonist must be female.

We welcome stories in the following sub-genres of the fantasy and science fiction genre.

- * Urban fantasy
- * High and low fantasy
- * Science fantasy
- * Science fiction (soft—if it would fit in Asimov's or Analog, it isn't for this magazine)
- * Space opera
- * Secondary worlds
- * Paranormal romance
- * Epic fantasy
- * Dark fantasy
- * Young adult fantasy
- * Magic and Dragons
- * Myth and Fairytale retellings
- * Midlife fantasy

Novella: 10,000 – 25,000 words

Short Fiction: up to 10,000 words

Flash: under 1,500 words

Poetry

Poems should be less than 500 words. We have very limited space for poetry.



Non-fiction

We are accepting proposals for a weekly or monthly column to include on our website and online editions. If you have an idea for a series of articles that fit with fantasy and science fiction stories submit a proposal. Please keep in mind our focus and mission of highlighting women authors and strong female protagonists.

We are looking for thoughtful articles about women in fantasy and science fiction, either as authors or as characters. These articles will be in the online and pdf versions.

Essays and non-fiction articles should be between 250-2,000 words. We do not pay royalties for essays and non-fiction articles. However, you may participate in our affiliate program. Our rate is \$0.02 per word. We provide the following non-cash benefits in the author bio for the online and pdf versions:

- * Links for up to three Social Media channels
- * Link to your website or reader magnet (or other) landing page

Art

We are looking for beautiful, interesting, amazing art for the covers and for the inside of the online publication. The ebook version will have little art included, due to the variances in different e-readers.

We accept only ORIGINAL artwork. All images used in artwork must be copyright free. It is the responsibility of the submitting artist to ensure no copyright infringement has occurred and all work submitted is their own.





Author Payment

We pay our author contributors in two ways. The more copies and subscriptions we sell, the more money you will make. It's in your best interests to promote the magazine issue your story appears in on your social media and to your newsletter list.

1. **Royalty.** For every single-issue copy sold, you'll receive a set percentage of the issue price. (See below for the percentages based on type of submission.)
 - a. Single-Issue copies. For those sold on our website, we pay 30 days from the publication date.
 - b. Those sold on third-party retail site (Amazon, Kobo, Barnes & Noble), we pay on their same schedule, 60 days after the date of sale.
2. **Affiliate Fee.** You will receive an affiliate link. For every issue or subscription sold through your affiliate link, you will receive an affiliate payment. The percentage amount is based on the type of subscription. The percentage is applied to the amount the subscriber pays.
 - a. Continuing Subscriptions. We pay the affiliate fee to you as long as the customer remains a subscriber. If they renew their subscription, your affiliate fee will be based on the new subscription rate. If they cancel their subscription, your affiliate fee will also be canceled.
 - b. Single issues. We pay in the month the sale is made.
 - c. Six-month and twelve-month subscriptions. We pay 90-days after the date of sale. No affiliate fee will be paid on any subscriptions canceled within 60-days of the subscription date.

Non-cash benefits we also provide are:

- * Contributor bios in the online edition will include:
- * Links to your social media (up to three)
- * Link to your website or newsletter sign-up landing page.
- * If you have books published, we will include your latest book in our Shop section. (These will be affiliate links to Amazon.) This gives you additional promotion for your work, and an opportunity for sales of your books.
- * Opportunity to be interviewed on our weekly podcast. This gives you another venue to promote your work. (Once your work has been accepted, we will send you a Podcast Guest Application.)
- * Your story may be chosen to be read either in its entirety or an excerpt on our podcast as a bonus for our membership group.
- * Opportunity to provide our Moon and Stars Club members with a bonus story. This can be your reader magnet you use to build your mailing list.



Royalty Rates

Novella	7%
Short Story	4%
Flash Fiction	0.5%

Affiliate Rates

Single Issues	5%
6-Month Subscription	10%
12-Month Subscription	15%

Other Information

1. We do not publish reprints or excerpts from novels or other published works. We are looking for original work and ideas. In this light, we do not accept fan fiction, writing in another author's world or use of their characters, or media-based fiction (stories set in the worlds of Harry Potter, Game of Thrones, etc.).
2. We consider translations from other languages of YOUR work that have not been published anywhere else in English as "original."
3. We do not accept multiple submissions or simultaneous submissions. Once a submission has been rejected, we will not accept any re-submissions of that story or work.
4. Our online publication includes readers under the age of 18. Please keep that in mind when writing sex scenes. We don't publish erotica, graphic sex, or rape.
5. We try to respond to your submission within 30-45 days. We will respond to the email address included on your cover letter. Make sure it is correct. Please do not email us to check on your submission. Also, please do not respond (even to say "thank you") if your manuscript is rejected.
6. We purchase non-exclusive first world-wide electronic, print serial, and audio rights for three years. If your story is accepted by us, it can't appear in any other electronic or serial print publication or audiobook prior to publication in our magazine. It also can't be published other places within one year after publication.





Fiction and Non-fiction Submission Procedures

1. Work must be edited before submission. While we may do some editing, stories needing heavy editing will be rejected. If we do any editing, beyond simple line edits (fixing typos, grammar errors), we will contact you to approve the changes. We simply do not have the time to edit your story.
2. We use the oxford comma.
3. Use standard manuscript formatting: double-spaced, 1” margins, 12-point font, a standard font (Georgia preferred, please no Comic Sans!). Make sure the title of your manuscript and your name is on every page. Number the pages, starting with 1 on the first page.
4. Document should be in DOC, DOCX, or RTF file formats. We are PC users.
5. As many fantasy stories use unusual spellings, please inform us of those in your cover letter.
6. Include in your cover letter your name, email address, word count, any unique spellings or word usages, and any significant information that may relate to your submission.
7. Include a blurb/description (50-75 words) of your story.
8. Submit your cover letter and manuscript via email. On the subject line include the title of your manuscript, poem, or essay. Email it to: submissions@moonbeamsandstarships.com





Things that will get your manuscript rejected

- * **Not following the guidelines and procedures.** We have them in place to help us in making the selection process as streamlined as possible.
- * **Wrong type of story for our magazine.** This would include no female characters, the lack of a strong female protagonists, and hard science fiction. Read the list of sub-genre types of stories we're looking for (which is quite wide) before submitting. Along the same lines, stories that are clearly not fantasy or soft science fiction and the sub-genres will be rejected. Take time to know the genre before submitting!
- * **A poorly edited manuscript.** Take time to rewrite your story and edit it! Use a program like ProWritingAid or Grammarly to help with line edits. Get a friend to read your story for clarity. We can't take the time to edit your story for you.
- * **Head-hopping.** Many new writers believe they are writing in omniscient point of view, when in fact, they are head-hopping. Stay in a character's point of view for the scene or at a minimum the paragraph. If a reader can't tell who is telling the story or which character's point of view they are in, it's confusing. A confused reader stops reading.
- * **Cliff hangers.** We publish shorter, self-contained stories, not series. Give the readers a satisfying ending to the story. There may be hints that there's more to the story, but don't leave the reader hanging on the outcome. Resolve your conflict by the time you conclude your story.
- * **Not your own world.** We do not accept fan fiction, stories set in another author's universe, or media-based stories (such as Harry Potter, Game of Thrones,). These types of stories violate the author's copyrights, and we can't legally publish them. We only accept ORIGINAL stories.
- * **Erotica.** We do not accept erotica. Some sex is okay, but not explicit erotica. Our online publication is open for readers under 18. Keep this in mind.
- * **Multiple submissions.** We only accept submissions for ONE category at a time. Wait to receive word back from us whether your submission has been accepted or rejected before submitting again.
- * **Simultaneous submissions.** Do not submit to us, then to another magazine or anthology, until you've received an acceptance or rejection notice. There is nothing worse for a publisher to accept a manuscript, only to have to pull it because it's been accepted and published elsewhere.

