

WRITER'S GUIDELINES

ERIE TALES : HOLIDAYS

General

The annual anthology is restricted to current members of The Great Lakes Association of Horror Writers. Membership in GLAHW is no guarantee of acceptance in this anthology. Space is limited. Deadline is June 30, 2015.

Fiction

For this anthology, Great Lakes Association of Horror Writers is looking holiday horror stories. For obvious reasons, "Halloween" and "Day of the Dead" are off the table. Bring the horror of family gatherings, fetes with a fetid ending, and atrocious anniversaries. Please refer to the [Forum for holidays](#) already claimed.

These stories should be well-written, character driven, and with a Michigan or Great Lakes connection. As members of GLAHW, this is your moment to shine, and we look forward to seeing your tributes – we mean, what you have to offer.

No other type of stories will be accepted.

All stories need to be Horror, Dark SciFi, or Dark Fantasy.

Please don't send us sword & sorcery or space opera stories. Tolkien and Lucas have their place, but not here. Also, we don't accept "fan fiction" which includes anything based on a video game, book, movie or any other creator's work. If you don't own the copyright to the characters in your story, we cannot and will not publish your story. Check the Message Board to make sure we don't have ten of the same holiday submitted. By submitting to GLAHW you, as the author of the work, accept responsibility for any possible copyright infringement.

Please don't send us "Slash" or Erotica or anything graphically describing sex. Sex is okay, as long as it's integral to the story, but don't over-do it. Don't use gore for gore's sake. There are anthologies and digests that would love to read your torture porn, but ERIE TALES is not one of them. Gore is okay as long as it's integral to the story. Though we cringe at the thought of violence toward children or animals, please make

sure it's necessary. Any story that so much as insinuates an act of sexual violence between an adult and a child will be automatically rejected.

While we're also not virgin schoolmarms with limited access to cable television, we are writers with the whole of the English Language open to us. You may think dropping the 'F' and 'M-F' bomb is keeping it real, but it's not dialogue when it's your "only" dialogue.

Please use spell check and proof your work before submitting.

Self-editing should be a matter of course, and despite the "Editor" title some of us carry here at Great Lakes, we are not **your** editors and it is not our responsibility to make sure you wrote "there" instead of "they're". Mistakes happen and things can be corrected, but a great story will be rejected if basic grammatical and spelling mistakes are rampant. Please no multiple submissions. Simultaneous submissions are also okay as long as you let us know if you sell your story elsewhere. We would prefer virgin tales, but space allowing we may have room for a reprint. Let us know where it previously appeared so we can give props where due.

Formatting

Stories should be between 500 – 5,000 words. This word count is **firm**. Stories above this word limit will be deleted unread. If you have a story shorter than this, please query.

Please follow proper manuscript format. If you don't know what proper manuscript format is, please follow this link. <http://www.shunn.net/format/story.html>. Stories not in proper manuscript format will be returned unread.

This is standard format across the board. We don't care how good your story is – if you can't be bothered to follow basic submittal guidelines, trust us - we will not be bothered to read it.

Stories should be submitted as an attachment in either MS Word (.doc, docx) or Rich Text Format (.rtf).

Stories submitted in the body of an email will be deleted unread.

Poetry

Poetry submissions are being considered. Please attach them to the email as .doc, .docx or .rft file. Poems can be up to fifty lines each. Please do not submit poetry inside of an object such as a photo or drawing. If you have a problem with this, please do not submit to us.

Please be aware that we reserve the right to reformat your story or poem as necessary to fit the specific format for our anthology. We will not rewrite your story or poem, but we may have to alter line placement. We will ask if the special formatting is key to the understanding of your piece, but we may not. If you have a problem with this, please do not submit to us.

Poems sent in the body of an email will be deleted unread.

Artwork/Photographs

We already have a cover artist however we are accepting Interior artwork must be your original work and in black and white only, no color artwork will be accepted for the interior of the anthology. Please give a dark twist to your fairy-tale or myth-themed art. All artwork needs to be in .jpeg or .gif format and attached to the email.

We are also accepting black and white photographs for this anthology. All photographs must be original and creepy, but we cannot accept anything with graphic nudity or sex. Photographs need to be in .gif or .jpeg format and attached to the email. A brief explanation submitted with your work would be appreciated and included in the issue.

Rights

We are asking for non-exclusive First North American Print and Digital Rights. We reserve the right to reprint them your story in a subsequent volume of Erie Tales.

Payment

All acceptances will receive one (1) Contributor's Copy and our humble thanks. Accepted members will be able to purchase more copies at a greatly discounted price to sell or give away.

Submission

With all submissions, please include a short 100-150 word bio. Stories must be attached to the e-mail, not within the body. It bears repeating, but no multiple submissions for fiction. We are permitting up to three poetry submissions but please send them under a separate email. Simultaneous submissions are also okay as long as you let us know if you sell your story elsewhere. Please put **Submission: Erie Tales VIII** in the subject line.

Send all submissions and/or inquiries to submissions@glahw.com. We will not accept snail mail submissions.

Return Time

Please give us one month to review your story. If you have not heard from us after six weeks one way or the other, please feel free to send us an email.

Erie Tales VIII will be published on or before the Annual Monster Mash for Literacy Bash in October

We look forward to reading your work and thank you for giving us the honor.