

Typically, you'll submit, then hear yes or no. (If you hear nothing—it happens for reasons ranging from email gremlins to dead markets—you may need to query or withdraw your submission and try elsewhere.)

EDITORIAL RESPONSE

Most markets use email or submission portals to manage their slush piles. Follow the market's guidelines: some may want anonymized manuscripts, tickboxes assessing no AI was used, or a bio of a specific length.

WITTING SEND

Getting paid something for their work is a publishing venture, the writer should be the genres. If anyone is making money off scam, that behavior isn't well-regarded in

If you get a no, you're done. Move on to the next market. Don't respond (not even a nice *thank you for reading my story email*); it just clogs inboxes. And don't be discouraged: you'll hear no a lot.

If you receive a request for rewrite and think the editor's suggestions improve the story, then go ahead and make changes (and, in all likelihood, the sale).

If you hear yes, you should receive a contract. You are not obligated to sign this contract. If you don't understand some of the terms, ask or check some of the resources at the end of this guide. Don't hesitate to negotiate. Losing a sale is generally better than signing a bad contract.

Be professional in your dealings with editors—and by "professional," I mainly

mean "polite." They should treat you in the same way. If they do not, be wary. You're entering into a business relationship. If the other party is disrespectful or unfair in their asks or communication, it's a red flag.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Plenty of folks do just fine on their own, but finding writing communities can be a good source of support. That may mean local in-person groups, Discords, conventions or formal organizations.

Flights of Foundry has a lot of good programming geared toward new writers. As you get more sales under your belt, you can consider joining groups like Codex, HWA, and SFWA. Writer Beware is a very useful resource that tracks complaints against bad actors in publishing.

"Money flows to the writer." This simple piece of advice was codified as a law sometime in the '90s. There won't be a lot of money. SFWA pegs nonpaying markets that are perfectly here are plenty of semi-pro and legitimate nonpaying markets: some may want to break into very well-regarded.

YAGS LAW

In addition to magazines and anthologies, there are a lot of contests (many of which offer publication to winners). Assess those in the same way you do any other market.

Even if a fee-based market isn't an explicit paying market—and no reading fees. So writers. In S/F/H, there is a culture of writers are a lot of scams targeting But there are a lot of scams targeting publishers? Do you want to break into a magazine with an established track record, carry issues or other books by the for the reader to choose? What vendors book? Printed on paper? Multiple formats read on the web? Downloadable as an type of market you want and consider how priorities may change over time. Ask what factors when choosing markets, and your You can consider an infinite number of

FOLLOW IT

It's not bad advice, but you don't have to paying markets and work your way down. The general advice is to start with high-priority markets you want and consider how

CHOOSING A MARKET

WEBSITES

Shunn Manuscript Format:
www.shunn.net/format/story/
Submission Grinder:
thegrinder.diabolicalplots.com
Flights of Foundry:
flights-of-foundry.org
Codex:
www.codexwriters.com
HWA:
horror.org
SFWA:
sdfa.org
Writer Beware:
writerbeware.blog

model? What is the market's funding venture? Get in on the ground floor of a new magazine with an established track record, carry issues or other books by the for the reader to choose? What vendors book? Printed on paper? Multiple formats read on the web? Downloadable as an type of market you want and consider how priorities may change over time. Ask what factors when choosing markets, and your You can consider an infinite number of

FINDING MARKETS

Markets have different formatting guidelines, but a good place to start is Shunn Manuscript Format. Use it as a baseline and tweak depending on Shunn Manuscript Format. Markets, pay rates, word ranges, etc.—as well as user-submitted data about what individual markets want.

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR SHORT FICTION TO MAGAZINES + ANTHOLOGIES

INTRODUCTION

So, you're a writer and you've completed a story. Congratulations!

This advice on submitting for publication is intended for early career writers, especially writers of science fiction, fantasy, and horror. Those genres have a rich short fiction ecosystem.

YOUR MANUSCRIPT

Your manuscript should be complete when submitted. Perfection is unattainable, but make your manuscript as clean and polished as possible before sending it out.