KNIFEPOINT HORROR FAN WRITING CONTEST 2024

- part of the [Knifepoint Horror Discord](#) community

introduction

"What is knifepoint horror?

There are many ways to tell a story, but to truly scare a reader, not merely entertain or amuse, horror should be pared down to such an essential, minimalist form that literally nothing is left over to allow the mind even a respite of a single paragraph. To accomplish this, the most primal element of storytelling---a single human voice describing events exactly as it experienced them, without the intrusion of a writer's artifice---is adhered to without variation or exception.

Knifepoint horror tells its stories through taut, unadorned first person narratives which carefully mimic the sound of that agonized human voice. It's a voice which needs to tell its tale so badly that it shuns all the stylish techniques which dilute, stretch, and burden tales of terror with unnecessary detail. To read knifepoint is to sit beside a stranger in the dark and hear him say, Now I will tell you exactly what happened to me.

Knifepoint can have no standard passages of dialogue, no excursions into the minds of characters other than the narrator's, no comic relief. It must sound to the ear like a spontaneous confession. Even the use of traditional upper and lowercase lettering is forbidden---only cold, emotionless capital letters may tell the story on the page. And even the most complex of tales, which might normally fill hundreds of pages, must be stripped down to its bare spine.

This is storytelling that absolutely must have a riveting story to work, simply because no other writing skills are truly allowed to emerge. The challenge for the writer is to scare a reader with no tools but a tremulous campfire voice too devastated to enhance the awful truth of its experience."

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The intro above was written by Soren Narnia on *www.knifepointhorror.com/* likely around 2007 as an introduction to Knifepoint Horror. Continuing the ambition of spreading chilling first person tales at knifepoint, we launch this fan contest in September of 2024; about 2 months after the dredging of the Wayback Machine by **@The Librarian** resulted in the following [link](#).

Hence, we invite you to **submit** a knifepoint story you'd like to see in the Knifepoint Horror **fan-made anthology of horror**, submitting it according to the **rules summary** below, and adhering to the slightly edited **rules of form***:

1) The story must be told in the first person, and begin with a simple statement of the main character's name.

2) There can be no entry into the minds or voices of characters other than the narrator.

3) No standard exchanges of dialogue can be included.

4) Regardless of the length of the story, there can be no chapter.

5) Extensive descriptions of settings or characters, which do not propel the story forward, are anathema to knifepoint horror.

6) In general, the story must be written so that it authentically mimics the sound of one person relating a chain of events to another through a rudimentary personal confession, single long journal entry, or oral account. Literary devices such as extended flashbacks, diary or epistolary formats, or other unusual techniques dilute the intent of knifepoint. Forbidden are such tried-and-true tools as prologues and epilogues, one-sentence paragraphs designed for shock or suspense value, introductory quotes, asides, and any hint of humor.

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* The rules of form presented above have been shortened, but retain the core of the original rules of form. However, rule 7 has been removed, and section breaks are now allowed; deviating from original rule 4. These changes are made based on the KPH transcripts, which feature section breaks and aren't all caps.

rules summary

1) Follow Sorens **rules of form**

2) Maximum word count **5000**

3) Submission deadline **2024-10-27 11:59 PM (GMT+1)**

4) Submit as a **Word/Google Docs** in **#contest-submissions-2024**

5) Submissions need to have a **Creative Commons** license*

6) **AI**-generated content **not allowed**

* See here for guidance: Choose a License (creativecommons.org)

contest details

Submitted stories will be collected in an anthology and published on the Knifepoint Horror discord server after the voting has closed.

The anthology will be named **A Fan Trilogy of Horror** and will contain the top 3 voted stories, with the winning story coming first.

Additionally, the **winning submission** will be **read by Soren Narnia** himself!

submission

The short version of the contest rules are found in the **rules summary** above. Following are further details relating to points 1-6):

1) **rules of form** by Soren Narnia are to be followed. If there are any uncertainties, ask about them via the **#general-contest-discussion**.

2) The **maximum word count** is set to 5000 in order to keep in line with the KPH stories of between 25-45 min reading length. Minor deviations may be allowed, but we refer to paragraph 3 of the introduction regarding the word count and general philosophy of knifepoint.

3) Submissions posted in **#contest-submissions-2024** after the set deadline will be disqualified from the contest.

4) Submissions should be posted by the creator in the channel **#contest-submissions-2024**. The allowed formats are Word (.docx), online Word, and Google Docs. No pdfs allowed to make editing easier.

5) All submissions must have a Creative Commons* license to enter into the contest, in accordance with Soren's philosophy. Please refer to the guide *Choose a License (creativecommons.org)*, or ask for guidance in the **#general-contest-discussion**. See example of CC licenses at the end of the document.

6) Since this is a writing contest for humans, no AI-generated content is allowed.

~~There is currently no limit on the number of submissions, but we encourage writers to focus their contribution to a single or *few* submissions.~~ **Update 2024-09-20:** Due to the large interest in the contest, we have decided to limit the submissions to **one (1) story per person**. We want for all to be able to read and judge all stories. Best of luck!

voting

The voting will take place on the discord from the **28th of October** until the **10th of November 23:59** (GMT+1).

- Each submission will have to be posted in a separate post under the channel **#contest-submissions-2024** on Discord.
- Everyone in the discord has a single (1) vote, which only can be used to vote for one (1) submission. **Update 2024-11-05: Contestants are not allowed to vote for their own submission.**
- The vote is represented by the ratbat () emote.
- If a user has voted for more than one submission, all their votes will be invalid.

The winner is the submission with the most votes! The same goes for 2nd and 3rd place.

draw

If there is a draw for any of the top 3 stories, the winner of the draw will be decided by a special vote by the contest organizers.

The special vote will be scored based on the following 3 categories:

1. How "**knifepoint**" the story is (*ie how well it follows the **rules of form** by Soren Narnia above*).
2. How **scary** the story is.
3. How **enjoyable** the story is.

For each category above, the story can get 1-5 points.

- 5 points: **exceptionally** "knifepoint"/scary/enjoyable
- 4 points: **greatly** "knifepoint"/scary/enjoyable
- 3 points: **quite** "knifepoint"/scary/enjoyable
- 2 points: **slightly** "knifepoint"/scary/enjoyable
- 1 points: **not really** "knifepoint"/scary/enjoyable

The winner of the draw is the story with the highest total sum of points.

If there is yet another draw, then a dice roll by the contest organizers will decide the winner. A 100-sided dice will be rolled openly for each story in the **#general-contest-discussion** channel on the discord server. The story with the highest result will be the winner.

contest submissions

Submissions for the Knifepoint Horror Fan Writing Contest 2024 have closed.

1. ***Plaza*** by Alex
2. ***flame*** by DW
3. ***sanitation*** by MagisterSieran
4. ***flood*** by China Dentata
5. ***Traces*** *(previously Mountain)* by Leith
6. ***weeper*** by David (Last Gasp Horror)
7. ***nightlight*** by Evelith
8. ***sirens*** by Gibb
9. ***favor*** by Clayton
10. ***guardian*** by mosten
11. ***mannequin*** by daftgoogazooba
12. ***edimmu*** by TL
13. ***hands*** by Logan
14. ***Trucks*** by LyraBunnyBear
15. ***occupant*** by erica
16. ***curtain*** by Sar
17. ***viaduct*** by greatsteak
18. ***glimpse*** by stilitana
19. ***scam*** by BuddhistBale
20. ***asylum*** by Ghidoran
21. ***memento*** by DrFrankenstein

All stories can be found and read here: 🖼 KPH FWC24 submissions