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WRITER GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION

GENERAL

We view BEAR as an international resource, and we are interested in developing content of interest to Bears in the US and abroad. BEAR now publishes its print issues four times a year in a perfect-bound edition. These guidelines are created to make the editors' lives easier and our replies faster. If you won't follow them, we will have to return your submission unread!

CONTENT

There is no theme apart from content of interest to "Bears." Some of the content is available on the Web at bearmagazine.com. Please refer to the website as a style pro forma for articles. We accept both fiction and non-fiction.

Don't forget that the title is an important part of the story. Make it pertinent but don't tell too much. We generally don't favor one-word titles.

SUBMISSION

Because of the great number of submissions, we are accepting only two submissions per author per month. Each has to be submitted in a separate email. All submissions should be sent electronically to steven.wolfe@bearomnimedia.com. We do not accept any other forms of submissions. (US Mail submissions will be discarded or returned with SASE.)

BEAR accepts only original material. No reprints, please. Even if it has been displayed on your own Web page or blog, we consider it published. However, if Andrew Sullivan sends his previously published story, who are we to say no?

We are looking for porn, travel or other features generally no longer than 600 words and written in an upbeat and to-the-point style. (Submissions above 800 words require prior approval.) Erotic stories no longer than 2500 words. Fiction must have a plot. We are generally not interested in racial slurs, excessive gore, or obscenity. On the other end of the spectrum, no children's or preachy stories either please. Our target audience is people over 18; X-rated content is OK if not preferred. Most genres, other than religion, children's, syrupy romance or hard science fiction, are accepted, and we love humor.

The cash payments: Generally \$100-200, more or less, depends on your fame etc. In addition, every contributor will get one free copy. Non-US writers will be paid via PayPal.

In exchange for these payments, we ask for first international serial rights and First Electronic Rights. In addition, we ask for no posting of the accepted story anywhere on the Web, or in print in the United States or Canada, for 90 days after its exclusive appearance in BEAR. After this period, all rights revert back to the writer but we ask that you acknowledge BEAR in any subsequent printing of the material published here, be that on the Web or in hard copy. We also reserve archiving rights and anthology rights. Anthology rights are secondary, meaning that the author may sell his or her story to any other anthology market providing that 90 days passed after BEAR publication.

If your story is accepted for publication, you will be expected to sign a copyright assignment and contract. Please don't send a contract before your story is accepted.

Being writers, we understand the frustration of waiting for months and months for an editor's reply. Our target is to reply within three months, and we do allow simultaneous submissions. Please inform us immediately if your story is accepted elsewhere. If your story is accepted for BEAR, please withdraw it from other markets immediately. We usually do not keep a submission on file, so if you do not get an acceptance email prior to the publication on an issue, your story probably has been rejected.

SUBMISSION FORMAT

For security reasons, we do not open unsolicited attachments. The submissions should be saved as a PLAIN TEXT file and pasted into the body of your e-mail. Please make sure that you do not have curly quotes in your pasted file. No attachments of any kind, please. This means no HTML either. Please indicate italics with asterisks (*). Write single-spaced, don't indent paragraphs and do insert a blank line between paragraphs.

Because of spam, please only put the word "SUBMISSION" in the subject line. No quotes. Otherwise, we may not receive your correspondence.

A cover letter stating the title of your submission and word count, if applicable. Please enclose a 2-3 line third-person bio. We would like to know whom we are dealing with. Don't forget your legal name and the postal address so we can mail you the check. We will not consider an anonymous submission.

If you want to control spam, please approve our submission address beforehand. We will not go through the approval process for you.