



SCARLET STILETTO FAQs

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 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 be returned?

No.

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

No. Here 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 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 be a woman and the love interest must be 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 being 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 and living 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 August 2017 – all entries must be paid for and postmarked by this date.

When will I find out if my story has been shortlisted?

Around late October 2017.

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

No. Prize winners are announced at the award ceremony in November (date and venue TBC).

If my story wins a prize, can I get it published?

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 thereby eligible for the lower entry fee?

Your membership card includes the date to which you are paid up. This date must be on or before 31 August 2017. If you can't find your card, email Lindy Cameron on lindycameron@own.net.au who will check your membership status.

If you wish to join or renew your membership, go to www.sistersincrime.org.au/sisters-in-crime-membership/.