

# 25TH ANNUAL **SCARLET STILETTO** AWARDS

2018 WOMEN'S CRIME AND MYSTERY SHORT STORY COMPETITION

## SWINBURNE UNIVERSITY AWARD

**1st Prize** \$1500

plus the coveted special Scarlet Stiletto trophy

## SIMON & SCHUSTER AWARD

**2nd Prize** \$1000

## THE SUN BOOKSHOP AWARD

**3rd Prize** \$500

- **FLEURIEU CONSULT AWARD**  
**for Best Young Writer** \$500
- **MELBOURNE ATHENAEUM LIBRARY AWARD**  
**for Best 'Body in the Library' Story** \$1000  
Runner-up \$500
- **INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
FORENSIC LINGUISTS AWARD**  
**for Best Forensic Linguistics Story** \$1000
- **KERRY GREENWOOD AWARD**  
**for Best Malice Domestic Story** \$750
- **EVERY CLOUD PRODUCTIONS AWARD**  
**for Best Mystery with History Story** \$750
- **WRITERS VICTORIA  
CRIME AND PUNISHMENT AWARD**  
**for the Story with the Most Satisfying Retribution**  
Studio residency at the Old Melbourne Gaol, value \$660\*
- **HARPERCOLLINS PUBLISHERS AWARD**  
**for Best Romantic Suspense Story** \$500
- **CLAN DESTINE PRESS AWARD**  
**for Best Cross-genre Story** \$500
- **LIZ NAVRATIL AWARD**  
**for Best Story with a Disabled Protagonist** \$400
- **SCRIPTWORKS AWARD**  
**for a Great Film Idea** \$200



### Story length:

maximum 5000 words  
no minimum

### Entry fee:

\$25 / \$20 Sisters in Crime members

### Closing date:

31 August 2018

### Judges:

Sisters in Crime convenors  
and previous 2-time Stiletto winners

### Further information:

[www.sistersincrime.org.au](http://www.sistersincrime.org.au)  
Lindy Cameron 03 5983 9429  
[lindycameron@own.net.au](mailto:lindycameron@own.net.au)

\* Terms and conditions apply –  
see overleaf, #19

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

- 1 Information supplied in the FAQ document on the Sisters in Crime Australia website forms part of the Terms and Conditions of Entry: [www.sistersincrime.org.au](http://www.sistersincrime.org.au)
- 2 Open to women citizens/residents of Australia.
- 3 Award for Best Young Writer open to young women 18 years or under at 31 August 2018. Proof of age must be attached.
- 4 All work must be original and unpublished.
- 5 Entries must be submitted under the author's real name, not a pseudonym.
- 6 Two entries maximum per author.
- 7 Authors must notify Sisters in Crime Australia promptly if their story is published (self-publication included), is shortlisted in another competition, or wins a prize in another competition. Sisters in Crime Australia reserves the right to withdraw the story from consideration and further reserves the right to not award a prize.
- 8 Entries must have a female main character (hero or anti-hero) and a crime/mystery theme.
- 9 Word limit maximum is 5,000 words (excluding cover page). No minimum word limit.
- 10 Entries must be paid for and postmarked or received by Friday 31 August 2018 (details below).
- 11 For all category definitions and additional information, please read the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document on the Sisters in Crime Australia website: [www.sistersincrime.org.au](http://www.sistersincrime.org.au)
- 12 Sisters in Crime Australia reserves the right to use shortlisted stories for publication or promotional purposes. Copyright remains with the author.

### Requirements

- 13 Entry fee(s) must be paid through Eventbrite: <https://scarletstiletto2018.eventbrite.com>
- 14 Please submit two hardcopies of each story. Originals will not be returned.
- 15 Entries must be formatted in 1.5 line spacing, font size at least 10 pt. Print on single-sided, white A4 paper, and staple pages.
- 16 A separate cover page should include: author's name, postal address, telephone number(s) and email address.
- 17 Every page must show only the story title and page number, no author's name.
- 18 Tick the award(s) for which your story is to be entered. Stories are automatically included in the General category and may be entered in additional categories at no extra cost.
- 19 The Crime and Punishment Award is a 3-month studio residency at the Old Melbourne Gaol for the the best-placed entrant able to attend from 1 February–30 April. If the winning author is unable to attend, the prize will be offered to the runner-up. Runners-up will not be notified unless the prize becomes available to them.

### Judging

- 20 Judges for the Scarlet Stiletto Awards are drawn from convenors and former convenors of Sisters in Crime Australia and previous two-time winners of the Scarlet Stiletto trophy.
- 21 Sisters in Crime Australia convenors and judges are ineligible to enter.
- 22 The judges' decisions are final. Judges reserve the right not to award a prize in any category.
- 23 Winners will be announced at the Scarlet Stiletto Awards ceremony to be held late in the year at a Melbourne venue.

### On-line registration

Before posting your story, please register, and pay the appropriate fee at Eventbrite: <https://scarlet-stiletto-competition-entry-2018.eventbrite.com> (include order number below)

For each entry, please send a completed copy of this registration form and two copies of the story to: Scarlet Stiletto Awards, PO Box 121, Bittern 3918. Envelopes must be postmarked by 31 August 2018.

Name: .....

Address: .....

Email: .....

Phone: ..... Eventbrite order number: .....

Title and genre(s) of story: .....

- |                      |                          |                             |                          |                      |                          |
|----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Body in the Library  | <input type="checkbox"/> | General                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | Mystery with History | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cross-genre          | <input type="checkbox"/> | Great Film Idea             | <input type="checkbox"/> | Romantic Suspense    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Disabled Protagonist | <input type="checkbox"/> | Malice Domestic             | <input type="checkbox"/> | Young Writer         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Forensic Linguistics | <input type="checkbox"/> | Most Satisfying Retribution | <input type="checkbox"/> |                      |                          |

*With thanks  
to our generous  
sponsors:*





## SCARLET STILETTO FAQs 2018

The category definitions and other information supplied here form part of the Terms and Conditions of Entry. Please read the information on the entry form and this document.

### Q&As

**If I enter two stories, do I pay two entry fees?**

Yes. Supply an entry form for each story and attach a cover page to each story copy.

**Are email submissions accepted?**

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

**Can I enter a story already submitted to another competition?**

Yes. However, if successful in another competition, Sisters in Crime Australia must immediately be notified, and the story must be withdrawn from the Scarlet Stiletto Competition.

**Can I enter a story that has already been published?**

No.

**Can I enter a story not written in the English language?**

No.

**Does my story have to be in prose?**

Yes. Performance scripts, stories in verse, graphics and other non-prose modes of story-telling are not eligible.

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

No, but 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 enter if I am not an Australian citizen?**

Yes, but you must be resident in Australia.

**Will my story be returned?**

No.

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

Around late October 2018.

**Are winners announced before the award ceremony?**

No. Prize-winners are announced at the award ceremony to be held late in the year at a Melbourne venue.

**Are short-listed stories that do not win an award acknowledged in any way?**

Authors will be notified.

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

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

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

Your membership card includes your membership expiration date, which must be on or before 31 August 2018. If you cannot find your card, email Lindy Cameron on [lindycameron@own.net.au](mailto:lindycameron@own.net.au) to check your membership status. If you wish to join or renew your membership, go to: [www.sistersincrime.org.au/sisters-in-crime-membership/](http://www.sistersincrime.org.au/sisters-in-crime-membership/)

### Categories offered in 2018

- Body in the Library
- Cross-genre
- Disabled Protagonist
- Forensic Linguistics
- General
- Great Film Idea
- Malice Domestic
- Most Satisfying Retribution
- Mystery with History
- Romantic Suspense
- Young Writer

## Category definitions

### Body in the Library

The story must include the words 'body in the library'. The action need not be set entirely in a library, and the protagonist need not be a library professional.

### Cross-genre

A cross-genre story mixes writing genres, e.g. crime with comedy, crime with horror, crime with speculative fiction.

### Disabled Protagonist

The protagonist lives with a disability. The disability may be physical, sensory, intellectual or psychosocial. The protagonist may have been born with the disability, or it may have been acquired at birth, be a long-term condition or be more recently acquired. It could be injury-related or substance/medication-related. In everyday situations the disability may serve as a limitation, restriction or impairment. However, the person living with the disability may regard it as a positive challenge or a personal advantage. Technical/mechanical aids may be used by the protagonist.

### Forensic Linguistics

Forensic Linguistics is the use of a scientific approach to language analysis in a legal investigation or to help solve a crime. Typically, a forensic linguist is engaged to analyse the authorship of an anonymous document, to determine what was said and by whom in a covert recording, to identify coercive or oppressive questioning by police, or to determine the need for an interpreter.

<https://www.sistersincrime.org.au/slips-of-the-tongue-pen-how-forensic-linguistics-is-transforming-crime-detection/>

Preliminary assessment of stories will be by professional forensic linguists. Shortlisted stories will then undergo the normal judging process. See <http://www.iafl.org> for more information about forensic linguists and what they do.

### Great Film Idea

The story offers inspiration for the creation of a film (for cinema and/or television release). Its film-worthy characteristics are not limited to aspects of the storyline; characters, dialogue, setting and other features may incorporate stimulating ideas for a film-maker. Stories must be written in prose, not as scripts.

### Malice Domestic

The action usually takes place in a family or domestic setting, but this is not essential. Suspects/perpetrators and victims should know one another. The crime centres on a small number of individuals rather than institutions. Violence, if any, is not excessive or gratuitously detailed. No explicit sex. The protagonist contributes to the solving of the crime (rather than being an anti-hero), and may be an amateur or professional sleuth (e.g. private investigator, police officer).

### Mystery with History

The story must have a historical theme or components and involve a crime/mystery. It may be set anywhere, and in any era or eras. The protagonist need not be an expert in history.

### Romantic Suspense

Romantic suspense combines a mystery with a love story. The protagonist's love interest should be a major secondary character (male or female). The story may include some of the following: a loved one or thing of value being in danger; escalating jeopardy; random happenings that advance the action. Usually the story ends with the mystery solved, wrong-doers defeated, and lovers united.

### Satisfying Retribution

The story leads to an outcome featuring retribution (payback, punishment). From the point of view of the protagonist (and possibly others, including readers), this retribution is suited to the crime and provides the satisfaction of seeing justice done.

### Young Writer

The author must be 18 years or younger at 31 August 2018. The story must have a female protagonist (hero or anti-hero) and a crime/mystery theme.