Golden Apples n Poisoned Chalices Info…

About

This year's MCC Zines Anthology, 'Golden Apples and Poisoned Chalices,' is a femme-focused mythological fantasy limited-print zine exploring how feminine figures are portrayed in myths, legends, and folklore. We're looking for short comics, short stories, and illustrations to create a zine that delves into the duality of women in mythology.

Submissions should be kept within the zine's PG-13 rating. LGBTQIA+ content is welcome.

Applications:
Artist- https://forms.gle/9zNkpDSf7rfSRbkv5
Writer- https://forms.gle/Cvf43MEc9XE47AXq6

Social Media	Specs
http://www.facebook.com/groups/mcczines	Digital + Physical Zine (Merch tbd)
Tumblr: https://mcczines.tumblr.com	6.625 x 10.25 inches, portrait-orientation full-color printing, no bleed.
Twitter: https://twitter.com/MCCzines	Perfect bound book, approx. 100 pages
Email: mcczines@gmail.com	Estimated 30 Contributors/Teams

Contributor Information

This zine's final set of deliverables will include a 6.625"x 10.25" inches perfect bound book, upgraded to hardcover if stretch goals are met. Below, you'll find a list of what's expected of contributors:

Accepted page artists are expected to create a single-page illustration or one spread. Spreads are determined based on pitch and space availability. I estimate there is room for five spreads in the current plan, but this may change.

Accepted comic creators will have up to 8 pages for their comic, including a cover image/page. There will not be an avenue to team up post-applications, so please have your team assembled prior to applying.

Accepted writers are expected to write up to 3 poems, with a maximum of 1500 words, or a story/essay up to 2500 words. Writers may pair up with an artist for a spot illustration, up to a 1/2 page size after joining the project.

Usage Rights: Contributors will retain the rights to their pieces, but I request that contributors not share, sell, or post/publish full and/or final iterations of their pieces until 2 weeks after our preorder shipping period (est. February 2026). Sharing of previews and works-in-progress are allowed during the creation period (after the first check-in) and during the preorders period (after final submissions). **Up to a third of writing or illustrations, and the cover art for individual comics can be shared.**

If you want to become a potential contributor, please read our guidelines below. This document has everything you need to know to apply as a contributor!

Compensation

Contributors will at least receive a free high-resolution PDF of the zine, but I'm aiming to provide all contributors with a complete merchandise bundle. If pre-order funds are not successful, they'll receive a complimentary digital copy of the zine and can buy books and items at production cost.

Schedule

The schedule is tentative and may be subject to change. This schedule runs in EST (GMT-5) timezone.

May 23– June 13	Contributor applications open
June 13– June 27	Contributor acceptance period
June 28– October 5	Creation period with 3 check-ins
September 9th	Preorders open through Printopia on Backerkit
December/January	Production
Early February 2026	Estimated shipping window

Applications

What are we looking for? *A solid pitch!* When applying for the zine, you are encouraged to pitch an idea for your piece. I want the zine to include a variety of legends, myths, and original fantasy content. Be as elaborate and creative as you'd like!

Comic Teams:
You can be a solo creator, artist/writer pair, or assembled team—but there is **no** match-up process included; your team must be ready/established before applying to this project. If you'd like to connect with other creatives and build a team, I have set up an open call channel in my Discord server to help folks pair up: https://discord.gg/Y7MBrebqaU

After the applications are processed and accepted, I will open a merch art call for interested artists. If you'd like to apply, please review the application requirements below.

General Application Requirements

★ All applicants must be at least **18 years old** at the time of their application.
★ As this is a PG–13 zine, **please do not include NSFW** pieces and WIPs on your application.
★ Works presented on your application should be indicative of **the type of style and quality** you are willing to create for the zine.
★ Please submit a link to any platform that presents your best work. Your portfolio could be hosted on Google Drive, Wix, ArtStation, DeviantArt, Tumblr, Twitter, Instagram, etc. I only ask that you make sure the links are easily accessible.

ART

★ Make sure to follow our general application requirements above.
★ Please provide at least **3** samples that best represent your work.
★ Comic creators: comic examples are not required (but highly encouraged!)

WRITING

★ Make sure to follow our general application requirements above.
★ Please provide at least **3** samples that best represent your work.

★ If submitting from a longer piece of work (ex: narrative piece), please make sure that your excerpt is no longer than **1000 words**.

Zine Specs for Contributors

Deeper into the Theme:
The duality of female portrayal in myths and legends is timeless– women can often be divine or dangerous, revered or reviled, powerful yet often constrained by the stories told about them. In this zine, feel free to explore this theme with your own epic creation, whether it's a retelling or portrayal of something well-known, or your own creation.

Ideas to consider:

Gifts & Curses – Women in myth often hold power through objects, whether blessed (golden apples, magical mirrors, sacred torches) or cursed (Pandora's box, poisoned chalices, threads of fate). How do these gifts define their legacy?

Monstrous or Divine – From sirens and witches to goddesses and saints, femme figures in myth walk the line between worshipped and feared. What happens when they reclaim their own stories?

Fate & Free Will – Oracles, seers, and fated queens—what if they defy prophecy?

The Unruly & The Revered – Women in mythology are often punished for ambition, desire, or defiance. What if their stories were rewritten?

Page Art:
The Zine will be portrait 6.625"x 10.25" in size with no bleed (I will format in bleed). Full-page illustrations should be within these measurements; 2-page spreads are allowed. Artwork can be in RGB or CMYK, but CMYK is preferred for universally matching print colors. Artwork should have a minimum of 300 dpi for quality printing. File formats that are accepted: jpg, png, tif, and pdf

Merch:
Digital: All digital (non-printable) rewards should have a minimum of 100 dpi. PSD files are welcome. Digital desktop wallpapers are recommended to be 2560 x 1140 pixels, or a 16:9 ratio. Digital phone wallpapers should have a 16:9 aspect ratio, and the recommended size is 900 x 1600 pixels. Wallpapers are preferred to

be rgb color and .png or .jpg format.

Printable coloring pages will be 8.5" x 11" and should be black-and-white images with no colors or greyscale in the artwork. PNG or PDF is preferred for the file type, and the minimum dpi is 300.

Printable art should be either 5"x7" inches or 8.5"x11.5" and 300 dpi in CMYK–jpg or png files are preferred.

Bookmarks should be 2"x 6", 300 dpi in CMYK, and have imagery for front and back. I will format them into a printable template, so only the artwork is needed in jpg/png format.

Physical: All physical rewards should have a minimum of 300 dpi. PSD files are welcome.

Art prints will be 5"x7" or 8"x10". Artwork can be in RGB or CMYK, but CMYK is preferred for universally matching print colors.

Bookmarks should be 2"x6", 300 dpi in CMYK, and have imagery for front and back.

Stickers will be between 2-3". Please do 2 stickers designs at a minimum, and the artwork can be RGB or CMYK.

Sizing for magnets and charms will depend on design, but artwork should be at least 5", and CMYK color.

Wood or acrylic pin design details can be discussed.

If you have any questions about submitting your work for the zine, please let me know! mcczines@gmail.com

Final Submissions:

Art:
Illustrations: The Zine will be portrait 6.625"x 10.25" in size with no bleed (I will format in bleed.). Full-page illustrations should be within these measurements; 2-page spreads are allowed. Artwork can be in RGB or CMYK, but CMYK is preferred for universally matching print colors. Artwork should have a minimum of 300 dpi for quality printing. File formats that are accepted: jpg, png, tif, and pdf. Please name files with your contributor name included.

Comics: Comic Page files should be numbered. (example: Loveless_pg.1.pdf)

High-resolution (at least 300 dpi) png, tiff, and pdf files are acceptable. You can create a folder on the drive to place page files or upload a zipped file. Please include your comic title and contributor names in your file/folder name when submitting your final submission.

Writing:

Prose should be single-spaced and a maximum of 2500* words, beginning with the title of the piece **and** your credited name. Doc or Docx files are preferred for submission. The zine will use the serif font, Quincy Memories, in 11 pt. However, you don't have to submit your work using this font. All prose will be checked for grammar, and the edits will be sent to you for approval before publication. (There won't be content editing, but feel free to request feedback via email or on the Discord server during the creation process.)

Poetry should be submitted in one document, beginning with your credited name and the title above the poem(s). The maximum word count is 1500 and Doc or Docx files are preferred for submission.

FAQ

What is a zine?
A zine is a small-circulation, self-published work of original writings and/or art.

What is this zine about?
The zine is a **femme-focused mythological fantasy zine** exploring how feminine figures are portrayed in myths, legends, and folklore.

What is the rating for this zine?
The zine is rated PG-13.

Will the zine be physical or digital?
I intend to release the zine digitally, with a Backerkit campaign during Printopia to fund a limited print run for physical copies.

How will contributors be compensated?
Contributors will at least receive a free high-resolution zine PDF, but I aim to provide all contributors with a complete merch bundle. If pre-orders do not cover the cost of full bundles for contributors, I want to include a complimentary copy of the zine (US Domestic shipping included), and they can buy extra items at production cost. If contributors would like to order extra zine copies, there will be an opportunity to do so at cost during pre-orders. Any change to the financial model will be announced accordingly.

How old do I have to be to apply?
To be considered for the zine, all interested contributors must be 18 or older by the time of their application.

How many contributors are you accepting?
I anticipate about 30 contributors/Teams.

Where will the Crowdfunding proceeds go?
After covering production and shipping for customer orders first, the remaining crowdfunding funds will be put toward contributor bundles. If preorders do not cover production costs for the planned items; every contributor will at least receive a digital copy of the zine.

Will you ship internationally?
Yes! International shipping will be available at an additional cost. Please note that some restrictions may apply based on the country.

Contributor Information

Will traditional art be allowed?
Yes. Please make sure to provide a clean, high-quality scan of your work. Scanning in at 600 dpi is recommended.

Is Fanart allowed in this zine?
No, this zine is dedicated to original works from contributors.

Will You edit my piece before publication?
For art, you're welcome to request feedback from the group along the way as w.i.p.s are posted. For poetry and prose, you can also request feedback in the discord server. I can't commit to line-editing or giving personal feedback for everyone, as much as i'd like to, I'm a project team of one. As far as included editing, I will look over everything as files are submitted, prose will be run through a grammar check (grammarly) before publication. I do not use AI tools to make suggestions; I only look for spelling and typographical errors, as well as grammatical errors. Any content editing needs to be done through your creative circle or group feedback requested in Discord.

Is A.I.-generated content allowed?
No.

Is A.I.-assisted editing for writing allowed?
If the piece is conceived and written by an author, but you run it through a system for grammar checks and/or editorial help, that does not disqualify your piece from being submittable.

Can I submit an older piece for the zine?
No; please make sure that the piece is unpublished and brand new. Contributors can publish or post their pieces elsewhere after the zine is published.