

SUBMISSION OPPORTUNITIES

March–May 2026 compiled by Nina for Stonecoast MFA use.

Flash Fiction • Short Fiction • Poetry • Nonfiction • Anthologies • Paying Markets

Flash Fiction

1. SoFloPoJo — Flash Fiction (May 2026 Issue)

Deadline: March 15, 2026

Length: Up to 750 words

Pay: Not specified

Contact: Francine Witte, SoFloPoJo Flash Fiction Editor

One story, one submission per reading period. Simultaneous submissions allowed — withdraw if accepted elsewhere. Looking for flash that inspires, surprises, transports, and evokes. Submit your best work.

2. South 85 Journal

Deadline: March 13, 2026

Length: Flash category (check guidelines)

Pay: \$3 submission fee

Contact: Leslie Pietrzyk — south85journal@gmail.com

Accepts flash, fiction, poetry, and nonfiction. One submission per category per reading period. Surprise them with wit, form, and originality.

3. Rat Bag Lit — Drabbles

Deadline: Ongoing (March open)

Length: Exactly 100 words

Pay: \$1 per drabble

Strict 100-word format. Also opening for Susurrus-themed drabbles March 20 and micro fiction (up to 300 words, \$0.01/word) April 1.

4. Agita Magazine — Bad Science

Deadline: March 1–14 (general); March 15–21 (LGBTQIA+/disabled/BIPOC extended window)

Length: Up to 1,000 words

Pay: \$0.05/word

Horror or dark science fiction on the theme of 'Bad Science.' Only three stories accepted from open call. Extended window for underrepresented authors.

5. Barrelhouse — The Aftermath

Deadline: March 15, 2026 (or when cap reached)

Length: Up to 5,000 words prose; 3–5 poems

Pay: \$50

Theme: what happens after climactic events? Seeking short stories, poetry, CNF, and art. Closes mid-March or at submission cap, whichever is first.

6. Flash Point Science Fiction

Deadline: March 31, 2026

Length: 100–1,000 words

Pay: \$0.02/word

Science fiction only.

7. MetaStellar

Deadline: March 31, 2026

Length: 1,000 words max

Pay: 8 cents/word

Science fiction, fantasy, or horror.

8. Lemonwood Quarterly — Spring 2026

Deadline: April 17, 2026

Length: 2,000–10,000 words

Pay: Not specified; all authors paid + entered in \$1,000/\$500 annual contest

Contact: Jennifer Cannell — LemonwoodQuarterly@gmail.com

Short stories and plays only. No flash, poetry, or nonfiction. Especially seeks stories with adult female protagonists (30+). No AI-generated text. \$4 submission fee. Anonymous submissions via Submittable.

9. Adi Magazine

Deadline: March 31, 2026 (fiction)

Length: Up to 5,000 words

Pay: \$200 (flash); \$500 (short fiction)

Theme: alternative political visions, suppressed practices, movements. Prioritizes perspectives from global majority — POC, queer, marginalized peoples. Also open for essay/translation pitches.

Short Fiction

1. Plott Hound

Deadline: March 15, 2026

Length: 1,000–5,000 words fiction (prefer 3,000–4,000)

Pay: \$0.08/word (fiction); \$50 (poetry); \$100 (essay)

Speculative fiction and poetry starring animals, plus nonfiction. Accepts translations and reprints. Submit via Moksha portal.

2. ROF Publishing House — Whispers Made Flesh Anthology

Deadline: March 15, 2026

Length: 1,000–7,000 words

Pay: \$25–\$45

Stories where intangible things (ideas, fears, grief, rumors) take on physical form. Eerie, intimate, genre-blending. Folk Horror, Cosmic Horror, Dark Fantasy mashups welcomed.

3. Cast of Wonders — CoW Turns 15 (Birthday Stories)

Deadline: March 15–21, 2026

Length: 1,500–4,000 words

Pay: \$0.08/word (originals)

YA speculative fiction where a birthday is central to the story. Fantasy, SF, or speculative horror element required. Accepts translations, reprints, and writers under 18.

4. Wizard's Tower Press — They Are Still Here

Deadline: March 21, 2026

Length: Up to 7,000 words

Pay: £150

Fantasy anthology rooted in Welsh mythology and contemporary settings. Supernatural creatures help communities resist modern threats. Must be deeply grounded in actual Welsh settings. Open to non-Welsh writers who do thorough research.

5. Whisper House Press — Doom Scroll Anthology

Deadline: March 31, 2026 (general); April 15 (underrepresented writers)

Length: 200–2,000 words

Pay: \$30

Social media horror fiction. Extended window for diaspora/BIPOC/LGBTQ+/Autistic writers. Specific submission format required — check guidelines carefully.

6. Inkd Publishing — Behind the Shadows IV

Deadline: March 31, 2026

Length: 2,000–6,000 words

Pay: \$10 + royalty share

Horror fiction. Gore accepted but character engagement paramount. Satisfying ending required. Sci-fi/fantasy incorporation especially impressive.

7. Inkd Publishing — Beyond 2026

Deadline: May 15, 2026

Length: 2,000–6,000 words

Pay: \$10 + royalty share

Science fiction anthology. Interpret theme freely.

8. Foofaraw Anthology

Deadline: March 31, 2026

Length: 500–5,000 words (fiction); \$5 (poetry)

Pay: \$0.01/word (fiction)

Pieces must align with 'foofaraw': a great fuss about something insignificant, OR excessive ornamentation. Magical realism, speculative, SF, fantasy, literary, LGBTQIA+, horror, noir, absurdist all welcome.

9. DreamPunk Press — TEETH Anthology

Deadline: March 31, 2026

Length: 3,000–3,500 words

Pay: \$200

Eerie, creepy, Gothic fiction. Theme: TEETH. No gore or slasher. No reprints.

10. Kilter & Rammel — Fun in the Dark: Open Water

Deadline: March 31, 2026

Length: 2,000–5,000 words

Pay: £20

Horror, SF, fantasy, weird/bizarro, crime. Stories must feature large bodies of open water (oceans, lakes, reservoirs) as a focal point.

11. Cohesion Press — SNAFU: Level Up

Deadline: March 31, 2026

Length: 2,500–12,000 words

Pay: AUD \$0.05/word

Military/action horror. LitRPG-style story with characters who gain skills and 'level up' fighting horrendous beasts. Both fantasy and tech litRPG welcomed. Action must be central throughout.

12. Whytaker Lyon Press — Richmond Fantastic Anthology

Deadline: March 31, 2026

Length: 2,000–5,000 words

Pay: \$0.01/word

Speculative fiction (fantasy, horror, SF, slipstream, magical realism) set in the Greater Richmond, VA area. Werewolves at The National, telepathic otters at Maymont — all welcome. Writers from anywhere.

13. Cohesion Press — SNAFU Level Up

Deadline: March 31, 2026

Length: 2,500–12,000 words

Pay: AUD \$0.05/word

Military horror anthology. LitRPG-style stories with monsters and leveling up. Action from start to finish.

14. Air and Nothingness Press — Tea or Coffee, Stars, and Gravity

Deadline: March 31, 2026

Length: Not specified

Pay: \$0.08/word

Hard SF anthology. All three title elements (tea or coffee, stars, and gravity) must be key to the narrative.

15. Barrelhouse — The Aftermath

Deadline: March 15, 2026 or when filled

Length: Up to 5,000 words

Pay: \$50

Short stories, poetry, CNF, and art on the aftermath of intense life events.

16. Lemonwood Quarterly — Spring 2026

Deadline: April 17, 2026

Length: 2,000–10,000 words

Pay: Paid; entered in \$1,000/\$500 annual contest

Short stories and plays. Adult female protagonists (30+) strongly preferred.

17. Quest Magazine — Power

Deadline: April 15, 2026

Length: Minimum 2,000 words

Pay: \$250

Science fiction and fantasy examining real-world systems. Theme: Power (arcane, technological, institutional, intimate). Also accepts nonfiction, poetry, art, music, video.

18. Ninth Letter Web Edition — Reaction

Deadline: April 1, 2026 (or until filled)

Length: Up to 3,500 words (CNF)

Pay: \$75 (prose); \$25 (poetry)

Theme: Reaction — in chemical, physical, biological, psychological, political senses. Currently open for nonfiction only; may open for fiction/poetry.

19. Utopia Science Fiction — Cozy Utopias

Deadline: April 1, 2026

Length: 100–4,000 words fiction; up to 5 poems; up to 6,000 words nonfiction

Pay: \$0.08/word (fiction); \$25 (poetry); \$30 (nonfiction)

Marvellous, cozy utopias! Submission via form on website.

20. Adi Magazine

Deadline: March 31, 2026

Length: Up to 5,000 words

Pay: \$200–\$500

Alternative political visions. Privileges global majority perspectives.

1. Metphrastics — Pandora (Spring Issue)

Deadline: March 15, 2026

Length: Up to 3 poems

Pay: \$10/poem

Ekphrastic poetry only, responding to the Met's permanent collection. Entire spring issue devoted to Odilon Redon's 'Pandora' painting. Demons, the Pandora myth, WWI connections, vibrant imagery all welcomed.

2. The Deadlands — Speculative Poetry

Deadline: Open first three weeks of March 2026

Length: Up to 3 poems

Pay: \$50/poem

Poetry only (no other genres this window). Speculative poetry about death, grief, hauntings, history, the sublime, the uncanny. Formal and experimental both welcome. Submit via form.

3. Eye to the Telescope — Paying Tribute

Deadline: April 15, 2026

Length: Up to 3 poems

Pay: \$0.05/word (up to \$25)

Speculative poetry on the theme of tribute — to humans, posthumans, xenobiological life, fictional characters, scientists, cryptids. Parody, pastiche, satire also welcome. Accepts translations.

4. Rattle — Tribute to the Future

Deadline: April 15, 2026

Length: Up to 4 poems/pages

Pay: \$100 (online); \$200 (print)

Poems imagining the future — speculative, surreal, hopeful, or dire. Political, ecological, technological, spiritual, personal. Must include contributor's note about how poem envisions the future.

5. Violet Winding Stars Press — Poetry Chapbook

Deadline: March 31, 2026

Length: 20–35 pages

Pay: Not specified

Open year-round. Submit via Submittable only (no email). No response within 4 months = rejection.

6. Write Pittsburgh — New Dawn: Anthology of Writers in Recovery

Deadline: March 1 – April 30, 2026

Length: Up to 6 pages of poetry

Pay: Not specified

Contact: Sarah Velázquez — sarah@writepittsburgh.com

Poetry by writers who have achieved sobriety. Theme: 'gathering fire.' Poems do not need to be about recovery. No simultaneous submissions or previously published work. Word doc, Times New Roman 12pt, double spaced.

7. Stonecoast Review — Summer 2026 Issue #25

Deadline: March 15, 2026 (11:59 PM)

Length: Up to 3 poems

Pay: Contributor copy (print); no monetary payment listed

Print/online hybrid journal. Poetry may be single-spaced. Submit via Submittable. No AI-generated work. Simultaneous submissions allowed — withdraw immediately if accepted elsewhere.

8. Write Pittsburgh — WRITE Between: Imagining the Future

Deadline: April 1, 2026

Length: See guidelines

Contact: publishing@writepittsburgh.com

Theme: imagining the future — ideas, hopes, dreams, fears for communities. What can we do to make communities better? How can we work toward liberation? Also open Padlet separately.

9. Frenchman Bay Conservancy — Stories From Here Contest

Deadline: March 15, 2026 (11:59 PM)

Length: Up to 3 poems

Pay: Publication in FBC's Spring Newsletter and website

Nature writing contest. Personal connections to eastern Hancock County / Downeast Maine especially encouraged. Also accepting fiction and personal essays. Youth categories: kids (12 and under), teens (13–17).

10. Consequence Magazine

Deadline: April 15, 2026

Length: Varies

Pay: \$20/poem (print); \$30–50 (online)

Work addressing human experiences of war and geopolitical violence. Also accepts fiction, nonfiction, translations, and art.

1. Text Power Telling Magazine

Deadline: January 31 – March 13, 2026

Length: Varies by form

Pay: Free to submit

Contact: Anita Lakshman — anita@textpowertelling.org

Work by sexual trauma survivors, those who love survivors, and supporters (educators, therapists). Accepts memoir, plays, poetry, nonfiction essays, artwork, audio, video of dance, docu video.

2. Dismantling Press — Rage, Well Spoken

Deadline: March 31, 2026

Length: 1,000–7,500 words

Pay: \$0.04/word

Creative nonfiction by women-identified authors only (trans, cis, genderfluid all welcome). Confronting sexism, misogyny, patriarchy. Unapologetic, activist, impassioned essays treating rage as political.

3. Write Pittsburgh — New Dawn: Writers in Recovery

Deadline: March 1 – April 30, 2026

Length: Up to 3 pieces, max 1,200 words each

Pay: Not specified

Contact: sarah@writepittsburgh.com

Nonfiction and fiction by writers in recovery from addiction. Theme: 'gathering fire.' No simultaneous submissions.

4. Ninth Letter Web Edition — Reaction

Deadline: April 1, 2026

Length: Up to 3,500 words

Pay: \$75

Currently open for nonfiction only. Theme: Reaction — political, chemical, biological, psychological.

5. Chicken Soup for the Soul — Random Acts of Kindness

Deadline: March 31, 2026

Length: Up to 1,200 words

Pay: \$250

True nonfiction stories about giving or receiving random acts of kindness. Serious or funny, but must inspire readers.

6. Chicken Soup for the Soul — Positive Thinking

Deadline: March 31, 2026

Length: Up to 1,200 words

Pay: \$250

True stories of using optimism, faith, and strength. How did you change a negative attitude to positive? How did it turn your life around?

7. Stonecoast Review — Summer 2026

Deadline: March 15, 2026

Length: Up to 2,500 words (print); up to 5,000 words (online only)

Pay: Contributor copy (print)

Creative nonfiction. Experimentation with hybrid essay/memoir forms welcome. Socially relevant and personal work prioritized.

8. Consequence Magazine

Deadline: April 15, 2026

Length: Varies

Pay: \$30–\$50

Essays, interviews, narrative nonfiction on war and geopolitical violence.

9. Frenchman Bay Conservancy — Stories From Here

Deadline: March 15, 2026

Length: Up to 1,500 words

Pay: Publication in newsletter + website

Personal essays about the natural world, especially eastern Hancock County / Downeast Maine.

10. Quest Magazine — Power

Deadline: April 15, 2026

Length: Minimum 1,000 words

Pay: \$250

Nonfiction examining real-world systems through the lens of power. SF/fantasy adjacent.

Anthologies & Contests

1. MWPA CrimeFlash Contest — Ron Currie

Deadline: April 2, 2026

Length: Up to 500 words (including opening line)

Pay: Free registration to Maine Crime Wave + featured reading (winner); discounted registration (runners-up)

Open to Maine residents only. Must begin with provided line: 'I want you to understand, before we even get started, that there will be no neat Agatha Christie conclusion here. This is the real world, where there are no explanations for what happens.'
Submit via Submittable. No fee.

2. PARSEC Short Story Contest — Metamorphosis

Deadline: March 31, 2026

Length: See rules at parsec-sff.org

Pay: Prizes (see website)

Science fiction, fantasy, and horror. Theme: Metamorphosis. 30th annual contest. See full rules at parsec-sff.org/short-story-contest.

3. The Daily Tomorrow — Vegetal

Deadline: March 20, 2026

Length: 2,100–3,500 words

Pay: \$0.10/word

Serialized SF newsletter. Theme: plant life reimagined. Hypersensitive grains, dystopian forest worlds, carnivorous flowers, superhero lichen. If accepted, 300–500 word afterword also requested.

Paying Markets (Quick Reference)

1. Orion's Belt — Speculative Fiction & Poetry

Deadline: Opens March 1, 2026

Length: 1,200 words max

Pay: 8 cents/word

2. Sundog — Fiction, Poetry, Nonfiction, Art

Deadline: Opens March 1, 2026 (closes at capacity)

Length: Not specified

Pay: \$50

3. The Forge Literary Magazine — Prose

Deadline: Opens March 1, 2026 (monthly cap)

Length: Prefer under 3,000 words; up to 5,000

Pay: \$100

4. Midnight and Indigo — Black Women Writers

Deadline: March 31, 2026

Length: Short stories + personal essays

Pay: \$0.07/word (stories); \$150 (essays)

5. New Orleans Review

Deadline: March 31, 2026

Length: Varies

Pay: \$300 (prose); \$100 (poetry)

No submission fees for writers with visible or invisible disabilities during March.

6. Utopia Science Fiction — Cozy Utopias

Deadline: April 1, 2026

Length: 100–4,000 words

Pay: \$0.08/word

7. Cosmic Roots and Eldritch Shores

Deadline: April 2, 2026 (opens April 1)

Length: Speculative fiction

Pay: 8 cents/word original; 2 cents/word reprints

8. Cursed Morsels Zine — Surveillance Horror

Deadline: March 31, 2026

Length: Varies

Pay: 10 cents/word

Weird fiction with at least some focus on ICE/fascist occupation.

9. Heroic Fantasy Quarterly

Deadline: Opens March 2026

Length: Sword and sorcery fantasy

Pay: \$25–\$100 (stories); \$12.50–\$25 (poems)

10. West Branch — Poetry, Fiction, CNF, Translation

Deadline: April 1, 2026

Length: Varies

Pay: \$50 (poetry submission); \$0.05/word prose (max \$100)

11. parABnormal — Paranormal Nonfiction & Poetry

Deadline: March 31, 2026

Length: Varies

Pay: \$25 (original stories); \$10/poem; \$20 (articles)

Ghosts, hauntings, shapeshifters, folklore creatures.

12. Gordon Square Review

Deadline: March 31, 2026

Length: Poetry, stories, essays, hybrid prose

Pay: \$25/prose; \$10/poem

13. The First Line Journal — Summer Issue

Deadline: May 1, 2026

Length: 300–5,000 words fiction; 500–800 words nonfiction

Pay: \$25–\$50 (fiction); \$25 (nonfiction); \$10 (poetry)

Fiction/poetry must begin with: 'The summer between [his/her/their] junior and senior years, Alex worked as a server at Wharf Mountain.'

14. Translunar Travelers Lounge

Deadline: March 15, 2026 (March 15–21 reserved for writers of color)

Length: Speculative fiction

Pay: \$0.03/word (min \$20)