

This contract is made between [steve] of Whisper House Press, whose address is [address] and who is hereinafter referred to as the **Publisher**, and \_\_\_\_\_ **[AUTHOR’S NAME]** AKA \_\_\_\_\_ **[AUTHOR’S PEN NAME / PSEUDONYM, IF APPLICABLE]**, whose address is \_\_\_\_\_ **[AUTHOR’S ADDRESS]**, hereinafter referred to as the **Author**.

In consideration of mutual promises and forbearances, the parties agree as follows:

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**A. Author’s Grant.**

1. The Author grants permission to include the story entitled "**[INSERT TITLE OF WORK]**," a work of approximately **[INSERT WORD COUNT]** words, hereinafter referred to as the **Work**, in a web publication featured on WhisperHousePress.com, hereafter referred to as the **Site** or **Website**, to be published in an electronic format by the Publisher.
  - a. The story will be posted in a site category called “Monthly Features”—name subject to change—and will be promoted by the Publisher by specific-to-the-story social media posts and by association when the Publisher promotes the Monthly Features section of the Site or for other purposes.
  - b. The Author acknowledges that Works published on the Site are accessible on the open internet and may be indexed by search engines and accessed by third-party automated systems beyond the Publisher’s control.
2. The Author grants permission for the Publisher to include the aforementioned Work in an anthology set to include up to all of the year’s published short featured stories from the Website’s “Monthly Features” category.
  - a. The anthology will be called “Year Two: A Whisper House Press Anthology” (subject to change without notice or author approval).

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\_\_\_\_\_ Publisher Initials \_\_\_\_\_ Author Initials

## B. Rights Purchased.

1. This use of the Work by the Publisher entails the assignment of **Exclusive First Rights** for Publication via electronic distribution in the English language anywhere in the world. It is also understood and agreed that the Publisher may use this Work only as a part of promotions for and as a story featured on the Site.
  2. The Author grants the Publisher **international** and **non-exclusive First Anthology Rights** to reprint the Work in an anthology, which may be published in print, ebook, braille, large-print, and/or audiobook formats.
  3. The Publisher owns the rights to maintain the presence of the Work on the Site for an indeterminate amount of time.
  4. The Author shall retain all other rights to the Work not specified here.
  5. These rights are granted by the Author on behalf of themselves and their successors, heirs, executors, and any other party who may attempt to lay claim to these rights at any point now or in the future.
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## C. Additional Promises

1. The Author agrees not to publish or permit others to publish this Work in any form prior to its publication on the above-named website, nor until 90 days after the publication of the story in the Anthology—currently scheduled for publication in December of 2026 (subject to up to 90 days' revision time earlier or later than this month).
  2. The Publisher will provide the Author with one free author's copy of the Anthology
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## D. Payments.

1. For the rights granted to the Publisher above, the Author will receive a total payment in the sum of **\$30**. This total payment will be paid within thirty (30) days of signing this agreement,

\_\_\_\_\_ Publisher Initials \_\_\_\_\_ Author Initials

*This contract was developed in collaboration with generative AI tools. [Find WHP's AI policy here.](#)*

provided a method of payment specified by the Author via this agreement to the Publisher. Payments may be made via check or by another means agreed upon by the parties. This payment represents the Author's full share of payment for the Work.

- a. The Author is expected to make no repayment of advances/payments for any reason.
2. The Author agrees to inform the Publisher of their/his/her current address and phone number, email address, and (where applicable as a mode of payment) electronic transfer information (e.g., Paypal, Venmo, etc.) in this document (below).

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**E. Authors' Warranties and Indemnities (incl. A.I. agreement).**

1. The Author represents and warrants that they/he/she is the sole author(s) of the Work, that the Work is original, that the work has in no way been derived from or assisted by so-called "A.I." (i.e., large-language database-based generative A.I. and so on) and that no one has reserved the rights granted in this agreement. The Author also represents, to the best of their/his/her knowledge, that the Work does not contain any libelous material, and is not in violation of any rights of privacy or any other rights of third persons, and does not violate any existing common law or statutory copyrights, and has not been published before in any form (including on personal websites or for other uses on the internet).
2. Publisher's Acknowledgment Regarding Open Internet and AI Scraping:
  - a. The Publisher acknowledges that Works published on the Whisper House Press website are accessible on the open internet without a paywall and may therefore be subject to automated scraping by third-party artificial intelligence systems outside the Publisher's control.
  - b. The Publisher further acknowledges that in the course of administrative tasks — including website analysis for SEO and UX improvement purposes — the Publisher may, in the course of administrative tasks, direct AI tools to access open-internet pages of the Site, and these pages may include pages on which Works are published. The Publisher commits to:

- i. never intentionally submitting the Author's Work to any AI system for summarization, evaluation, training, or any other creative or editorial purpose;
    - ii. notifying Authors of any material changes to how Works are hosted or distributed online; and
    - iii. offering Authors the option to have their Work removed from the Site at any time upon written request, without affecting the Author's rights or obligations under the Anthology provisions of this agreement.
  3. Publisher's Good-Faith Efforts to Restrict AI Scraping: The Publisher has taken the following steps in a good-faith effort to limit automated AI access to Works published on the Site:
    - a. publishing a clear human-readable notice on the Site's policy pages asserting that content published thereon is not available for AI training or development purposes; and
    - b. making good-faith efforts to request platform-level robots.txt protections from the Site's hosting provider (WordPress.com).
    - c. The Publisher acknowledges that these measures are not technically enforceable against all automated systems and makes no warranty that they will prevent all AI access to published Works. They are offered as a documented, good-faith effort consistent with reputable industry practice.
  4. The Author agrees to hold the Publisher harmless against any judgment finally sustained that the Work contains libel, plagiarism, and/or invasion of privacy.
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## F. Changes in Text or Title.

1. The Publisher agrees to make reasonable efforts to notify the Author in advance of any editorial changes in text or to the title of the Work, and to secure the Author's approval for any such changes whenever possible. The Author agrees that such approval will not be unreasonably withheld and doesn't extend to layout approval.
2. Prior to publication, the Publisher will furnish the Author with an electronic galley proof or page proof of the Work. The Author agrees to return such proof with requested corrections in not more than ten (10) days from receipt thereof. **If the Author fails to return revisions within**

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**this ten-day period, the Publisher is free to proceed with publication as it judges best for the publication without further input from the Author.**

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**G. Reversion of Rights.**

1. In the event that the above-mentioned Work has not been published by February 1, 2026, rights revert to the Author, and the Author has the right to sell or arrange for publication of the above-named Work in any manner, with the reservation that the Publisher will have the non-exclusive, one-time right to include the above-named Work in a web publication of stories whose theme the Work fits at any time in the future without paying any additional monies beyond those already paid to Author under this agreement, and without prejudice to all other rights of the Author in this agreement. If the Publisher intends to exercise this non-exclusive right, the Publisher must notify the author; it is then incumbent upon the Author at that time to notify the Publisher of conflicting contractual obligations, and the non-exclusive right described herein will not supersede that first-publication right the author has sold to another publisher.
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**H. Copyright.**

1. The Publisher agrees to list a proper copyright notice on the website and to take all reasonable steps to protect that copyright in the United States.
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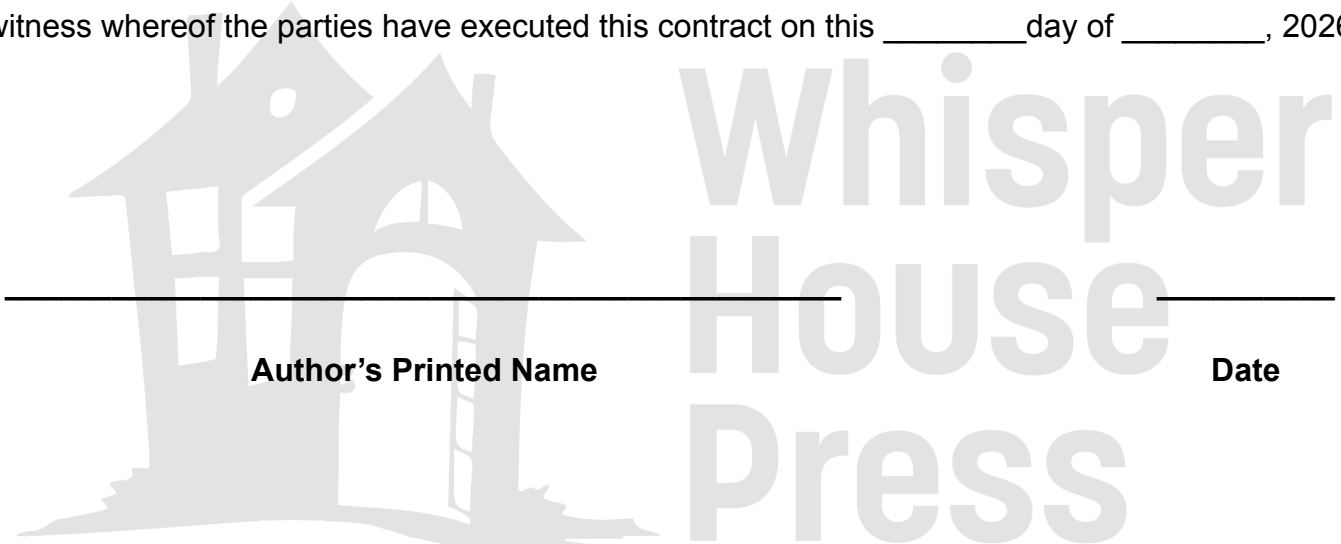
**I. Venue.**

1. This agreement shall be deemed executed under the laws of the state of Utah. Utah law shall be the applicable law of this agreement.
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**J. Execution.**

The parties acknowledge that each had read and understood this contract before execution.

In witness whereof the parties have executed this contract on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.



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**Author's Printed Name** **Date**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Author's Signature** **Date**

For the Author: Indicate where **digital payment** should be sent:

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\_\_\_\_\_ Publisher Initials \_\_\_\_\_ Author Initials

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**Publisher's Printed Name**

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**Date**

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**Publisher's Signature**

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**Date**

Please initial each page and sign and return all copies via PDF scan and email to editor@whisperhousepress or mail to the above-listed mailing address of the publisher.

This offer for an agreement is valid for fourteen (14) calendar days from the date noted beside the publisher's name and signature and is understood to be void after that time. A non-response exceeding that time frame will be assumed to be a rejection of the offer.

\_\_\_\_\_ Publisher Initials \_\_\_\_\_ Author Initials