



WOW! SPRING 2008 CONTEST

MARCH 1ST—MAY 31ST

DEADLINE: MAY 31ST MIDNIGHT (PACIFIC TIME)

Prizes

1st Place: \$200.00

+ Goodie Bag, Published on WOW!, \$50 Gift Certificate to the WOW! Boutique, 1 Year Subscription to the Premium-Green Markets Community, Interview on the WOW! Women On Writing Blog.

2nd Place: \$150.00

+ Goodie Bag, Published on WOW!, \$50 Gift Certificate to the WOW! Boutique, 1 Year Subscription to the Premium-Green Markets Community, Interview on the WOW! Women On Writing Blog.

3rd Place: \$100.00

+ Goodie Bag, Published on WOW!, \$50 Gift Certificate to the WOW! Boutique, 1 Year Subscription to the Premium-Green Markets Community, Interview on the WOW! Women On Writing Blog.

7 Runners Up:

Goodie Bag, Published on WOW!, 1 Year Subscription to the Premium-Green Markets Community, Interview on the WOW! Women On Writing Blog.

25 Honorable Mentions:

Goodie Bag, Name, Title of Story, and City, State, and Country published on WOW!



Guest Judge:

Literary Agent, Wendy Sherman

Wendy Sherman launched her Agency in 1999 following a twenty-year career in publishing. Her experience includes being Associate Publisher and Executive Director of Henry Holt as well as positions as VP and Director of Sales, Marketing and Subsidiary Rights at Simon & Schuster and Macmillan. With this experience, the Agency offers a competitive edge to its clients.

Wendy Sherman Associates has an impressive roster of well established, critically acclaimed and award-winning clients that range from literary to more commercial, including **Nani Power** (Crawling at Night), **Howard Bahr** (The Black Flower), **William Lashner** (A Killers Kiss), **Liam Callanan** (All Saints) and famed actress **Rue McClanahan** (My First Five Husbands). Attracting a wide range of fiction and non-fiction authors, the agency is especially well known for discovering new writers, including **Therese Fowler**, author of *Souvenir* one of the most talked about first novels of the year (March 2008, Random House/Ballantine), which is a Barnes & Noble New Reads Book Club choice, a Book Sense Notable and has been sold in eighteen countries (so far). With two younger agents, Michelle Brower and Emmanuelle Alspaugh, the Agency also attracts the next generation of writers.

Find out more about Wendy by reading her interview on WOW! Women On Writing:
<http://www.wow-womenonwriting.com/15-FE-WendySherman.html>

WOW! WOMEN ON WRITING
SPRING FLASH FICTION CONTEST 2008
~ TERMS AND CONDITIONS AND FAQs ~

OPEN PROMPT

This season we leave the contest completely open to you! This means you get to decide the subject matter and story for your flash fiction entry. You have the freedom to be as creative and original as possible. Have fun!

WORD COUNT

Minimum: 250 Maximum: 500

The title is not to be counted in your word count. We use MS Word to determine the submitted entry's word count.

CONTEST DEADLINE

May 31, 2008 at midnight, Pacific Standard Time. You can sprint like Cinderella at midnight, but you run the risk of having your story become mouse food. In other words, you've worked hard on the story—safeguard it! Act like the deadline is a day or so *before the deadline*.

ENTRY FEE: \$5.00

To pay by credit card, go to: <http://www.wow-womenonwriting.com/contest.php>. Click on the "Buy Now" button. It will take you to PayPal. From there you have two options:

1. Pay Fast with PayPal (If you have an account, choose this option).
2. If you don't have a Paypal account, pay by credit card. (If you'd rather not create a PayPal account, you can pay by credit card here.)
3. If for some reason, you do not have a credit card, or a PayPal account, you may send a check or money order if it is early enough. We typically discourage this for it is harder for us to verify and takes time, but if you must, please send to: WOW! Women On Writing, 740 S. Van Buren Suite D, Placentia, CA 92870. Please make sure you put your check number at the bottom of your email when submitting your entry.

** Please make sure you include your PayPal Transaction ID# at the bottom of your email contest submission.

SUBJECT

Type "Spring Contest Submission" in your subject line when you email your submission. Please do this to ensure that we do not miss the story that you have worked so hard on.

SUBMISSION CONFIRMATION

Our Auto-responder will thank you for submitting. It is not a clock watcher or calendar reader. If your submission is LATE, we humans will note that fact and your story will be disqualified; but our non-prejudicial auto-responder will simply say thank you.

DISQUALIFIERS

1. Turning in your submission LATE! That means we would have received it AFTER midnight, May 31, 2008. If you read articles concerning your chances of winning a writing contest, they will always remind you to get entries in early rather than late. Please take the advice, including ours, because we have no desire to disqualify anyone's entry.

2. We will reject any submission that MS Word counts under 250 words or above 500 words. **THIS DOES NOT COUNT YOUR TITLE OR YOUR PERSONAL CONTACT INFORMATION, AT THE END OF YOUR STORY.**
3. You didn't pay for your contest entry. The fee helps cover contest costs and the generous prizes.

THE 14 WOW! GUIDELINES

1. Your story must be fiction, flash fiction.
2. Your submission must be **Minimum: 250 words; Maximum: 500 words**. This does not count your title or personal contact information that you add at the END OF YOUR STORY.
3. You must pay \$5.00 for the entry before making your submission.
4. You must type "**Spring Contest Submission**" in the subject line of your email.
5. The **Contest Deadline** is **May 31, 2008, at MIDNIGHT**, Pacific Standard Time.
6. Whet our appetite with a title. It should be the only thing typed above your story, both title and story belong **in the body of your email**. No title means a lower technical score for not following the guidelines.
7. At the END of your story, please type on the left hand side the following information:
 - a. Your name
 - b. Your email address, you may submit more than one to be on the safe side.
 - c. Your mailing address, please give us your street address--NOT a P.O. BOX--we use UPS or FedEx to ship prizes to the winners. They don't ship to P.O. Boxes. If you want to win and receive a prize, we need a street address.
 - d. Telephone number where we will most likely be able to reach you.
 - e. Word count—this does not include your title, name, or your personal contact information. We use MS Word to verify the word count of your story. We will destroy your personal information after we no longer have any use for it. We will not share your information with any other person or company, or for personal or commercial reasons. Your telephone number is only important if we can't reach you any other way and have congratulations and prizes to give you.
 - f. We publish your email address only if you are a winner, **UNLESS YOU SPECIFICALLY REQUEST THAT WE DO NOT DO SO**, so our readers can tell you what a great job you did. We announce the winners of our contests on WOW! and in our newsletter. **PLEASE REQUEST AT THE BOTTOM OF YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION IN CAPITAL LETTERS AND BOLD, IF YOU LIKE, REQUESTING THAT WE DO NOT PRINT YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS.**
 - g. Your Paypal Transaction ID, which is your confirmation number for payment.
8. **WE DO NOT ACCEPT ATTACHMENTS**. Our auto-responder is polite and may thank you for your email. But, we still **WILL NOT ACCEPT ATTACHMENTS**.
9. Use **Verdana 14 font/size** for some email programs choose Verdana "large" or "size 4."
10. **No html emails accepted.**
11. The best way to submit your story is to **TYPE your story into the body of your email**. This is because sometimes when you paste your story from a word program, the email garbles characters which it can not understand: for instance, "quotation marks," em—dashes, and other characters that aren't friendly with email formatting. So, do yourself and our guest judges a favor, type your story into the body of your email. Additional Notes: Please read your story aloud from the email

you have written. You will spot errors—when you can do something about it—much easier than if you skim it. There are fewer problems this way, and it will greatly increase our joy.

12. We accept only one submission per title. We accept only one submission per email. Rewrites are not accepted. Again, our auto-responder graciously thanks you, but we, on the other hand, disqualify repeats, even though they are rewritten.
13. Email your submission to: contest@wow-womenonwriting.com, no later than midnight, May 31, 2008, Pacific Standard Time.
14. **The act of entering this contest constitutes an agreement between you and WOW!, that you agree to EVERY ONE OF THE 14 GUIDELINES and that you acknowledge pleading a case for not following these guideline will not move WOW! or our auto-responder to retract the disqualification.**

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## **NEW to the WOW! Women On Writing Contest: Critiques!**

Due to popular demand, we now have an additional critique option. If you purchase the “Contest Entry with Critique” option, you will receive personal editorial feedback from one of our round table judges. Upon the close of our contest, you will receive a critique of your contest entry focusing on four categories:

- ☞ Style
- ☞ Subject
- ☞ Content
- ☞ Technical

You will be provided with your scores (1-5) in each category, and personal editorial feedback for each category as well. Please be patient upon the close of our contest and allow time for our editors to thoroughly critique your piece. You will not receive your critique until AFTER the contest winners are announced—which is typically one month after the contest closes. Since this is a new feature, we don’t know how many contestants will choose this option, but we will keep you updated each step of the way.

To purchase a critique with your entry, please visit our contest page: <http://www.wow-womenonwriting.com/contest.php> and choose the button that says, “Buy Entry w/ Critique.” **Please note: this option must be purchased at the time of entry.** This allows us to verify which piece is slated for critique. Please consider this option carefully. We do not issue refunds.

**Please make sure you put “Spring Contest Submission With Critique” in your subject line when submitting your entry.** This will help us verify that your particular entry is the one you’ve chosen for critiquing.

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why should I enter the contest?

Contests provide writers with challenges, including a deadline, word count limitation, and editing practice. Writing an entry for a contest means more practice writing, proofing, and editing. We'd like to think our contest also provides a little extra challenge when we have a topic-specific prompt.

What should I write about?

Every quarter WOW! offers a new contest, which means a new prompt. The writing prompt provides the storyline to incorporate in the story in any creative and light-hearted way that a writer chooses. See the Terms and Conditions above for the most current prompt. In the event that we leave the prompt topic open, you are limited only by your own imagination!

To whom should I target my writing? Who is my audience of readers?

Gear your writing toward women readers and our guest judge and/or sponsor of the season.

How long should my entry be?

Entries must be a minimum of 250 words to a maximum of 500 words. The word count does NOT include your title.

Who is eligible for the contest?

Any person on the planet who can submit their entry in English, via our online means, is eligible to enter. That means: all ages, all genders. Yes, men can enter too!

How do I get my entry published?

If an entrant wins 1st, 2nd, or 3rd Place, or places as one of the 7 Runners Up, then her story will be published on WOW!

What are the quarterly periods and deadlines?

FALL: September - November 30th Midnight (Pacific Time)

WINTER: December - February 28th, Midnight (Pacific Time)

SPRING: March - May 31st, Midnight (Pacific Time)

SUMMER: June - August 31st, Midnight (Pacific Time)

How long must I wait before I hear the results?

We officially notify contestants a month after the close of the contest. At that time, if you were chosen in the top 10, your entry will be published in that month's issue of WOW! We aim to have all the prizes to the contestants within two months after the contest winners are announced.

Can I submit a piece I wrote for another publication that's posted online?

It's unlikely that another posting will have the "prompt" included, so the answer is no. Please submit an original work written for this contest alone. For open prompts, like our current one, yes, you may submit a previously published piece.

What is the entry fee?

\$5.00 per entry, per email.

How do I pay for my entry?

To pay by credit card, go to: <http://www.wow-womenonwriting.com/contest.php>.

Click on the "Buy Now" button. It will take you to Paypal. From there you have two options: 1. Pay Fast with PayPal. (If you have an account, choose this option.) 2. If you don't have a Paypal account, pay by credit card. (If you'd rather not create a PayPal account, you can pay by credit card here.)

What if I don't have a credit card or a PayPal account? Can I send you a check or money order?

Although we discourage this, yes, you can. We discourage this because we have to manually look for your check, match it up with your entry, and verify funds. So, if choosing this option, please make sure you send your check early in order for processing.

Mail to:

WOW! Women On Writing
740 S. Van Buren, Suite D.
Placentia, CA 92870

Please make your check payable to: "WOW Women On Writing" and please include a note indicating which contest you are submitting for, as well as your entry's title. Also, please include your check # at the bottom of your email entry when submitting.

Can I enter more than once?

Yes, but please submit each entry in a new email with a new PayPal Transaction ID at the bottom, to facilitate tracking and organization.

I live outside the United States, can I enter?

We welcome entries from all over the world. But contest entries must be submitted in English. Also, please note, if you live outside the U.S., WOW! will provide you with an Amazon gift certificate in place of a gift package. This is due to extra shipping costs and other fees such as tariffs (which are out of our control) incurred by previous global contestants.

Can you explain the judging process?

We have a roundtable of editorial judges who blindly score submissions based on: Style, Subject, Content, and Technical. If an entrant scores well on the first round, she goes to the second round of judging which averages the scores and narrows the field to the top 35 entries. From there, the 25 Honorable Mentions and Top 10 are chosen. From the Top 10, our guest judge ranks the 7 Runners Up, and chooses the Third, Second, and First Place Winners.

How should I submit my entry?

Please submit your entry with "Spring Contest Submission" in the subject line, your story in the body of your email, and your PayPal Transaction ID at the bottom, below your name, address, and contact information. Read our 14 Guidelines above for more details.

Submit to: contest@wow-womenonwriting.com after reading all submission guidelines.

I entered, but I didn't receive an auto-response: help!

You are welcome to send us an email to verify your submission, but please check your bulk mail folder to make sure it didn't end up there. Also, if you enter more than one in a row, you probably won't receive an auto-response for each submission. Our auto-responder is set up to only reply once or twice to the same email within a short period. This protects our server against the multitude of spam sent to our contest email address. When in question, feel free to contact us. Please put "contest question" in the subject line.

If I win the contest, can I go ahead and enter the next one?

Yes. Previously, we didn't allow contestants to enter if they'd placed 1st, 2nd, or 3rd, but now we are opening up each contest to allow previous winners to enter again.

What about rights?

If your entry wins and is published on the WOW! website, first electronic rights are used with the right to archive indefinitely. It may be republished. You retain first print rights and any other rights such as anthology rights.

Can I send my entry to another contest?

That depends. Be sure to check the guidelines. Many contests want only original entries.

Is there a particular format I should use to submit my entry?

Please avoid fancy and odd-sized fonts. In the body of your email, just use a standard-size font, we prefer Verdana 14 pt. Please don't indent paragraphs or use fancy spacing or title centering, either. Single space your entry and use block paragraphs. Please note: we recommend typing your story into the body of your email. This is the best way to ensure that we don't receive odd characters that occur from copy-pasting the text from a MS Word document.

Can I use a pseudonym?

Yes, you may. Please make sure you include both your real name (so if you win we know who to make the check to), and your pseudonym.

Does my entry have to be light-hearted or funny?

No. You may write in any style or genre that you choose. You may also want to consider our guest judge and/or sponsor for the season.

Can I receive feedback on my entry?

We get this question a lot, so we've recently offered an additional critique option when purchasing your entry. Please read guidelines above where it says, "New to the WOW! Women On Writing Contest: Critiques!"

Do you notify me if I don't win?

No. Unfortunately, we can't personally respond to contestants who did not place, but you can see the results online on our contest winners' page.

What if I have another question that doesn't appear here?

If you have a different question, not answered in here or by the Terms and Conditions, feel free to email us at contestinfo@wow-womenonwriting.com. Please put "Contest Question" in the subject line.

**LET'S HAVE FUN THE WRITE WAY!
ENJOY WRITING AS MUCH AS WE WILL ENJOY READING!
THANKS FOR VISITING WOW! AND ENTERING (Y)OUR CONTEST.**

Ready

Set

Go!