Gothic Fantasy Fest - Rules

Hosted by The Writing Heirs of Slytherin

Gothic Fantasy Fest
2024

A Harry Potter fanworks fest dedicated to and centered around our love for the gothic horror genre.

Submissions Due: Thursday, Oct. 17th

Fanwork Reveals: Tuesday, Oct. 22nd

Not all things that go bump in the night are meant to be feared...

Author & Artist Reveals: Thursday, Oct. 24th - Wednesday, Oct. 30th

Not all things that go bump in the night are meant to be feared...

Gothic Fantasy Fest is a Harry Potter fest dedicated to and centered around our love for the gothic horror genre!

The inspiration to host this fest came out of our desire to see more fanworks in the fandom where the darkness within us all is celebrated, embraced, and reveled in.

We hope, through the prompts we've created, that you'll allow yourself to indulge in what haunts you most!

This fest is hosted by The Writing Heirs of Slytherin Discord Server, a 30+ Slytherin-focused, Harry Potter community of writers and artists.

Our mission is to support fandom creators of all skill levels, all genres, and all shipping proclivities in developing their craft as storytellers.

With that being said, and due to the darker subject material of the prompts, please be mindful that the process of creating a submission for this fest may be triggering. So, take care of yourself, honor your limits, and enter at your own risk.

Important Dates

- ★ **Sign Ups & Claiming:** Monday, August 5th 12:00pm PDT – Tuesday, August 13th 11:59pm PDT
- ★ **Fanworks Due:** Thursday, October 17th at 11:59pm PDT
- ★ **Fanworks Revealed:** Tuesday, October 22nd at 12:00pm PDT
- ★ **Authors & Artists Revealed:**
  - ○ <u>**AO3:**</u> Monday, October 24th at 12:00pm PDT
  - ○ <u>**Tumblr, TikTok, & Twitter:**</u> Monday, October 24th – Wednesday, October 30th

Fest Rules

- All levels of writers and artists are welcome! Even if this is your first fest!

- Create any fanwork (fic or fanart) you like!

- Ensure that your main character of your fanwork is a Slytherin (no exceptions)!
  - ○ Any Slytherin from any of the Wizarding World eras is welcome. You may also choose to headcanon a non-Slytherin character as a Slytherin. However, it must be stated clearly and easily recognizable from your fanwork that they are a Slytherin. You can't just tag them as such.
  - ○ We will reject any submissions that try to do this as a workaround on this rule.

- All pairings and ship types (platonic, couples, and polyships) are allowed in this fest. You may also choose to focus your fanwork on only one character.

- **But this is where the challenge of the fest comes in:** Your fanwork must incorporate one of the 99 gothic horror prompts that we provide. Not only that, but your fanwork must <u>**meet**</u> the standard description of gothic horror (or its sub-genres. For example, Southern Gothic):

- - **Gothic literature definition:** The defining features of Gothic fiction include a fearful atmosphere, supernatural occurrences, and the encroachment of the past into the present. Typical of Gothic fiction, the setting is usually oppressive, with themes such as revenge, imprisonment, and murder.

  - **Horror literature definition:** "Horror literature uses terror as an art form to explore the darkest reaches of the human condition through fiction and to inspire a reaction in its audience. This is most commonly done by building tension or suspense using various story elements. Horror is meant to unsettle and disgust you."
    - **Source** (clickable link):
      - **Gothic vs. Horror Literature: A Study of Genres**

  - There are **12 additional Author/Artist's choice prompts**. But they are first-come, first-serve, and your fanwork will still need to be within the gothic horror genre.

- You do not have to be a member of **The Writing Heirs of Slytherin Discord** to participate in this fest. However, we do recommend joining so that you can be in contact with other fest participants! It's also the quickest way to get a hold of the admin team!
  - **Note:** Our server has a 30+ age requirement to join, but this fest is open to fic writers and artists of all ages!

- **Authors**: Your stories must be in standard prose format and may not be written *entirely* as poetry or text-message screenshots, AKA text fics.
  - **A note on word count:** There is no maximum word count for your work. But we do encourage you to submit a fic that is at least 1,000 words.
  - Also, we highly recommend utilizing the services of an alpha and/or beta reader **prior** to posting your work. However, it is not required.

- **Artists:** You may submit any form or medium of fanart you like, including moodboards. Just ensure that your artwork is created by you alone! AI-generated work and commissioned work from other artists may NOT be submitted!

- When you submit your fanart, embed it directly into the AO3 platform. You can include a link in addition to the embedded piece but not in lieu of. If you have trouble with this, please let us know!

- Your submitted fest piece **can** accompany another published work and be added to any other collection of works.

- Just please ensure you tag the appropriate trigger warnings for your work; this is non-negotiable.
    - Stories cannot use the 'Creator Chose Not to Use Archive Warnings' option.
    - Common triggers and squicks, as well as how to effectively tag your story on AO3, can be found **in this helpful guide.**

- With that being said, we ask all participants in our fest to refrain from kink-shaming, trope-shaming, and ship-shaming.
    - Instead, we ask you to abide by the three unofficial laws of fandom:
        - Don't like; Don't Read (DL;DR)
        - Your Kink Is Not My Kink (YKINMK)
        - Ship And Let Ship (SALS)

- This fest is an **Author/Artist Revealed** event. Your fanwork will be revealed on the dates listed above. We will then highlight your fanwork on our discord, Tumblr, Twitter, Pinterest, and TikTok accounts, the last week of October.
    - If you do not want us to share and promote your fanwork on our socials, please let us know in the appropriate answer box on the official sign-up form linked below.

Sign-Ups & Claiming Guidelines

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To sign-up for Gothic Fantasy Fest, complete the following steps:

1. **Claim Your Prompt on AO3:** Sign-ups & Claiming Period is over!
   a. **Please note:** The Writing Heirs of Slytherin Admin Team were allowed to claim prompts early as a reward for all of their hard work. So, if you see any claims that's why!

2. **Fill out our official sign-up form:** Sign-ups & Claiming Period is over!

3. **For those of you who will submit your fanwork through Tumblr,** please make sure to follow our **TWHoS Fests & Events** side-blog. We will post there on how to correctly submit your work to us, so that it can be shared properly! Our Official Tumblr can be found **here**!

AO3 Posting Guidelines

★ **Link to the AO3 Collection:** **Gothic Fantasy Fest 2024**

★ **Please fill out:**
- Rating
- Archive Warnings
- Fandom: Harry Potter - J. K. Rowling
- Categories
- Relationships
- Characters
- Additional Tags
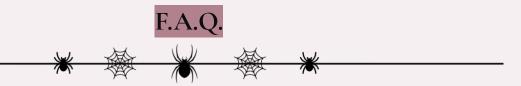- Title
- Summary (keep it brief; 3-4 sentences)

★ **In the Notes section you must write:**
- This fic was created for Gothic Fantasy Fest 2024 hosted by The Writing Heirs of Slytherin Discord server.
- My Chosen prompt and prompt #: (insert your chosen prompt here)

★ **In the Associations section you must select:**
- **Fulfill a claim:** Select the prompt you claimed (if you signed up correctly on AO3, your claim should pop-up here. If you need help with this, reach out to an admin in The Writing Heirs of Slytherin Discord or email us at **twhos.fests@gmail.com**
- **Post to collections/challenges:** Gothic Fantasy Fest 2024
- **(if applicable):** This work is part of a series
- **(if applicable):** This work has multiple chapters
- **Choose a Language:** English

★ **Formatting your story:** must use AO3's pagebreak, no fancy characters!

F.A.Q.

1. **Is there a minimum or maximum word count for fics submitted to the fest?**
   a. The minimum word count for fics is 1,000 words. There is no maximum word count. If your fic ends up being a multi-chapter story, you don't have to have all chapters completed before submitting to the fest. As long as the first chapter is completed, you *can* submit your WIPs!

2. **Can I include non-slytherin characters as minor background characters, ships, or pairings in my fanwork**?
   a. Yes! As long as your main character, ship, or platonic pairing are Slytherins, the other characters in your fanworks can be anyone you like.

3. **Does my fanwork have to follow a certain trope or be in a certain genre?**
   a. Yes! This fest is specifically for you to try your hand at creating a fanwork that fits within the scope of the Gothic horror genre. The darker your fic, the better as this fest is the perfect opportunity to lean into some dark, morally gray, and dead-dove works!

4. **Can I sign-up for more than one prompt?**
   a. Initially, no. However, if you complete your fanwork submission for the first prompt you signed up for before the fest deadline (and if there are still any prompts that have gone unclaimed), then you may claim another. Just remember though, the deadline will still apply for any additional prompts that you sign-up for. So, only do what you can reasonably finish **before Oct. 17th.**

5. **What if the prompt I want is already claimed? Can a prompt have multiple claims from different participants?**
   a. No. With the exception of the Author/Artist's choice prompt which allows up to 12 multiple claims, the intention is for there to only be **one claim per prompt.**

i. However, if there is a situation where someone *really* wants to do a prompt and it gets claimed by someone else and that's the difference between them participating in the fest or not...I'm willing to chat about it via email (**twhos.fests@gmail.com**) and seeing what we can do.

6. **Can I share that I'm creating something for this fest on other servers or on my social media?**
   a. Yes! Though your fanwork will be shared anonymously in the fest collection (that is until we do reveals), you are free to share as much or as little about your fest piece as you like. All we ask is that when you do, you let people know that you are making your fanwork for this fest!

7. **Can I request to NOT have my fanwork shared on TWHoS (The Writing Heirs of Slytherin) social media?**
   a. Absolutely! There is a part on our sign-up form where you can inform us whether or not you'd like us to share your fanwork on our socials! Otherwise, you can reach out to us directly at **twhos.fests@gmail.com**!

8. **What if I'm not sure about my fanwork idea or if it fits within the scope of gothic horror or not? Is there a way to run my idea past a member of the fest staff?**
   a. Yes! So, if you are not sure about your fic idea qualifying as gothic horror, please send an email to **twhos.fests@gmail.com**! We'd love to help you out and confirm your idea.

9. **What do I need to do if I need an extension past the deadline?**
   a. We left a few days past the deadline before we do the fest reveals, for this exact reason! If you have a fanwork that you complete after the deadline but before we do writers/artist reveals, we can manually add your work to the collection! We'll also still share it on our socials too! Unfortunately, though, we won't be able to add any works completed after the last day of reveals, **Oct. 30th**!

10. **What if my social media usernames or urls change before reveals?**
    a. That's absolutely okay! Just shoot us an email to let us know of the change at **twhos.fests@gmail.com**!

11. **What if I need to drop out of the fest?**
    a. Don't fret! You don't have to let us know or reach out! Simply, remove the prompt claim on your AO3 account and that's it!