

HORROR WRITING 666
(AKA 101)

PRESENTED BY ANGELA SYLVAINE
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ANGELA SYLVAINE
AUTHOR

- AUTHOR OF HORROR, DARK FANTASY, AND SCI-FI FICTION AND POETRY
- SHORT WORK/POETRY PUBLISHED IN/ON OVER FIFTY ANTHOLOGIES, MAGAZINES, AND PODCASTS
- BOOKS INCLUDE
 - CHOPPING SPREE: A RETRO '80S YA MALL SLASHER
 - FROST BITE: A RETRO '90S SCI FI HORROR COMEDY
 - THE DEAD SPOT: STORIES OF LOST GIRLS, A SAD GIRL COLLECTION
- MOST EXPERIENCED WITH INDIE PRESS PUBLISHING
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HORROR WRITING 666 AGENDA



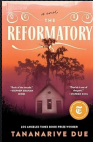
- WHY WRITE HORROR
- CATEGORIES BY LENGTH
- TYPES OF HORROR
- TIPS FOR WRITING HORROR
- SUBMISSION ROUND UP
- Q&A



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WHY WRITE HORROR?

- HORROR IS FUN!
- HORROR IS CATHARTIC
- HORROR IS EASY (SORT OF)
- HORROR IS POPULAR (BUT DON'T WRITE IT ONLY FOR THIS REASON)
- SHORT FORM IS VERY POPULAR IN THE HORROR COMMUNITY
- HORROR SCARES YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY

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CATEGORIES OF HORROR FICTION BY LENGTH




- DRABBLE- EXACTLY 100 WORDS
- MICRO FICTION- TYPICALLY 300 WORDS OR LESS
- FLASH FICTION- TYPICALLY 1000 WORDS OR LESS
- SHORT STORIES- 7,500 WORDS OR LESS
- NOVELLETTE- 7,500-17,500
- NOVELLA- 17,500-40,000 WORDS
- NOVEL- 40,000-100,000
- SHORT STORY COLLECTION- 40,000-70,000 WORDS

NOTE-

- THESE ARE GENERALIZATIONS- ALWAYS CHECK PUBLISHER GUIDELINES
- NOVEL LENGTHS WILL VARY BY SUBGENRE
- FOR SHORT STORIES- WRITING TO MAX WORD COUNT REDUCES LIKELIHOOD OF ACCEPTANCE

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WHY WRITE SHORT FICTION?



- IT'S QUICK!- RESULTS IN COMPLETED PIECES IN LESS TIME
- ALLOWS EXPERIMENTATION WITHOUT A BIG TIME COMMITMENT
- ALLOWS YOU TO PRACTICE AND PERFECT YOUR WRITING CRAFT
- YIELDS FODDER FOR LONGER WORK

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WHY WRITE SHORT FICTION CONTINUED...

- YIELDS WORK THAT CAN LATER BE COMPILED INTO A COLLECTION
- CAN HELP BREAK YOU OUT OF A SLUMP WITH LONGER WORK
- HELPS DEVELOP AN AUTHORIAL BRAND/PRESENCE
- KEEPS READERSHIP ENGAGED
- EXPANDS OPPORTUNITIES TO DEVELOP RELATIONSHIPS
- DEVELOPS YOUR ABILITY TO HANDLE REJECTION

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BASICS OF WRITING SHORT FICTION

- LIMITED CHARACTERS
- LIMITED POV
- LIMITED SETTINGS
- ONE MAIN CONFLICT AND GOAL
- STRONG FIRST PARAGRAPH HOOK
- MEMORABLE ENDINGS STAND OUT



- OH NO- MY IDEA IS TOO BIG! I HAVE TOO MANY CHARACTERS! I'M APPROACHING MAX WORD COUNT WITH MORE STORY TO TELL!
 - HAVE NO FEAR- YOU CAN EXPAND THIS TO A NOVELLA OR NOVEL!

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TYPES OF HORROR

- HORROR & SPECULATIVE FICTION- ENCOMPASSES THINGS THAT DON'T EXIST IN REALITY
- HORROR LOVES A SUBGENRE/ GENRE MASHUP



- GENRE DIMPLES TO EXPLORE:
 - FANTASY (MAGIC/MITH)
 - SCIFI (TECHNOLOGY/SPACE/ALIB)
 - DYSTOPIAN
 - POST APOCALYPTIC
 - HISTORICAL
 - ALTERNATE HISTORY
 - SUPERNATURAL
 - HAUNTINGS
 - DEMONS/POSSESSIONS
 - MONSTERS
 - ZOMBIES
 - WITCHES
 - PSYCHOLOGICAL
 - TRUE CRIME
- SLASHER/ MASKED KILLER
- SPATTER (EXTRA GORY)
- QUIET HORROR
- GRIEF HORROR
- BODY HORROR
- COMEDY HORROR
- FOLK HORROR
- FOUND FOOTAGE
- FOG HORROR (CLAU)
- LOVECRAFTIAN/ COSMIC HORROR
- GOTHIC HORROR
- FEMINIST HORROR
- SAPPHIC HORROR/ FEMININE RAGE
- EROTIC HORROR
- NOSTALGIA HORROR
- AND MANY MORE!

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TIPS FOR WRITING HORROR


READ SHORT SPEC FIC/HORROR, SUCH AS:

- DRABLES- DEADLY DRABLE TUESDAY AT HUNGRY SHADOW PRESS- <https://www.hungryshadowpress.com>
- MICROFICTION- APEX MAGAZINE PATREON (SCROLL DOWN FOR MONTHLY 2022 POSTS)- <https://www.patreon.com/apexbookcompany>
- FLASH FICTION ONLINE- <https://www.flashfictiononline.com/article-categories/horror/>
- SHORT STORIES
 - THE EIGHT PEOPLE WHO MURDERED ME (EXCERPT FROM LUCY WESTENRA'S DIARY) BY GWENDOLYN KITE- <https://www.nightmare-magazine.com/section/the-eight-people-who-murdered-me-excerpt-from-lucy-westenras-diary/>
 - FLOWERKICKER BY STEPHEN GRAHAM JONES- <https://www.infabook.com/article/flowerkicker/>
 - WE ALL FALL DOWN BY AI JIANG- <https://www.thedarkmagazine.com/we-all-fall-down/>

PSSST- THERE PLACES ALL TAKE SUBMISSIONS AT VARIOUS TIMES, TOO!

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TIPS CONTINUED...



- HORROR DOESN'T HAVE TO BE SCARY!
- EXPLORE YOUR OWN FEARS AND THOSE OF OTHERS (FEARS ARE PRIMITIVE AND UNIVERSAL)
- TAKE INSPIRATION FROM ELEMENTS YOU LIKE
- TAKE INSPIRATION FROM THE WORLD AROUND YOU
- TAKE INSPIRATION FROM EXISTING STORIES
- DON'T FORGET TO CREATE THREE-DIMENSIONAL CHARACTERS

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TIPS CONTINUED...

- PLAY WITH HORROR TROPES (HINT- THE WHOLE GENRE IS A TROPE, SO ROLL WITH IT!) <https://introtropes.org/p/wiki/tw/wh/HP/Man/Horror/Tropes>

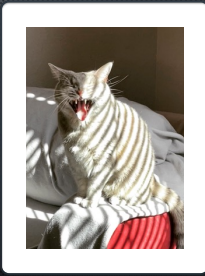
Creepy twins Random dead body Cemetery at night A dark room A strange sound A deadly prank Spooky children Lab accident Living Toys Moving shadows	Circus clowns Nightmares Cursed books Hitch hikers Creepy masks Possessed animals Reflections in mirrors Skulls Wound that won't heal	Ouija boards Spiders and webs Artificial intelligence Rituals Poisons Silence Screams Cannibals Creepy towns Mazes
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- WRITING FOR THEMED CALLS
 - THINK OF THE MOST COMMON INTERPRETATIONS AND WRITE SOMETHING DIFFERENT TO INCREASE YOUR CHANCES


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SUBMISSION ROUND UP!

- WANT TO GET PUBLISHED?
 - CHECK OUT SUBMISSION GUIDES- IT'S FREE! (THEGRINDER/DIABOLICALPLOTS.COM)
 - SEARCH BY GENRE, MIN PAY, WORD COUNT, AND MORE
- PIT DARK
- HORROR PUBLISHERS: OPEN NOW OR SOON
 - THE DARK
 - APEN MONTHLY FLASH CONTEST
 - FLAME TREE- THIS WAY LIES MADNESS (CLOSE 10/13)
 - UNDERTAKE BOOKS- WINTER HORRORLAND (CLOSE 10/15)
 - GHOUISH TALES (OPENS OCTOBER)
 - WOODSHOUSE PRESS- DREAD MONDAYS- WORKPLACE HORROR (CLOSE 10/31)
 - BURIAL BOOKS- INMATE THINGS (CLOSE 12/1)
 - ALSO OPEN FOR NOVELLA SUBS 25k-50k
 - NEFARIOUS RAT PRESS- FEMALE/NB AUTHOR- NOVELLAS 25k-40k (CLOSE 10/31)
 - BRIGIDS GATE- POISONED SOUP FOR THE MACABRE (CLOSE 12/31)
 - GUYENNE LAKE- THE JOINING: SCENE OF WEDDING TERROR (CLOSE 10/31)
 - NO SLEEP AND TALES TO TERRY (PODCASTS)



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Q & A

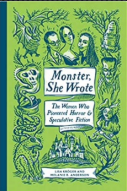
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CRAFT BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

MONSTER SHE WROTE




ON WRITING HORROR



WHERE NIGHTMARES
CAME FROM



THE BUSINESS OF
SHORT STORIES



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