

Shroud: The journal of dark fiction and art

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Fiction Editor's name: Timothy P. Deal

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Pay rate: \$10 for flash fiction, \$25 for fiction up to 5000 words, \$25 for fiction up to 3000 words, non-fiction .02-.03 cents per words. Book reviews and other pieces are to be discussed individually. Anthology publications will pay .01 per word plus two copies.

Word Count range: Fiction up to 5,000 words. Also accepting flash fiction up to 1000.

Occasionally accepts novellas (does not state word limit).

Reading periods: February 1st-March 30th and May 1st-June 30th.

Editorial Address: www.shroudmagazine.com

Editorial Email: editor@shroudmagazine.com

Genres accepted: Horror, dark mystery, dark fantasy, suspense. Thriller and suspense tales with a horror aspect. Listed in their LESS interested section: sci-fi, vampires, fantasy. Shroud also accepts nonfiction: "Looking for well-researched stories on supernatural phenomenon, dark music, art, and interviews of key players within the genre, film reviews, game reviews."

Themed issues: They sometimes will have authors all write a story inspired by a picture (flash fiction contest) and then publish the winner plus honorable mentions.

Likes: Especially interested in horror in a real world setting, classically-themed horror and suspense, supernatural horror, creature horror, dark fantasy in a contemporary real world setting, noir with a horror element

Dislikes: Hard science fiction, sword and sorcery, anything set in a fantasy world, stories about serial killers, vampires (ala Rice), first person accounts.

Taboos: This seems like an anything goes publication.

Accept adult themes? Yes. There is a story in this issue all about a sex slave for the gods.

Accept sex? Yes

Accept violence? Yes. There are murders described, however, not in horribly graphic detail. On vulgarity and sexual content: "I know this is the standard answer but it has to work within the context of the story. If it is even slightly gratuitous, then I'll give it the boot. There are a number of publishing companies that make their dollar off of shock, but we are not one of them. If it makes sense within the context of the story and the characters, then it's fine, we'll go the whole way with you." In addition to the previous quote, Editor Tim Deal also said, "I appreciate

subtlety, yet I can also appreciate horror ‘in your face.’ It all depends upon the characters and the story.”

Accept adult language? Yes.

Accept E-submissions? Yes, only. In .doc or .rtf. Send your file as an attachment with “Submission” in the subject line.

Accept multiple submissions? No. Send one story at a time and wait for a response.

Accept simultaneous submissions? No.

Accept reprints? Accepted but discouraged, if it has not been published within twelve months and the author bears the copyright.

What rights? The right to be automatically considered for their running anthologies. “The individual copyrights of the respective authors herein reverted back to the original copyright holder upon publication.”

General tone and personality: All of the stories are dark, as the title would suggest. There are lots of twisted endings and mysteries to this magazine.

Response time claimed: Average of 2-4 months. Stories kept for further consideration could take additional time. The site states, “If you do not receive an acknowledgment of your short story within 1-5 days of submission, then it was probably formatted incorrectly and was deleted.”

Novellas can take from 3-6 months.

Response time reported by authors: Minimum 2 days, average of 76.7 days and maximum of 233 days. 132.5 days reported for acceptances, and 71.7 days for rejections.

Publishing schedule: Bi-Monthly (roughly 6 times a year)

Format: Magazine.

Requires bio with submission? A short bio “would be nice”. Include publishing credits and awards. “However your story will stand on its own merit.”

Welcome emerging writers or mainly big names? “It is our goal to introduce the wonder and thrill of speculative fiction to a much wider audience. To that end, we have enlisted some of the top names in dark fiction to fill our pages. Our first issue alone featured rare and original work from Michael Laimo, Tom Piccirilli, Stephen Mark Rainey, and Tim Waggoner. In addition, our inaugural issue also included an insightful interview with horror master and award-winner Brian Keene. But that’s not all, we have received 100s of submissions from talented lesser known

writers and artists and we are confident that Shroud will play an integral role in the development and discovery of new powerful voices within the genre.”

Other comments:

Editor Tim Deal says to, “Write what you know and don’t hold back.”

They have all of their contracts for the different types of writing they publish on their website (<http://www.shroudmag.com/downloads>) so you can see exactly what you are getting into upon publication.

Analysis of the stories in the sample issue:

Sub-genre: Surreal, psychological horror, dark suspense,

Tone: dark and twisted

POV: In this issue there are 18 fiction stories. Only 5 are in first person. The other 13 are in third. One of the 13 is in storyteller third and the rest are mostly in either limited tight or serial limited.

Length: Some are 2 pages, some as long as 8. Flash fiction is usually 1.

Content: Most of the stories in this issue are about murder in some fashion and a lot of them have twists at the end.

Motifs: Many of the stories occur in the woods. The flash fiction pieces are all written about a picture of some gravestones.

Movie rating: (YA, PG, R, NC-17): R