

An Invitation

Greetings and salutations! It is my pleasure to announce that this Fall 2009 term, WatSFic will be hosting a short story writing contest. As we are a club focused on science fiction and fantasy, only stories within these genres will be considered. For those of you who have been spending too much time at Callahan's Place, please be forewarned that we will *not* be accepting stories written about Zion's friction. Submissions will be accepted until Friday, November 27th, 2009 at 11:59 PM. All submissions must either be mailed to watsfic.writing.contest@gmail.com or submitted in person to the club member on duty during WatSFic library hours in the FEDS Club Library. Please include your full name, and contact information. Winners will be announced on December 7th, 2009.

Entries will be judged by a panel of judges selected from members of the club who are not competing in the contest. Please remember that while there is a 7,500 word limit, the emphasis will be on quality and not quantity. If you have an excellent story to tell in one thousand words, do not feel the need to pad it to 7,500 before submitting it. The following criteria, among others, will be taken into consideration:

- Originality & imagination
- Focus & clarity
- Authenticity, strength & distinctness of voice
- Organized, fluid writing style
- Emotion

That being said, do not be intimidated. Focus, clarity, emotion and such are nice, but at the end of the day, all that really matters is sheer awesomeness.

Submissions will be published and archived on WatSFic's website as of the announcement of the winning entries. If you wish your story to be published anonymously, please let us know; you will still be eligible to win the contest.

The Rules

1. The contest is open to all writers.
2. Entries will be accepted for previously unpublished work only. Parody is okay, plagiarism is not.
3. Submissions must not be longer than 7,500 words.
4. Entries will be judged blind. If you make a non-electronic submission, please do not print your name on your story itself, but rather on an attached sheet.
5. Please submit two hard copies of each entry, or one electronic copy.

6. Winners will be selected by a panel of judges selected from members of the club who are not competing in the contest.
7. Entries received after the Friday, November 27th at 11:59 PM will not be considered.
8. By submitting a story, you grant WatSFIC the right to publish it on our website along with all other submissions for this contest. You retain all other rights to the original work yourself.
9. Prizes will be awarded to the three stories judged best. Prizes will be determined by the club at its budget meeting, and announced once they are finalised.
10. There is no limit on the number of submissions, but no one is eligible to win more than a single prize.