

Open call: Writing submissions



*[[ THIS PROJECT IS CURRENTLY INACTIVE]]*

What is Battletech Pride Anthology?

A fanzine celebrating LGBTQ+ writers and stories set in the Battletech Universe. The first two [Battletech Pride Anthology](#) fanzines have been downloaded over 9.1 thousand times and viewed over 24.4 thousand times. It has appeared on frontpages of Polygon, PCGamer, and Dicebreaker, and has been featured and shared by both official CGL Battletech facebook and the utterly amazing folks at Sarna.

Pride Anthology is 100% by fans for fans, not associated with CGL nor TOPPS, and will be available for free 💖

What are we looking for?

Stories exclusively written by LGBTQ+ folks, set in any era of the Battletech Universe, preferably involving LGBTQ+ characters or topics, but that is not required. We are also going to invite a couple of non-LGBTQ+ guest writers, but open submissions are for LGBTQ+ folks only, sorry!

The Pride Anthology 2025 has a soft-theme, and all submissions will be considered, but additional priority may be put on submissions centered around the theme. This year's theme keywords are CLANS, ILCLAN, *CHALCAS* or DARK CASTE, and *SOLAHMA*. You can use any number of them for inspiration, guide, or just something to ignore 💖

All stories must be "Sarna Legal", aka confirmable and fitting to pre-existing lore and timelines as is on [Sarna.net](#).

Submissions should be between 4000-6000 words in length, in English, and in [manuscript format](#). Please note that stories can be a little bit over the limit, but should not be shorter than that!

You can submit as many stories as you want, but it is likely we will only have space for *one* story. Your stories must be unpublished prior!

Deadline

Final date for submissions is **2nd of April, 2025**.

## Submissions

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScogqreD9Vfmdvd4FsVXKQnEvrUTJ66AaDgo7P7blUg2ujAHA/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScogqreD9Vfmdvd4FsVXKQnEvrUTJ66AaDgo7P7blUg2ujAHA/viewform?usp=sf_link)

If you have any questions or want to discuss stuff, you can join [Star League Discord](#) to chat with us or ping me on Twitter ([@Detocroix](#)) or Bluesky ([@detocroix.bsky.social](#))!

## SOME Q AND A

### **Can I submit art for Pride Anthology?**

Sorry! Currently all artists are hand called in, but we'd love to see your art regardless!

### **Is it a paid writing gig?**

No, this is a fanzine and we don't have any budget for it. The anthology will be released for free.

### **Is this officially endorsed by CGL or TOPPS?**

No, this is purely, 100%, fanwork.

### **Do stories have to be centered on 'Mechs?**

No, stories should always be centered on and about characters who *might* be MechWarriors, or tank crew, or aerospace, or whatever else. 'Mechs and other vehicles are set pieces, but characters are what have the personality <3

### **How do I know I was selected?**

We will be contacting you through Discord privately if you're selected, and to send you feedback on your story. If you were not selected, we usually send information about it via email. We may not be able to give feedback on your submission, due to the volume of submissions, but we will try!

### **How is feedback handled?**

Usually general feedback is half a page, and then additional feedback as comments or edit suggestions marked throughout the story. We have done feedback over email in the past, and people have missed it or not received it, so going forward you're sadly required to be in [Star League Discord](#) for Pride Anthology.

The discussion of your feedback will be done in the same channels it was delivered in, if you do not adhere to this, you may be disqualified. If you disagree with the initial feedback, which is completely within your rights, we will talk it through together <3

## RULES OF CONDUCT

### **Submissions**

- Only submissions made via the form on the first page will be accepted.
- Submitted story must not have been published prior.
- All submissions must be in .DOCX file type
- In manuscript format
- 12-point Times New Roman
- Double-spaced lines
- No extra spaces between each paragraph
- Automatic first line indentation, do *not* put a tab at start

### **Feedback**

All feedback and discussion on feedback is to be handled via the channels the feedback was delivered to you, unless we move the feedback discussion to another avenue.

If you disagree with feedback given, you will first and foremost have to discuss it personally with the editor or person who delivered you the feedback. If you do not, you risk rejection.

### **Abuse**

If you make abusive comments or attack any of the editors or volunteers working on Pride Anthology, you will be rejected and blacklisted out of any future issues. There will be zero tolerance on abuse.

### **Repeat submissions**

If your story is rejected, please do not submit it again next year. The likelihood of a repeat submission passing the second time over without rejection is very low. It is always better to write a new story!

## MUST HAVES AND REMEMBERS

### DATE LOCATION

All stories must have a date location. Always, no exceptions. This is both a Battletech Thing, and an actually effective storytelling tool, because of all the information you can give the reader with very little work from you.

The date location is in all caps.

Simple example (see novels/Shrapnel for more indepth samples):

ANTARCTICA	(sublocation)
TERRA	(system)
INDEPENDENT	(faction)
1 JUNE 2025	(day month year)

### 'Mech

It is always written as a 'Mech as it is a short word from BattleMech. It is not a mech, nor mecha, not just Mech, not 'Mech. Also a protip, an easy way to write a 'Mech is to after a word to put in a normal single quote mark, then press left on keyboard, press space, and press right on keyboard and write 'Mech'. Once you do it once, it clicks, and becomes an easy standard <3

### *Italics*

All 'Mech names are written in italics, e.g. *Locust* or *Awesome*. All nicknames are also written in italics, e.g. a *Locust* called *Squiggles*. Plurals of 'Mech names are not in italics. E.g. *Warhammers*. Most combat unit names are italicized, e.g. *Aerospace fighters*, *DropShips*, *JumpShips*, and *Warships*, but not combat vehicles or battle armor. Do refer to canon stories for italicization, this is just here to get started with!

Other cases;

*Internal thought is in italics*, she thought.

*"Please practice safe distancing,"* the pre-recorded message blared through the station speakers.

*"Perkele,* I didn't want to do this," she said, using an old Finnish curse word, knowing all foreign words would be in italics.

### Viewscreens vs. Viewports

BattleTech 'Mechs have both a viewscreen and viewports. Generally you pilot a 'Mech by viewing through a viewport or window, with a ferroglass canopy. Viewscreen is an *additional* screen a BattleMech has that allows you a 360 degree compressed view outside your 'Mech. Viewscreen can also be projected over the viewport.

### Heat

BattleMechs are walking saunas (imagine a room with a main purpose of tenderly ~~steam~~sweat cook you). By default they're not comfortable for the pilot, you don't have a cooling vest to make you feel nice and cozy, it's on to prevent a heat stroke when operating a 'Mech. This is even before you start firing your lasers. When heat starts rising, it becomes a sweat box very quickly.

Now, you may think; "Why is this not at all reflected in Classic BT?", and the answer to this is rather simple; it's actually an extended heat scale rule. When you get to those, you can get killed by overheating, just as novelization wants <3

### **AUTOFORMATTING**

Do not fight it. Ellipsis has to be a single character ... NOT three dots in a row ... , quotes must be “aligned” not "unaligned", same with ‘single quotes’. Generally if your writing program wants to do this to these kind of characters, let it, it is probably correct! <3

### **BOLD**

BattleTech doesn’t use bold normal writing, so do not bold for emphasis, use *italics*. Bold is technically used in date location, but we will override formatting that will force bold on dateloc, so you only need to do it in all caps.

### **AMERICAN ENGLISH**

BattleTech is formatted in American English, so you should always adhere to it and have your writing program set to using it as default syntaxing / suggestions.

### **EMPTY LINE BREAKS**

Do NOT put empty line breaks between paragraphs. The only empty lines you have in your manuscript should be when a scene changes, but change is small enough to not warrant a new Date Location.

FIGHT OF THE WOLVERINES

MILLA KOPONEN

@Detocroix

HALL OF KHANS  
STRANA MECHTY  
CLAN WOLF  
5 JANUARY 2823  
0702 HOURS

Leri heard another gunshot echo within the Hall of Khans. The gunshots were becoming less and less frequent. Her Wolverine sisters and brothers were gunned down by the heavily armed rapid response unit. A detonator—her simple communicator, laid on the ground next to her, ringing a silenced tune. Everyone was too busy dying, or trying not to, to care about her bleeding out on the ground.

They had failed.

*We cannot fade to obscurity! The Wolverines—us, civilians, deserve the same status as warriors.* The fire still burned inside her, even through all the pain.

She reached for the detonator, gasping from the pain of the gunshot wounds decorating her body. Leri was dying, and she knew it. Every breath was agony, every move a torture.

A heavy boot fell painfully on her bloodied hand. She yelped from pain as the boot owner's weight was forced on her bones, crushing her knuckles together.

An olive shaded hand lifted the makeshift detonator from right outside her reach.

“What is *this*, freebirth?” A gruff voice said, grinding her hand under the heel of his boot.

“Your seeder is calling?”

“Give—me,” she whimpered, trying to tug her hand free.

“*Neg.* I have a better idea. How about... I will describe how I am killing you—in the moment. She will like it, *quiaff?*” The person stepped backwards, entering her fixed gaze fully; a Smoke Jaguar, in dark fatigues, holding a heavy slugger in one hand, snugged against his waist.

The brass statue of Nicholas Kerensky rose over him in the background, looming over his close shaved head like an angry deity of old. A deity they had wanted to destroy, to show the warriors that they, the civilians, can be as fierce as the warriors are.

The Jag lowered his gun towards Leri, pressing the barrel against her cheek. It was still warm from the last time it was fired to gun down her friends.

“*Beg, quiaff?*” The Smoke Jaguar lifted the communicator—no, the detonator, up, his thumb reaching for the answer button. “We want a good show, *savashri, quiaff?*” With a grim grin he pressed his thumb down.

The Hall of Khans shook to its foundations as the four high explosives they had planted exploded in unison, blowing out the thick brass legs of Nicholas Kerensky, sending a deadly blast wave of brass and ferrocrete in all directions.

She saw the Jag bloom like a flower as the shrapnel peppered him and the surrounding walls. The gored warrior fell to his knees, slugger clattering onto ground, groaning mouth agape.

Behind him, Leri saw the massive brass statue of Nicholas crash down on the ground, and fall forward, bringing the whole brazen might of the Founder over the Smoke Jaguar, mauling him to the polished ferrocrete floor.

A tiny smile spread on her lips as she drew her last raggedy breath.

*We did it!*