

FILAMENT MAGAZINE FICTION GUIDELINES

Last revised June 2011



We want:

- Fewer than 2,250 words (there is no minimum word length)
- Female/male, male/male or larger groups, as long as there's at least one man involved (includes trans men)
- Interesting and imaginative settings, for example, set in a particular time in history or using an unusual location
- Interesting, believable and understandable characters

We don't want:

- Female/female pairings. The erotic element of Filament about women's desire for men – of course many of us love a bit of f/f, but such stories don't fit well with Filament's overall content.
- *Formal D/s* or *BDSM* scenarios, by which we mean any story that primarily revolves around a kink, master/mistress/slave etc
- Age play, piss play, hardsports, overt or implied non-consent, incest
- *Fanfic* or *Slash*, ie, any fiction that uses canon universes and their characters, eg, *the Buffyverse*
- Detailed descriptions of, or a strong focus on, a female character's personal appearance
- Unrealistic or two-dimensional characters, eg, the gorgeous, sex-starved guy next door
- Work that has been published elsewhere, including on the internet or in countries other than the UK
- Poetry or verse

Are those lists some kind of moral statement?

Hahahaha. No.

I heard that Filament prefers non-explicit fiction.

Well, you heard wrong. Explicit or non-explicit, we don't mind – what matters to us is the quality of the writing.

When are your upcoming themes and deadlines?

<i>Publish date</i>	<i>Deadline</i>	<i>Theme</i>
December 2011	31 July 2011	Music (Competition)
June 2012	31 January 2012	Science and nature

How should I use the theme in my writing?

We are especially interested in stories that interpret the themes creatively, rather than going for the most obvious interpretation. For example, a 1920s-themed story need not be set in the 1920s. Please note that while we're running a themed competition, we're unable to review stories for publication that don't fit within the theme.

If my story is selected, will it be edited?

Yes. We try to run our edits by the writer to check, but we don't always have time. If you cannot accept that your writing will be edited, do not submit it.

Can I write under a pseudonym?

We prefer that you use your real name, but we will accept pseudonyms that sound like real names.

Do you accept erotic fiction written by men?

Yes.

How many stories can I send at once?

One.

When will I know if you'll use my writing?

You should be advised on whether and when we'd like to publish it within about a month of our receiving your submission. If we're running a competition, it may be a little longer, say, 3–6 months.

What's the situation with rights?

Please see [Appendix 1: Filament magazine *sample* fiction use agreement](#). The use agreement is deemed to apply to competition winners only, not all competition entrants. For general submissions to Filament, the use agreement is not deemed to apply until signed by the author, upon Filament advising the author that their story has been accepted for publication.

How do I write something you'll *really* like?

- *Less is more*: the word limit is not a target. As Laurell K Hamilton says, '*Writing is like a magic trick; never explain too much or it destroys the illusion.*' Give your audiences hints and let them extrapolate. Go through your story and remove everything that's self-evident.
- *Show don't tell*. Find every sentence in which you've told the reader what your characters are thinking, feeling or have previously experienced and remove it. If it's absolutely necessary, *show* through action or dialogue instead.
- Use your wonderful vocabulary *sparingly*. One adjective at a time is sufficient.
- Lose the predictable metaphors. We've met quite enough men with 'emerald eyes' and 'bee-stung lips'.
- Use a range of writing to inspire you, not just erotic fiction. Think about how writers build stories and use language.
- Don't assume we have rules that we haven't stated. For example, it doesn't say here that we wouldn't publish a story involving a married couple or a tentacle monster.
- Use punctuation correctly. Stories full of unnecessarily ellipses and exclamation marks are hard to read.
- Proofread before sending. Asking a friend to do this for you helps, as it's often difficult to see your own mistakes.
- Do something different. Take a risk.

What else should I consider?

Don't be disheartened if your story isn't accepted. It can take dozens of submissions before one is published, and many established authors still receive more refusals than acceptances. Keep writing and keep submitting.

How do I send a contribution?

- Indicate new paragraphs using a line spacing NOT an indent.
- Paste your writing into the body of an email to fiction@filamentmagazine.com.

We look forward to reading your work.

Megan Lewis

Fiction editor, Filament magazine

fiction@filamentmagazine.com

APPENDIX 1: FILAMENT magazine sample fiction use agreement

Provided for information only. DO NOT fill this form in when submitting to Filament.

Filament Magazine FICTION USE AGREEMENT

Author's full legal name	
Author's full postal address (for contributors' copies to be sent to)	
Pseudonym or name as you'd like it to appear in print – must sound like a real name	
Biography of 25–40 words to appear in print (may be edited)	
Story name	
Alternative story titles (please give 2–3 options)	

I, the Author named above:

1. Agree to Filament Magazine publishing my Story named above in Filament Magazine.
2. Confirm that the Story named above is entirely my own work.
3. Confirm that the Story named above has not been published or accepted for publishing by any other publication or website, nor been made publically available in any form, including on the internet.
4. Understand that the Story named above will be edited by Filament Magazine and that, while I may be offered the opportunity to contribute thoughts and suggestions to the editing, the final decision on the form in which the Story named above is published rests with Filament Magazine.

5. Agree not to publish or allow publication of the Story named above in Filament Magazine's edited form or my original unedited form, between the date of signing this agreement and a date six (6) months from the release date of the issue in which the above named story appears, unless with the permission of Filament Magazine.
6. Understand that I may, for promotional purposes, between the date of signing this agreement and a date six (6) months from the release date of the issue in which the above named story appears, choose to publish or make publicly available, excerpts of the story named above of up 200 words and any one of the illustrations that accompany the story in print, giving credit to the illustrator.
7. Understand and accept that Filament Magazine may, at their discretion, choose to publish the Story named above on the internet, in part or full, and that the story may be permanently available in this manner.

Author's signature _____

Date _____