

27TH ANNUAL **SCARLET STILETTO** AWARDS

2020 WOMEN'S CRIME AND MYSTERY SHORT STORY COMPETITION

SWINBURNE UNIVERSITY AWARD

1st Prize \$1500

plus the coveted Scarlet Stiletto trophy

SIMON & SCHUSTER AWARD

2nd Prize \$1000

THE SUN BOOKSHOP/WILD DINGO PRESS AWARD

3rd Prize \$500

- **AFFIRM PRESS AWARD**
for Best Young Writer (under 19) \$500
- **THE MONASH UNIVERSITY AWARD**
for Best New Writer (19–25 years) \$500
- **MELBOURNE ATHENAEUM LIBRARY AWARD**
for Best 'Body in the Library' Story \$1250
Runner-up \$750
- **INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
FORENSIC LINGUISTS AWARD**
for Best Forensic Linguistics Story \$800
- **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*
- **CLAN DESTINE PRESS AWARD**
for Best Cross-genre Story \$500
- **HQ FICTION AWARD**
for Best Thriller \$500
- **LIZ NAVRATIL AWARD**
for Best Story with a Disabled Protagonist \$300
- **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 2020

Judges

Sisters in Crime convenors and
previous 2-time Stiletto winners

Further information

sistersincrime.org.au
Carmel Shute 0412 569 356
admin@sistersincrime

* Terms and conditions apply –
see overleaf, #16

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

Failure to comply with these terms and conditions may invalidate your entry.

- 1 Information supplied in the FAQ document on the Sisters in Crime Australia website forms part of the Terms and Conditions of Entry: sistersincrimelibrary.org.au
- 2 Open to women citizens/residents of Australia.
- 3 The Award for Best Young Writer is open to young women under 19 years of age as at 31 August 2020.
- 4 The Award for Best New Writer is open to young women between 19 and 25 years of age as at 31 August 2020.
- 5 All work must be original and unpublished.
- 6 Entries must be submitted under the author's real name, not a pseudonym.
- 7 Two entries maximum per author.
- 8 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.
- 9 Entries must have a female main character (hero or anti-hero) and a crime/mystery theme.
- 10 Word limit maximum is 5000 words (excluding cover page). No minimum word limit.
- 11 For all category definitions and additional information, please read the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document on the Sisters in Crime Australia website: sistersincrimelibrary.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 by Monday 31 August 2020 through Eventbrite (details below).
- 14 Envelopes must be postmarked or received and PDFs received by Monday 31 August 2020 (details below).
- 15 From this year, for each story, please submit:
 - a A completed copy of this entry form. 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.
 - b A single hard copy formatted in 1.5 line spacing, font size at least 10 point, printed single-sided on white A4 paper and stapled, with a separate cover sheet that includes: author's name, postal address, telephone number(s), email address and Eventbrite order number. Every page of the story itself should show *only* the story title and page number, no author's name. Originals will not be returned. Envelopes must be postmarked or received by 31 August 2020.
 - c A PDF of each story. The cover sheet for each PDF should include *only* the story title, category(ies) entered and Eventbrite order number.
 - d Proof of age if entering for the Best Young Writer or Best New Writer awards.
- 16 The Crime and Punishment Award is offered 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, subject to public health advice. 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

- 17 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.
- 18 Sisters in Crime Australia convenors and judges are ineligible to enter.
- 19 The judges' decisions are final. Judges reserve the right to not award a prize in any category.
- 20 Winners will be announced at the Scarlet Stiletto Awards ceremony to be held late in the year at a Melbourne venue, public health advice permitting.

Registration and submission details

Before posting your story, please register and pay the appropriate fee.

Eventbrite: scarletstiletto2020.eventbrite.com (include order number below)

Postal address: Scarlet Stiletto Awards, PO Box 121, Bittern 3918.

Email address for PDFs: ssawards2020@gmail.com

Name:

Address:

Email:

Phone: Eventbrite order number:

Title and genre(s) of story:

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

*With thanks
to our generous
sponsors:*





SCARLET STILETTO FAQs 2020

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.

Has the submission procedure changed?

Yes. Due to the pandemic and the possibility that judges may not be able to meet for the usual weekend judging, please submit a single hard copy of each story with a separate cover sheet that includes: author's name, postal address, telephone number(s), email address and Eventbrite order number. Every page of the story itself should show only the story title and page number, no author's name.

Also, please email a PDF of each story to ssawards2020@gmail.com. The cover sheet for each PDF should include *only* the story title, category(ies) entered and Eventbrite order number.

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(ies) 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 2020.

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, public health advice permitting.

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 2020. If you cannot find your card, email admin@sistersincrimelibrary.org.au to check your membership status. If you wish to join or renew your membership, go to: sistersincrimelibrary.org.au/sisters-in-crime-membership/

Categories offered in 2020

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

Category definitions overleaf >>

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 horror, crime with speculative fiction, crime with fantasy or crime with science 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. (Extract from 'Slips of the tongue (and pen): How forensic linguistics is transforming crime detection' by Georgina Haydon, Associate Professor in Criminology and Justice Studies at RMIT: 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 usual judging process. See 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).

Most 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.

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.

New Writer

The author must be between 19 and 25 years of age as at 31 August 2020.

Thriller

A thriller is a dark, engrossing, plot-driven story, full of excitement, expectation and/or dread. It can be an action-filled, edge-of-the-seat drama, a quest to prevent disasters, or a thrilling contest against an adversary.

Young Writer

The author must be under 19 years of age at 31 August 2020.