

COMPETITION TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. This competition is promoted by Avon Books UK, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers Ltd ("HarperCollins"), The News Building, 1 London Bridge Street, London, SE1 9GF and My Weekly magazine published by DC Thomson & Company Limited, Courier Buildings, 2 Albert Square, Dundee, DD1 9QJ ("DCT").
2. This promotion is open to all UK residents and British Citizens (including those residing abroad) without a literary agent except employees of HarperCollins or DCT (or their subsidiaries or any affiliated companies) and their immediate families, who are not allowed to enter the competition.
3. Entrants must be female and aged 45 years or over. Entrants must also be unpublished and unagented. If you haven't signed a contract for your writing with anyone previously, you can enter our competition, allowing self-published writers to apply.
4. All submissions must be sent by email to the following email address:
mwstorycomp@dctmedia.co.uk.
5. Submissions must be sent between the hours of 00:01 5th July 2022 and 23:59 19th August 2022. No entries received after this date will be accepted. No purchase necessary.
6. Submissions that have been sent by post or means other than email to the correct email address will not be accepted.
7. Any work submitted to the competition must not have been submitted to Avon through Avon's general open submissions channel previously, though authors may submit subsequent works in that way after the competition closes.
8. Any work submitted must not have been submitted to any other writing competition within HarperCollins Publishers or to any other publishing company or anywhere else that will lead or might be likely to lead to that work being in the public domain. In the event the work has been shared with any other third party in this manner that will automatically render the entrant ineligible for the opportunity.
9. Each submission should contain:
 - a. A cover page including name, address, email, phone number, word count, genre of your short story and a brief one paragraph synopsis of your short story.
 - b. A short story of 1800 words.
 - c. Author biography, as well as any blogs and/or social media information (maximum 1 page).
 - i. Please note if an author is selected to proceed to a shortlist, they may be asked to provide proof of their age.
10. The submission must be in Word format throughout all documents; all documents must be submitted at the same time, attached to a single email (the attachments each to be clearly individually marked as 'cover page', 'story', and 'author biography'). In addition, each of the three documents should be marked in the file name with the author's name and the title of the short story and this information should also be marked on every page of each document.
11. In the 'Subject' area at the top of an entrant's submission email, entrants should put the title and their (pen) name.
12. In the body of the email, authors must provide their full name, address, and phone number.
13. Submissions that do not meet requirements of these Terms and Conditions shall not be read.
14. Any submission containing incorrect, false or unreadable information will be rejected.
15. Submissions made on behalf of another person (e.g. for reasons of accessibility or

disability) must have the author's permission including some form of proof of that permission.

16. Multiple submissions will not be read.

17. Stories submitted must be:

a. within the commercial adult fiction genre (namely crime, thriller, women's fiction or historical), which is to say that novels in other genres will not be considered, thereby excluding – among other genres – children's and Young Adult fiction, science fiction, fantasy, horror and literary fiction. Non-fiction will also not be considered. Sexually explicit content or scenes of extreme violence should not be included within your story.

b. in prose.

c. written in English.

d. not have been previously published/self-published or posted on publishing websites, forums or access platforms such as (but not limited to) Wattpad, Smashwords, Lulu, FanFiction, Completely Novel.

e. not have had an ISBN.

18. No correspondence between Avon/ DCT or the hopeful authors can be entered into, unless at Avon/ DCT request, and we will not respond to unsolicited communications.

19. In entering this competition you agree that, if you win, in order to proceed with the opportunity you will need to enter into (i) a contract with DCT on its standard writer agreement terms.

20. The prize, including the cash prize of £1,000, is payable direct to the winner upon signature of their contract with DCT. In addition to the winner, some finalists may have the opportunity to discuss their work being published in My Weekly Magazine and by entering this contest you agree to be contacted by Avon or DCT. However you can contact us to withdraw your agreement at any time.

21. The winner of the open submissions period will be notified by 19th September 2022, and an announcement will be made after this time.

22. This is a one-off opportunity, is non-refundable, non-transferable and subject to availability.

23. As part of the contract the winning author must be:

a. prepared to undertake editorial work on their story

b. prepared to undertake publicity and promotional responsibilities

24. There is no obligation on DCT to publish any of the entrants to the Open Submission, in the My Weekly Magazine or to offer any sort of editorial advice.

25. Avon and DCT's decision is final; unsuccessful entrants will be notified but no feedback will be provided on unsuccessful entries.

26. You will retain all copyright in your submission. By submitting your story you agree if you are chosen as the winner you will grant HarperCollins and DCT certain rights to publish your story. These rights will be detailed in the standard contributor contract with DCT, detailed at clause 19.

27. Neither HarperCollins nor DCT will be able to return any submissions, so make sure you have a copy stored safely before you submit.

28. Any personal information you give us will be used solely for reviewing your submission, and for confirming a valid award took place as per clause 30 and will not be passed on to any other parties without your agreement. HarperCollins' privacy policy can be found at: <http://www.harpercollins.co.uk/legal/Pages/privacy-policy.aspx> and DCT's privacy policy can be found at: <https://www.dcthomson.co.uk/privacy-policy/>

29. HarperCollins and DCT will not be responsible unless required by law, for any loss, changes, costs or expenses, which may arise in connection with this open submission period and HarperCollins can cancel or alter the open submissions period at any stage.- HarperCollins and DCT's decision as to who has won the competition shall be final, and no further correspondence shall be entered into.

30. HarperCollins and DCT must either publish or make available information that indicates that a valid aware took place. To comply with this obligation, HarperCollins and DCT will send the surname and county of the winner to anyone who writes to My Weekly, DC Thomson and Co., Courier Buildings, 2 Albert Square, Dundee, DD1 9QJ within 28 days after the competition closing date. If you object to any or all of your surname, county being published or made available, please contact DCT at mwstorycomp@dctmedia.co.uk. The entry instructions are part of the Terms and Conditions for this competition.

31. Any dispute relating to the competition shall be governed by the laws of England and will be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the English courts.