



# SUBMISSION GUIDELINES





## SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

### WHAT WE WANT

Dreamspinner Press seeks gay male romance stories in all genres. While works do not need to be graphic, they must contain a primary or strong secondary romance plotline and focus on the interaction between two or more male characters.

The main characters of the story must end in a gay or all-male polyamorous relationship. Other relationships (heterosexual, lesbian, mixed-gender polyamory, etc.) are acceptable in secondary pairings or as part of the development of a main character.

**Updated 10/5/16:** Dreamspinner Press will give priority attention and review time to strong single-story romances. Works that are intended to be a sequel or part of a series must be approved prior to submission by Editor in Chief Lynn West by mailing [lynnwest@dreamspinnerpress.com](mailto:lynnwest@dreamspinnerpress.com).

We encourage tales that cross genres. For example, a science-fiction mystery or romantic fantasy. Stories can stand alone or be part of a well-developed series. We publish a wide range of genres, including:

- Contemporary Romance—Modern love stories with strong characters.
- BDSM—These stories of erotic romance feature BDSM and Kink themes as part of the plot and portray some extent of the lifestyle. Themes may include variations of BDSM/Kink, bondage, fetish, and/or role-play.
- Coming of Age—Romantic fiction about young adult characters written for an adult audience, possibly containing explicit adult themes.
- Erotic Romance—Do you like your romance extra spicy? These stories of erotic romance include explicit, extreme,

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and/or adventurous sex. Some stories may include scenes with multiple partners or depictions of acts generally considered in the realm of BDSM or Kink—such as spanking, light bondage, submission, etc.—but not as a thematic element of the story or in the depiction of a lifestyle.

- Fantasy—Let your imagination take flight in these stories of romance amidst magic, satyrs, gods and goddesses, and more. Includes Fairy Tales, High Fantasy, Mythology, and Urban Fantasy.
- Historicals—Stories of M/M romance in recognizable historical settings: the Ancient world, the Americas, Europe, and other world locations.
- Holidays—Valentine’s Day, Halloween, Christmas, and more.
- M/M/M and More—If two is great, then three might be better! Stories of gay male romance with more than two men involved.
- Mystery/Suspense—Provincial country detectives, fast-paced thrillers, espionage and in-the-field stories, or hard-boiled private investigators.
- Paranormal—Scare us with your vampires, ghosts and spirits, zombies, and things that go bump in the night.
- Science Fiction—Outer space, urban fantasy worlds, futuristic, time travel, steampunk, and alternate reality stories.
- Transgender—Romantic stories focusing on transgender characters and/or themes. *Please note:* Submissions selections for romance in the transgender category must positively feature trans characters who identify as male ending the story within a gay male relationship.
- Westerns—Cowboys, ranchers, rodeo riders, and Native Americans, contemporary or historical.

## IMPORTANT NOTES

Dreamspinner Press will not publish gratuitous depictions of incest, rape, and other extreme material included for the express purpose of titillating the reader. We also maintain a specific Fair Use policy. Download a copy of

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our Editorial Policies, available on the Publish With Us page of our website, for specifics on confidentiality, editing, questions of legality, and content.

We do not accept previously published material, partial manuscripts, or simultaneous submissions. We will review your submission as quickly as we can, and we ask that you respect our editors' time by not submitting your manuscript elsewhere until we have completed our review. Partial manuscripts will be declined immediately.

We are currently not accepting manuscripts of fewer than 15,000 words unless they are submitted for inclusion in an announced anthology. To see a list of anthologies with open calls for submission, visit the Publish With Us page of our website.

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## TO SUBMIT

Send your submission to: [submissions@dreamspinnerpress.com](mailto:submissions@dreamspinnerpress.com). The word Submission must be in the subject line.

Send in the body of the e-mail:

- Your legal name, pseudonym if applicable, and contact e-mail address.
- Working title, series name if applicable.
- Genre and manuscript length.
- General story description in two paragraphs.
- Writing credentials.

Attach to the e-mail:

- A short but complete story summary and/or synopsis.
- The complete manuscript, for all lengths of works.

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## FORMATTING YOUR SUBMISSION

Please follow these simple formatting guidelines. Our editors will thank you.

- Submissions will be accepted in .docx, .doc, .rtf, and .txt formats.
- Standard 12 pt Times New Roman, 1 inch margins, .5 indent for the first line of each paragraph. 1.5 line spaces between lines. No tabs or spacing to indent, please! Page numbers in the upper right corner, author name in the upper left corner with the title of the work following. Example: Stephen King / The Shining
- All submissions must be spellchecked and edited for American English grammar and spelling. Regional words and slang are acceptable when appropriate.
- Dreamspinner Press edits works using *The Chicago Manual of Style* as its primary reference. Editing your work to these standards prior to publication will greatly facilitate the publication process.

## LENGTH STANDARDS

- Novel: 60,000 words and up
- Long Novella: 45,000-59,999 words
- Medium Novella: 30-44,999 words
- Novella: 15-29,999 words

We are currently not accepting manuscripts of fewer than 15,000 words unless they are submitted for inclusion in an announced anthology. To see a list of open calls for submission, visit the Publish With Us page of our website.

## WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM US

- Unsolicited manuscripts are accepted at any time for the Dreamspinner Press imprint.
- We will acknowledge all submissions by e-mail within five to seven days.

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- Submissions will be read by an editor and you will have a response within eight weeks.
- Electronic contracts are exchanged via e-mail.

## ADVANCES AND CONTRACT TERMS

- All accepted works must be provided to us as an electronic file.
- All novels are contracted in print and digital formats, which are released simultaneously. A \$500-\$1,000 advance is generally offered and paid in a single payment upon receipt of the signed contract. Once the advance is satisfied, novels earn 40% royalties for digital sales and 30% royalties for paperback sales.
- Novellas are released in digital format. A \$200-\$500 advance may be offered at the discretion of the publisher. Novellas earn 40% royalties for digital sales.
- Short stories and novellas for anthologies are purchased for a flat amount based on the length of the work. Exceptions are made for an anthology of shorter fiction by a single author in which case the novel length guidelines apply.
- Copyright remains with the author.

Updated: 10/5/16

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