

Submission Guidelines



WELCOME!



General. Nefarious Thoughts publishes three times a year (April 1, August 1, January 1).

We're searching for strong fiction with solid characters and a plot that makes readers think, squirm in their seats, and be utterly entertained. Foremost, we want to feel for your characters, whether we love them or hate them. We also want a story that is riveting, making us wait in hopeful or horrified suspense for the climax. We welcome a wide variety of dark tales with a realistic edge, including subtle horror, psychological, supernatural, dark sci-fi, dark fantasy, cross-genre, and experimental. Tales are not restricted to a serious nature. Stories featuring vampires, werewolves, serial killers, and the like, must have an original fresh twist and be particularly terrifying, interesting, and/or unusual to catch our attention and hold it. Rummage in the darkest recesses of your mind and find out what frightens you most -- even if it's funny. Give "horror" your own definition and make us believe it. Have a good time writing the story from the edge of your seat and we'll have fun reading it from the edge of ours.

NT is also looking for dark art reflective of our content (can be abstract), inspirational, how-to, industry news and opinion articles with a dark slant, fresh views, and personal touches, book and reviews and interviews. If you have something not listed here, but you feel it fits, give it a whirl. We're open minded.

Study the current issue before submitting to ensure your contribution is on target!

Let it be duly noted Nefarious Thoughts **WILL NOT** accept formulaic stories or horror stories that includes gore for gore's sake, chainsaw-hack-'em-up pulp, or pornographic material of any kind or in any form or under any circumstances!

PLEASE NOTE:

1. Observe guidelines carefully! Anything outside the guidelines will be deleted unread!
2. Proofread! The editor doesn't mind small incidental corrections (we all overlook things), but if a rewrite or massive corrections are necessary, the mss will be deleted. You may, if you wish to submit your work for proofing and correction notes. If you're interested in this service, send an email to the [Editor](#). **There is a charge for this service, details of which will be included in the email and are calculated on a case-by-case basis.**
3. Always Include: a) real name and mailing address, b) a short bio for publication (you may include a photo if you wish), c) your email address, and d) subject line of email -- Genre (fiction, poetry, etc.): Title of submission. If any of these is missing, the submission will be deleted unread.
4. Turn around time on submission runs between 2-4 weeks.

Contact: [Connie L. Sherwood](#), Publisher, Editor, Writer, and Webmaster

Format and Submission: This category applies to all submissions. Nefarious Thoughts accepts email submissions only! The ezine retains one time electronic rights for four (4) months upon publication, after which time electronic rights revert back to the author/artist. Nefarious Thoughts archives its publication indefinitely in PDF format -- a copy of the story as it appeared will be placed there. Free PDF ebook issues will be available to contributors for download. Due to size, the PDF will not be emailed. Please note the instructions for free PDF editions below. Stories will not be reprinted without the author's express written permission. Should a submission be rejected, the electronic file will be destroyed; no stories and/or emails are returned.

Contributors download the PDF edition. Send an email, including a) full name, b) the story title that appeared in Nefarious Thoughts issue, c) the issue in which the story appeared, and d) in the subject line: CONTRIBUTOR PDF COPY. Within 24 hours you will receive the free key.

Please observe the following when submitting:

NO SIMULTANEOUS SUBMISSION PLEASE! Authors who break this pledge will be noted and any future submissions will be unsummarily and automatically rejected. However, the editor will consider previously published stories (reprints), if a) proper prior credit is given, and b) at least one (1) year has passed since prior publication (please query first).

A few dos and don'ts to remember when submitting:

-  **Do NOT** paste manuscripts, poems, articles, or artwork into an email; these will be deleted unread. **PLEASE:** attachments only (MS Word 2010 or under). Absolutely no Word Pad, .rtf, ASCII, or PDF documents will be accepted; submission in these formats will be deleted unread.
-  **Do NOT** use hard returns at the end of lines in manuscripts or articles (okay for poetry)*
-  **Do NOT** space between paragraphs.
-  **Do NOT** use headers or footers: for captions, doc info, or page numbering (whether software tagged or manually typed) Use a cover page with author information and addition page for author bio information.
-  **Do NOT** use HTML tags or special or hidden word processing tags (such as macros, tab/ruler bars, paragraphing (MS Word), or comments, etc.).
-  **Do USE** double spacing.
-  **Do USE** either: 1) 12 pt New Times Roman ONLY!
-  **Do USE** tabbed paragraph indents (but not more than 5 spaces), but **do not add the spaces manually with the space bar.**
-  **Do USE** a cover page with story title, pen name (if any), real name, address, email, word count, PayPal account, and a short bio.
-  **Do USE** italics and bold face (or other internal formatting) in the body of your manuscript.
-  **Do USE** a subject line with the following format for your email submission: Type: SUBMISSION. Title (example: SUBMISSION - Fiction: "The Longest Day") (Do not place any other information in the subject line!) In the body of the email, please provide: a) title of the story, b) author name, and c) mailing address. **NOTHING ELSE!**

*Except for headings, lists, etc.

Fiction. Nefarious Thoughts is looking for original, unpublished fiction up to 5,000 words (anything longer, please query). No simultaneous submissions, please! We accept 8-12 manuscripts per issue. Email submissions only. Please send your submission in the format provided above.

Poetry. Nefarious Thoughts is looking for original, unpublished dark poetry up to 100 lines (anything longer, please query). NT accepts 8-12 poems per issue. Email submission only. Please do not send more than five poems for any one submission. Please send the poem(s) as an attachment in the format provided above (this ensures any special formatting will be followed). Poetry pasted into the body of the email **WILL BE IGNORED AND DELETED**. Please include a cover sheet with your real name, preferred pen name (if any), address, PayPal address, and a short bio.

Art. Nefarious Thoughts is looking for original, unpublished dark art to compliment its content. No size limit. NT will size to fit. NT accepts varying quantities of artwork in either gif or jpg formats. Please send only as an attachment -- do not paste into your email! Please include your real name, address, PayPal address, and a short bio.

Nonfiction. Nefarious Thoughts is looking for original, unpublished nonfiction articles up to 3,000 words with a slant toward the darker side of writing (anything longer, please query). NF also accepts other writing-related articles so

long as they relate to horror in some manner and compliment our concept. If you have an idea for a series or column, please query first. Example ideas might be ghost hunting, hauntings, dreams, nightmares, fiction, poetry, or writing / creative writing fundamentals. Interviews and book reviews are welcome with a limit of 1,500 words (anything longer, please query). We accept varying quantities of articles, reviews, and interviews per issue. Please take a look at the various pages for our layout and content requirements (for example, on the book review page generally use an article title, your name, the book title, author, publisher, places where the book is available, number of pages, the year the book was published, a jpg or gif of the front cover of the book, and any relevant urls).

Payment Policy

Nefarious Thoughts does not pay it's contributors at this time, though there are plans to change this policy in the near future. NT provides contributors with a free PDF version of the zine (content only) and exposure.

Short Story Contests: Each year Nefarious Thoughts will hold a Halloween contest with a monetary prizes. Notification that a contest is coming up can be found on the cover page under "NEWS. NT accepts submissions for the contest all year around, but there is a final date for each year. Final submission date, as well a link to contest guidelines will be posted. You an also view the contest page from the menu at any time.

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