

31ST ANNUAL **SCARLET STILETTO** AWARDS

2024 WOMEN'S CRIME AND MYSTERY SHORT STORY COMPETITION

SWINBURNE UNIVERSITY AWARD

1st Prize \$2000

plus the coveted Scarlet Stiletto trophy

SIMON & SCHUSTER AWARD

2nd Prize \$1000

THE SUN BOOKSHOP/FREMANTLE PRESS AWARD

3rd Prize \$750

- **ALLEN & UNWIN AWARD**
for **Best Young Writer (under 19)** \$1000
- **MONASH UNIVERSITY AWARD**
for **Best Campus Crime Story** \$600
- **MELBOURNE ATHENAEUM LIBRARY AWARD**
for **Best 'Body in the Library' Story** \$1250
Runner-up \$750
- **EVERY CLOUD PRODUCTIONS AWARD**
for **Best Mystery with History Story** \$1000
- **HQ FICTION AWARD**
for **Best Thriller** \$1000
- **CLAN DESTINE PRESS AWARD**
for **Best Cross-genre Story** \$750
- **KERRY GREENWOOD AWARD**
for **Best Malice Domestic Story** \$750
- **VILIAMA GRAKALIC AWARD**
for **Best Art and Crime Story** \$750
- **CATE KENNEDY AWARD**
for **Best Story Inspired by a Forensic Clue** \$500
- **LIZ NAVRATIL AWARD**
for **Best Story with a Disabled Protagonist** \$500
- **SCRIPTWORKS AWARD**
for **a Great Film Idea** \$500
- **WRITERS VICTORIA AWARD**
for **the Story with the Most Satisfying Retribution**
Choice of online course and membership, value \$300



Story length

Maximum 5000 words
No minimum

Entry fee

\$25
\$20 Sisters in Crime members

Closing date

31 August 2024

Judges

Sisters in Crime convenors and
previous two-time Stiletto winners

Further information

sistersincrime.org.au
Carmel Shute 0412 569 356
admin@sistersincrime.org.au

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

Failure to comply with these terms and conditions may invalidate your entry.

- 1 Information supplied in the FAQ document (including category definitions) on the Sisters in Crime Australia website forms part of the Terms and Conditions of Entry.
www.sistersincrime.org.au/the-scarlet-stiletto-awards/
- 2 The competition is open to all women, whether cisgender, transgender or intersex, who are citizens/residents of Australia.
- 3 The Award for Best Young Writer is open to writers under 19 years of age as at 31 August 2024.
- 4 The Award for Best Story Inspired by a Forensic Clue must be in response to the photograph below. (A large version is on the Sisters in Crime website.)
- 5 All work must be original, not generated by AI, and unpublished (self-publication included).
- 6 Entries must be submitted under the author's real name, not a pseudonym.
- 7 There is a maximum of two entries per author.
- 8 Authors must notify Sisters in Crime Australia promptly if their story is published (self-publication included), is shortlisted in another competition, or wins a prize in another competition. Sisters in Crime Australia reserves the right to withdraw the story from consideration.
- 9 Entries must have a crime/mystery theme and the main character, whether hero or an anti-hero, must be female (cisgender, transgender or intersex).
- 10 Story length is 5000 words maximum (excluding cover page); there is no minimum word limit.
- 11 Sisters in Crime Australia reserves the right to use shortlisted stories for publication, podcast or promotional purposes. Copyright remains with the author.

Requirements

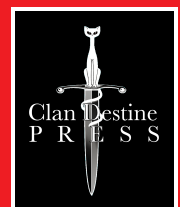
- 12 The story must be formatted in Times New Roman 12 point, with 1.5 line spacing. The cover sheet should include only the story title, category(ies) entered and Eventbrite order number. Every page of the story itself should show only the title and page number - do not include the author's name.
- 13 For each story, please submit a completed registration form downloadable from www.sistersincrime.org.au/the-scarlet-stiletto-awards. Tick the award(s) for which your story is to be entered. Stories are automatically included in the General category and may be entered in additional categories at no extra cost.
- 14 Entry fee(s) must be paid by 31 August 2024 through Eventbrite at scarletstiletto2024.eventbrite.com
- 15 Story PDFs must be emailed to ssawards2024@gmail.com and received by 31 August 2024, 11:30 pm.
- 16 If entering for the Best Young Writer Award, please supply proof of age.

Judging

- 17 Judges for the Scarlet Stiletto Awards are drawn from convenors and former convenors of Sisters in Crime Australia and previous two-time winners of the Scarlet Stiletto trophy.
- 18 Sisters in Crime Australia convenors and judges are ineligible to enter.
- 19 The judges' decisions are final. Judges reserve the right to not award a prize in any category.
- 20 Winners will be announced at the Scarlet Stiletto Awards ceremony to be held late in the year at a Melbourne venue



*With thanks
to our generous
sponsors:*





SCARLET STILETTO FAQs 2024

The category definitions and other information supplied here form part of the Terms and Conditions of Entry. Please read the information on the entry form and this document.

Q&As

If I enter two stories, do I pay two entry fees?

Yes. Supply an entry form for each story and attach a cover page to each story.

Has the submission procedure changed?

Yes. You no longer have to submit a hard copy.

For each story, please email a PDF and a completed entry form to ssawards2024@gmail.com. The cover sheet for each story should include *only* the title, category(ies) entered and Eventbrite order number.

Can I enter a story already submitted to another competition?

Yes. However, if successful in another competition, Sisters in Crime Australia must immediately be notified, and the story must be withdrawn from the Scarlet Stiletto Competition.

Can I enter a story that has already been published?

No.

Can I enter a story not written in the English language?

No.

Does my story have to be in prose?

Yes. Performance scripts, stories in verse, graphics and other non-prose modes of story-telling are not eligible.

Is there a limit to the number of categories in which my story may be entered?

No, but it would be difficult for a story to fit all categories. The judges will decide whether a story fits the category(ies) for which it has been entered.

Can I enter if I am not an Australian citizen?

Yes, but you must be resident in Australia.

When will I find out if my story has been shortlisted?

Around late October 2024.

Are winners announced before the award ceremony?

No. Prize-winners are announced at the award ceremony to be held late in the year at a Melbourne venue.

Are shortlisted stories that do not win an award acknowledged in any way?

Authors will be notified.

If my story wins a prize, can I get it published?

Yes. You retain copyright, although Sisters in Crime Australia aims to publish or podcast all winning stories as well.

How can I tell if I am a financial member of Sisters in Crime Australia and eligible for the lower entry fee?

Your membership card includes your membership expiration date, which must be on or after August 2024.

If you joined Sisters in Crime after September 2024, your receipt will be proof of financial status. If you cannot find your card, email admin@sistersincrime.org.au to check your membership status. If you wish to join or renew your membership, go to: sistersincrime.org.au/sisters-in-crime-membership/

CATEGORIES OFFERED IN 2024

- Art and Crime
- Body in the Library
- Campus Crime
- Cross-genre
- Disabled Protagonist
- Forensic Clue
- General
- Great Film Idea
- Malice Domestic
- Most Satisfying Retribution
- Mystery with History
- Thriller
- Young Writer

CATEGORY DEFINITIONS

Art and Crime

The story involves art and crime. It can include artists, the art world, galleries, art collections, museums, theft, fakes, fraud, forgeries or heists. In honour of Viliama Grakalic's chosen disciplines and style, preferred art forms are painting, drawing, sculpture, jewellery and photography; think 'fine art'.

Body in the Library

The story must include the words 'body in the library'. The action need not be set entirely in a library, and the protagonist need not be a library professional.

Campus Crime

The story must be set on a university, TAFE or vocational college campus.

Cross-genre

A cross-genre story mixes writing genres, for example crime with horror, crime with speculative fiction, crime with fantasy or crime with science fiction.

Disabled Protagonist

The protagonist lives with a disability. The disability may be physical, sensory, intellectual or psychosocial. The protagonist may have been born with the disability, or it may have been acquired at birth, be a long-term condition or be more recently acquired. It could be injury-related or substance/medication-related. In everyday situations the disability may serve as a limitation, restriction or impairment. However, the person living with the disability may regard it as a positive challenge or a personal advantage. Technical/mechanical aids may be used by the protagonist.

Forensic Clue

The story must be inspired by this photograph of a solitary stiletto in a laneway in Melbourne's Chinatown.

Great Film Idea

The story offers inspiration for the creation of a film (for cinema and/or television release). Its film-worthy characteristics are not limited to aspects of the storyline; characters, dialogue, setting and other features may incorporate stimulating ideas for a film-maker. Stories must be written in prose, not as scripts.

Malice Domestic

The action usually takes place in a family or domestic setting, but this is not essential. Suspects/perpetrators and victims should know one another. The crime centres on a small number of individuals rather than institutions. Violence, if any, is not excessive or gratuitously detailed. No explicit sex. The protagonist contributes to the solving of the crime (rather than being an anti-hero).

Most Satisfying Retribution

The story leads to an outcome featuring retribution (payback, punishment). From the point of view of the protagonist (and possibly others, including readers), this retribution is suited to the crime and provides the satisfaction of seeing justice done.

Mystery with History

The story must have a historical theme or components and involve a crime/mystery. It may be set anywhere, and in any era or eras. The protagonist need not be an expert in history.

Thriller

A thriller is a dark, engrossing, plot-driven story, full of excitement, expectation and/or dread. It can be an action-filled, edge-of-the-seat drama, a quest to prevent disasters, or a thrilling contest against an adversary.

Young Writer

The author must be under 19 years of age as at 31 August 2024.