

Sic Semper Serpent Publishing

Content Submission Guidelines

Minneapolis, MN

Greetings and thank you for expressing interest in contributing content to Sic Semper Serpent publishing! We are working to create a company that enables the publication of modern, pulp-style fiction with a progressive edge. We are always looking for fresh ideas and perspectives that can be captured in fun, exciting narratives.

We value new and aspiring writers. You need not be a published author or professional writer to contribute to Sic Semper Serpent. Please use the following criteria to submit a proposal for a short story or book to Editor in Chief T. Martin Crouse at t.martin@sicsemperserpent.com.

Patreon: “Everlasting Stories”

We host an ongoing, twice-monthly short story archive on Patreon called “Everlasting Stories” <https://www.patreon.com/sicsemperserpent>.

Subscribers can pay as little as a dollar a month to access the complete archive. We publish primarily science fiction and fantasy, as well as mystery or westerns with supernatural or technological themes. In other words, modern pulp fiction.

We have several regular series contributors, but we are always looking for fresh voices and content.

We pay \$25 (or 10% of the total subscriber base from the moment

of publish, whichever is greater) for each story published on Patreon.

Those authors with series contracts also have their work narrated on the “Everlasting Stories Podcast”.

Appropriate Content

- Sic Semper Serpent is a pulp fiction publisher for the 21st century. We are looking for unexpected stories that are fun and paint a progressive view of the world. Because we publish on the Patreon platform, and we want to make our fiction approachable to a range of readers, please keep your content generally PG-13—especially when it comes to violence and sex.

- We are especially not interested in publishing stories that feature racism, hate, alt-right ideology, misogyny, torture, or sexual violence.

- Some swearing is acceptable, but not to excess. Please keep drug references more “Half Baked” than “Breaking Bad”.

- Sic Semper Serpent reserves the right to reject or edit submissions for what we deem to be inappropriate content at any time, for any reason.

Length and Formatting

- The length of our stories varies, but we generally like to publish stories that are 3000-5000 words. Only authors we’ve worked with previously may submit a story over 5K (with a top limit of 8K words), but they first need to get an ok from Managing Editor Michael Strand.

- The program we use for publication is Scrivener 3. If you write a book for us, or become a regular Patreon contributor, we will ask you to adopt this platform. However, if you are one-time contributor, Microsoft Word or Mac Pages is fine.

Series vs. Single Story

- Some stories are too big for a single entry, so most of our stories are part of a series. If you want to publish a story that goes beyond 5,000 words in scope—or is set in a world that lends itself to many exciting “episodes”—you are suggesting a series.

- Only authors who have written for SSS in the past and have established their ability to write appropriate, complete prose on deadline may submit series proposals. In other words, if this is your first submission, please make it a stand-alone story.

How to Pitch to Us

Whether you would like to submit a book proposal, single story, or a new story series, please answer these questions in your proposal.

- **Genre and type:** What kind of story is this? (Love story? Action? Mystery? Etc.) What genre? (Sci-fi? Steampunk? Urban Fantasy? Etc).

- **Theme:** What is the theme or point of your story, what are you trying to communicate to the reader?

- **Character:** Who is your main character? What kind of person are they? What are their strengths and weaknesses? Allies? Mentor? Nemesis and enemies? Lay out your general archetypes.

- **Setting:** Where does the story take place? How does that affect the narrative? Conversely, how does the narrative affect the environment or setting over time?

- **Plot:** What is your story about? Give a general outline of what’s going to happen.

- **Remember,** all pitches must be sent to Editor in Chief T. Martin Crouse at t.martin@sicsemperserpent.com.

Books: Proposing a Novel

Sic Semper Serpent is a pulp fiction book publisher, but we are currently only able to complete about one book project per year. Therefore we are quite discerning about which books we invest the time and money necessary for full publication. We will publish books more regularly in the future, but for now we are not able to publish anything but the very best book proposals.

- Currently, we have book content in the works for the next couple of years. If, however, you have a killer idea for an entire book, we would love to hear it.

- We pay our book authors in contract royalties.

- Books are big, they demand ideas. You must display you have the ideas and skill needed to fill a 50-100K book with good work. Please develop a proposal/outline before writing-out the book wholesale. Make character and location profiles. Give us some idea of the ideological foundation for your work. Most importantly, write an example chapter to give us a sense of your prose style and writing ability.

- The above “How to Pitch to Us” instructions for “Everlasting Stories” also apply to books (genre, theme, character, setting, plot). Keep in mind a good book proposal must answer these questions with the depth to match the scope of an entire novel.

- Your proposal will be evaluated by Editor in Chief T. Martin Crouse and Managing Editor Michael Strand.

- Please create a formal book proposal even if you have already written your entire book, that way it is easier for us to review your work.

- In general, we only publish books by authors who have successfully written stories for us before and/or have demonstrated themselves to be professional and capable. Therefore, proposing and publishing a story on “Everlasting Stories” is the best way to get your

foot in the door (as we publish at least 25 short stories a year).

- Given the strength of your book proposal, if we are interested, you may be asked to meet in person (or over video-chat) with Editors Michael Strand and T. Martin Crouse to discuss potential publication of a book-length work.

- If accepted, all SSS book writers are required to use Scrivener for their manuscript and to work directly with Managing Editor Michael Strand to complete the project.

Thank you for taking some time to consider submitting your writing to us. Regardless of what you choose do, please don't stop writing. The world needs you.

Best,

T. Martin Crouse, Editor in Chief

Michael Strand, Managing Editor

Updated: April 2019