

Submission Guidelines

for getting published with Screaming Dreams

Here is a quick guide you should read through carefully before considering submitting your work to Screaming Dreams ...

The Small Press

Please bear in mind that Screaming Dreams is only a small press. In fact, it's a one-man-band! I only have limited time and money to invest in this venture, so don't expect huge sales through this press. It is best suited to new authors who are looking for a break with getting their work into print on a small scale. Of course, established authors are also more than welcome to be published, providing they are aware of the limitations of the project at this early stage.

UK Authors

At this point I am not setup to effectively handle international payments to overseas contributors, so I can only accept authors based in the UK (or those with UK bank accounts who can take £ cheques) for the moment. I will of course be doing my best in future to work around this limitation to be able to open the submissions to everyone.

Payments

There will be no up-front fees available, but authors will be paid a percentage from each book sale. Payments will be made quarterly via UK £ cheque. For single-author books the split will be 50/50 (on profits, not cover price) between author and publisher. For example ...

If a book is priced at £7.99 and costs £4.99 to produce (printing, distribution, postage, etc) then the profit margin will be a total of £3.00. This will provide the author with £1.50 and the publisher with £1.50 on each sale.

For anthology collections which contain work by multiple authors then the 50% author split will be divided equally between all contributors. For example ...

If the author profit margin is £1.50 and there are 10 contributors in the book, then this will mean each author will receive 15p on each sale.

Profit margins will be fairly slim as I try to keep the RRP to an affordable level. Please note that the profits may also vary slightly depending on the source of each sale, which have to take into account any trade discounts for retailers.

Book Formats

To begin with all the books published by Screaming Dreams will be softcover versions. After much discussion with the authors it was decided this was the best option to keep the production costs and retail price to a more affordable level. However, I will also be considering limited edition/signed hardback versions of certain titles in future.

The standard softcover size for all SD books will be 216mm x 138mm. Covers will be glossy. Every book will have an ISBN number and barcode on the reverse.

© Copyright

Copyright of all work remains with the author.

Minimum Contract

The author and publisher agree to publish the work for a minimum of 1 year, after which time they are free to cancel their agreement (giving sufficient advance notice) or extend the printing if they are happy with the current arrangement.

Cover Artwork

I encourage authors to make suggestions as to what kind of images they would like on their book covers, and will do my best to get as close to those ideas as possible. Although please bear in mind that the artist will be allowed to interpret any guidelines to suit their own particular style of work. The publisher will get the final say on artwork approval.

In the early stages of this publishing venture I will be creating a lot of the cover images myself (don't worry, I am a formally trained and qualified artist/designer by the way!), in order to keep production costs to a minimum. But if funds will allow in future then I will also start to commission other artists for cover work.

If you have a particular artist in mind for your cover then please feel free to suggest them, but I cannot promise they will be suitable or affordable!

Advertising

Screaming Dreams will actively promote all its books online and through a variety of other media and sources. Free review copies of each title will be sent out to a selection of magazines and websites in order to gain additional exposure. Authors are also encouraged to help in any way they can with spreading the news about their book releases, through their own websites, blogs, etc.

Author Copies

I will send each author a minimum of 5 free copies of their book on publication (only 1 copy for anthologies though). If you want to purchase more to give to your friends/family, use for promotional purposes, or if you wish to SELL copies of your own book then of course you can order them from Screaming Dreams at the discounted trade price.

Book Launches

Where possible I will do my best to organize book launch events at certain times through the year, to help promote the SD books as they are released. The authors are encouraged to participate and be available for signings and readings. Sometimes it may be suitable to hold the official book launch at a convention, rather than as a standalone event, depending on circumstances.

* * *

If you've read this far and are still interested in submitting your work to Screaming Dreams then here's what to do next ...

Initial Contact

The first thing you need to do is send me an e-mail and let me know exactly what you have in mind. For example, if you would like to submit to one of the short story anthologies which are currently in progress, or if you have a suggestion for a new novella/novel or single author collection of short stories.

It is important that this FIRST e-mail should NOT contain any files as my spam filters will block most unsolicited attachments. Just send me a basic overview of what you plan to submit plus any additional info you think is relevant (such as your website address and publication history).

Story Guidelines

I am interested in a wide variety of fantasy, science-fiction and horror themes. But please be aware that Screaming Dreams is aiming for a more general audience so try to avoid the really hardcore/extreme/controversial subjects and not too much in the way of detailed sexual encounters either. Keep more to the main themes of fantasy, sf and horror if you can. Stories can be serious or funny, that's upto you.

For short stories length should be within the region of 2000 - 5000 words.

For novels, novellas or single-author collections then the total word count should be between 40,000 - 100,000 words. Although if you have work that goes outside these levels then don't worry as I'm fairly flexible on this.

There will be 3 main types of books published through Screaming Dreams ...

1. Anthologies : Short stories by a selection of different authors. All content should be new and previously unpublished, unless stated otherwise.

2. SA Collections : Short stories by a single author, some of which may have been previously published in other books/magazines, but must also contain some new content. These books will bring together a selection of an author's work in a single volume.

3. Novels/Novellas : Longer works should preferably be 100% new/unpublished, although I will also consider a revised edition of books that are no longer in print.

Sending Samples

After you have sent me your initial contact e-mail and if I request to view your work, then you should prepare to send me your story or a sample chapter (plus overview) in the case of a full book.

Please save your text file in either plain text (*.txt) or Rich Text (*.rtf) format and attach that to your following e-mail. Try to avoid *.doc format if you can as these tend to get stuck in my spam filters more often!

The formatting of your work at this early stage is not really important, as long as I can open the files and read through it easily.

Accepting Submissions

If I think that your work is suitable for publishing through Screaming Dreams then I will let you know and we'll take things from there. If all goes well then I will need you to send me your work in the correct format, as detailed below, in order to make it easier/quicker for me to import the text straight into the DTP program for the book layout.

Please make sure that you have carefully proof-read your text to ensure there are no spelling mistakes or other errors, before sending the files to me, thanks.

Most of the SD paperback books will follow the same format for consistency, so use the following settings when preparing your text ...

Font Name : Palatino Linotype
Font Size : 10pt (for main text)
Single line spacing
Justified but NO auto-hyphenation
Tab stop/indent : 0.6 cm

Do NOT include headers/footers

Below is an example of how your text should be formatted ...

* * *

The first line in a new section should NOT be indented. But the sentences that follow should have an indent of 0.6cm as shown in the next line. And remember do NOT leave any spaces between each line.

This is an example of how the next line should look, with the indent and no spacing between the previous line. Also do NOT leave multiple spaces between words at the end of each sentence, like this. Avoid these extra spaces as it takes me extra time to edit them all out!

When it comes to starting a new scene then leave a single space between the previous section (as shown above) and remember NOT to indent this first new paragraph. Then follow the same format as above.

If you need to add any formatting in **bold** or *italic* please do so at this point. Do NOT use underline as indication of *italics*.

* * *

For short stories please save each one as a single file in *.rtf format. If you are submitting a novel or novella then save each chapter as a separate *.rtf file.

Once your submission reaches this stage I will import it into the DTP app and start preparing the book layout. A draft PDF file will be generated for you to read and check for any initial problems. Any corrections needed will be made and another draft version produced for proof reading. This will continue until a final edit is ready for printing.

Proof Reading

Authors please note that it will be YOUR responsibility for checking the drafts and approving the final version. Any mistakes that are spotted after the books have gone to print will be too late! So please check everything very carefully before it gets to that stage, thank you.

Although I will also be proof reading the work, I strongly advise you to get several other readers to also check through the draft PDF files to make sure we catch any little errors that may occur.

Contracts

When the book is ready for printing I will send you 2 copies of a contract to sign. Keep one yourself and post the other back to me. This is just to make everything formal and protect everyone involved.

* * *

Thank you for your interest in publishing your work through Screaming Dreams and feel free to get in touch anytime with your questions, ideas, suggestions or general feedback.

This is just the first draft of the BookGuidelines.pdf but I will continue to update this document to offer further information as the project develops.

Estronomicon eZine

Don't forget that all authors are welcome to receive further exposure for their work through the Estronomicon eZine, also available from Screaming Dreams.

The eZine is a FREE .pdf format publication and a non-profit project so there are no payments for anyone I'm afraid, but it does offer free extra publicity for all contributors. It has built-up quite a following during the past year.

Each issue features a selection of short stories (reprints welcome), extracts and samples from books, artist showcase pages, interviews, reviews and more. Be sure to check out all the currently-available issues if you want to see how they work :

www.screamingdreams.com/estronomicon.htm

So before you try submitting any work for publication in the printed SD books then I encourage all authors to first send a sample piece to be included in the eZine. This will not only help me get a better idea of what your work is like (if I'm not already familiar with it of course) but also it will get you some initial exposure to an established reader base. Have a think about it anyway!