

OWA 2023 Anthology Guidelines

Ohio Writers' Association

www.ohiowriters.org

Anthology Theme

The 2023 anthology theme is “secrets.” The book’s title will be *House of Secrets: Every Room Holds a Story*.

The theme allows considerable variation in storylines and content while still adhering to the overarching idea of secrets. Think of a house with many wings and rooms. One wing may have stories relating to domestic secrets. Another might have people engaging in crimes or trying to kill each other. Yet another section might have been boarded up for years and have hidden secrets from the past.

Anthology Content

We are collecting fiction and creative nonfiction connected to the theme of secrets. We are looking for stories and articles about secrets. This can include maintaining secrets, uncovering them, or how the secrets affect the characters. Our submission window runs from March 18, 2023, through April 20, 2023. Paid members of the Ohio Writers' Association may submit *one* piece for consideration at no charge. Additional submissions or submissions from nonmembers are \$5 each.

Stories should be between 1,000 and 10,000 words long, with a recommended length of 5,000 to 7,500 words.

If you want more information about this anthology, please get in touch with us at anthology@ohiowriters.org.

Submission Guidelines

Document Type

You must submit your story as a Microsoft Word or Rich Text Format (RTF) document (we prefer MS Word).

Formatting

Submitted works must be double-spaced with 12-point Times New Roman or a similar typeface. All pages must be numbered.

OWA will use a blind selection process to choose material for the anthology, so do not put any identifying information in the submitted document. The submission form on the OWA website will capture the contact information we need.

Genres

Fiction or creative nonfiction.

Language

All submissions must be in English. We accept stories from all over the world and welcome and encourage translations regardless of whether the work has been previously published in another language.

Word Limit

All submissions must be at least 1,000 words in length but no more than 10,000 words.

Submission Limit

Authors may submit up to three pieces for consideration.

Cost to Submit

Paid members of the Ohio Writers' Association may submit one piece without cost. Paid members have a valid current Supporting, Writer, or Patron membership.

There is a \$5 submission fee *per piece* for nonmembers and members who submit a second or third piece.

Who Can Submit

Anyone with a significant connection to Ohio, meaning:

- You were born in Ohio
- You attended school in Ohio
- You lived and worked in Ohio
- You experienced a significant life event in Ohio

Compensation

Authors will receive compensation as follows:

- \$50 for each submission accepted for publication
- A complimentary copy of the paperback book
- A complimentary copy of the audiobook
- An equal share of 60 percent of royalties, including presales, through the first year of sales.

OWA will make all payments through PayPal.

Rights

We claim first world electronic rights (text and audio), first print rights, and non-exclusive anthology rights. If you are unfamiliar with the term "First Rights," you can find an explanation here: <http://neil-clarke.com/first-rights/>.

Authors must sign a contract specifying the legal agreement between the author and The Ohio Writers' Association for their piece to appear in the anthology.

All rights are restricted to the English language unless expressly stated otherwise.

General Guidelines

- **Well-written.** Language is important. There is no distinction between “style” and “substance” or “story” and “writing.”
- **Suitable for audio.** We will release the anthology as an audiobook in addition to the print and eBook versions. Stories should be effective both in text and audio formats. We recommend that you think about how the story sounds when read aloud.
- **Character Driven.** We are looking for “character-oriented” stories in which the characters provide the main focus for the reader’s interest.

What we DO NOT want

- **Children’s fiction** (younger than YA). The story may have a young protagonist if the intended audience is adults or teens. Fiction intended for middle-grade readers or younger is not a good fit for this anthology.
- **Fanfiction**
- **Sections of longer works.** Submissions should stand alone.
- **Egregious violence or sex.** Some sex, violence, and profanity are acceptable as long as it suits the story. Stories must not include erotica, rape scenes, or gratuitous violence. To get this anthology to the largest audience possible, we’re looking for PG-13.

Any questions? Contact us at anthology@ohiowriters.org.