

Scarlet Stiletto Awards: Frequent Asked Questions

How many stories can I enter?

A maximum of two.

Do I have to pay two entry fees if I enter two stories?

Yes. Please remember to attach an entry form to each story.

Can I enter a story that has been submitted to another competition?

Yes.

Can I enter a story that has already been published?

No.

Is there a limit to the number of categories in which my story can be entered?

No, but obviously it would be difficult for a story to fit all categories. The judges will decide whether a story fits the category/categories for which it has been entered.

Can I submit my story/stories by email?

No. Please post two copies of each story to Scarlet Stiletto Awards, PO Box 121, Bittern 3918.

Can I enter if I am not an Australian citizen?

Yes, but you must be resident in Australia.

Will my story/stories be returned?

No.

Does a malice domestic story have to take place in a family or domestic setting?

No. This is the definition used in the Minotaur Books Malice Domestic Competition:

Murder or another serious crime or crimes is at the heart of the story. Whatever violence is necessarily involved should be neither excessive nor gratuitously detailed, nor is there to be explicit sex. The suspects and the victims should know each other. There is a limited number of suspects, each of whom has a credible motive and reasonable opportunity to have committed the crime. The person who solves the crime is the central character. The detective is an amateur or, if a professional (private investigator, police officer), is not hardboiled and is as fully developed as the other characters. The detective may find herself in serious peril, but she does not get beaten up to any serious extent. Each of the characters represents themselves as individuals, rather than large impersonal institutions such as a national government, the mafia, the CIA, etc.

Think Agatha Christie ...

What is romantic suspense?

Romantic suspense involves both a mystery and a love story. The 'main' protagonist must still be a woman but the love interest is a major secondary character (male or female). The mystery/suspense of the plot often involves someone she loves or values (sibling, child, parent, cat) is in danger.

The love story builds as the protagonist and the object of her affections confront escalating jeopardy until the suspense and romance reach a crescendo that leaves the mystery solved, the villain defeated, and the main characters realising their love/ending happily ever after.

Do I have to submit a script for the ScriptWorks Award for a Great Film Idea?

No, just a story that would make a good film.

What is the latest possible date I can enter?

31 July 2016 – all entries must be paid for and postmarked by this date.

When will I find out if my story/stories have been shortlisted?

Around mid-October 2016.

Will I know if I have won a prize before the award ceremony?

No. The awards are announced at the award ceremony on 19 November 2016

Can I get my story published if it wins a prize?

Yes. You retain copyright, although Sisters in Crime aims to publish all winning stories as well.

How can I tell if I am a financial member of Sisters in Crime and eligible for a lower entry fee?

Look at your purple membership card. You need paid up to at least July 2016. If you can't find your card, you can email Lindy Cameron on lindycameron@own.net.au who will check your membership status.

If you wish to join or rejoin, go to <http://www.sistersincrime.org.au/sisters-in-crime-membership/> and join online.