

# 28TH ANNUAL **SCARLET STILETTO** AWARDS

2021 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** \$600

- **AFFIRM PRESS AWARD**  
for **Best Young Writer** (under 19) \$500
- **MONASH UNIVERSITY AWARD**  
for **Best Emerging Writer** (19-25 years) \$500
- **MELBOURNE ATHENAEUM LIBRARY AWARD**  
for **Best 'Body in the Library' Story** \$1250  
Runner-up \$750
- **BOOKTOPIA PUBLISHER SERVICES AWARD**  
for **Best Environmental Mystery** \$750
- **CLAN DESTINE PRESS AWARD**  
for **Best Cross-genre Story** \$750
- **EVERY CLOUD PRODUCTIONS AWARD**  
for **Best Mystery with History Story** \$750
- **KERRY GREENWOOD AWARD**  
for **Best Malice Domestic Story** \$750
- **VILIAMA GRAKALIC AWARD**  
for **Best Art and Crime 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\*
- **HQ FICTION AWARD**  
for **Best Thriller** \$500
- **SCRIPTWORKS AWARD**  
for a **Great Film Idea** \$500
- **LIZ NAVRATIL AWARD**  
for **Best Story with a Disabled Protagonist** \$400



### Story length

Maximum 5000 words  
No minimum

### Entry fee

\$25  
\$20 Sisters in Crime members

### Closing date

31 August 2021

### 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, #15

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

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

- Information supplied in the FAQ document (including category definitions) on the Sisters in Crime Australia website forms part of the Terms and Conditions of Entry: [www.sistersincrime.org.au/the-scarlet-stiletto-awards/](http://www.sistersincrime.org.au/the-scarlet-stiletto-awards/)
- The competition is open to women citizens/residents of Australia.
- The Award for Best Young Writer is open to young women under 19 years of age as at 31 August 2021.
- The Award for Best Emerging Writer is open to young women between 19 and 25 years of age as at 31 August 2021.
- All work must be original and unpublished.
- Entries must be submitted under the author's real name, not a pseudonym.
- There is a maximum of two entries per author.
- 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.
- Entries must have a female main character (hero or anti-hero) and a crime/mystery theme.
- Story length is 5000 words maximum (excluding cover page); there is no minimum word limit.
- Sisters in Crime Australia reserves the right to use shortlisted stories for publication or promotional purposes. Copyright remains with the author.

### Requirements

- Entry fee(s) must be paid by Monday 31 August 2021 through Eventbrite (details below).
- Envelopes must be postmarked or received and PDFs received by Tuesday 31 August 2021 (details below).
- For each story, please submit:
  - 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.
  - 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 2021.
  - A PDF of each story. The cover sheet for each PDF should include *only* the story title, category(ies) entered and Eventbrite order number.
  - Proof of age if entering for the Best Young Writer or Best Emerging Writer awards.
- The Crime and Punishment Award offers a 3-month studio residency at the Old Melbourne Gaol for 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

- 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.
- Sisters in Crime Australia convenors and judges are ineligible to enter.
- The judges' decisions are final. Judges reserve the right to not award a prize in any category.
- 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: [scarletstiletto2021.eventbrite.com](https://scarletstiletto2021.eventbrite.com) (include order number below)  
Postal address: Scarlet Stiletto Awards, PO Box 121, Bittern 3918  
Email address for PDFs: [ssawards2021@gmail.com](mailto:ssawards2021@gmail.com)

Name: .....

Address: .....

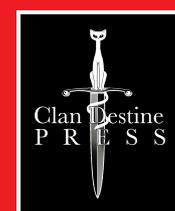
Email: .....

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

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

- |                      |                          |                             |                                     |                      |                          |
|----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Art                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | Environmental               | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Mystery with History | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Body in the Library  | <input type="checkbox"/> | General                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Thriller             | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cross-genre          | <input type="checkbox"/> | Great Film Idea             | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Young Writer         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Disabled Protagonist | <input type="checkbox"/> | Malice Domestic             | <input type="checkbox"/>            |                      |                          |
| Emerging Writer      | <input type="checkbox"/> | Most Satisfying Retribution | <input type="checkbox"/>            |                      |                          |

*With thanks  
to our generous  
sponsors:*





## SCARLET STILETTO FAQs 2021

**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 [ssawards2021@gmail.com](mailto:ssawards2021@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 2021.

**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 after August 2021. If you cannot find your card, email [admin@sistersincrime.org.au](mailto:admin@sistersincrime.org.au) to check your membership status. If you wish to join or renew your membership, go to: [sistersincrime.org.au/sisters-in-crime-membership/](https://sistersincrime.org.au/sisters-in-crime-membership/)

### CATEGORIES OFFERED IN 2021

- Art
- Body in the Library
- Cross-genre
- Disabled Protagonist
- Emerging Writer
- Environmental
- General
- Great Film Idea
- Malice Domestic
- Most Satisfying Retribution
- Mystery with History
- Thriller
- Young Writer

## **CATEGORY DEFINITIONS**

### **Art**

The story involves art and crime. It can include artists, the art world, galleries, art collections, museums, theft, fakes, fraud, forgeries or heists. In honour of Viliama Grakalic's chosen disciplines and style, preferred art forms are painting, drawing, sculpture, jewellery and photography; think 'fine art'.

### **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, for example 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.

### **Emerging Writer**

The author must be between 19 and 25 years of age as at 31 August 2021.

### **Environmental**

The natural world must be central to the story. It can be about any living and/or non-living thing(s) such as plants, animals, insects, microorganisms, water, soil, storms or atmosphere, as well as climate change, environmental campaigns or social trends.

### **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.

### **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 2021.