
The Boa Short Fiction Prize

Rules and Guidelines

General

Submissions are invited only through Submittable or by post mail. We do not have the staff capacity to read or respond to manuscripts that are submitted by fax or email.

Submission fee: \$30

Please note that submission fees allow us to offer a \$1,000 honorarium and also offset the cost of publishing and promoting the winning collection. As a nonprofit literary publishing house, we understand that submission fees can be difficult to accommodate. Please know that 100% of your fee will go toward supporting the publication of an excellent short story collection and to supporting Boa's mission to bring the highest quality literature into the world. Manuscripts that do not win the contest are still eligible for publication by Boa.

Electronic Submissions

Guidelines for electronic submissions are available at Submittable.com. All entries must be submitted by 11:59 PM Eastern Time on May 31st.

Physical Submissions

All physical manuscripts must be mailed (or postmarked) to the below Boa Editions address by May 31st. Please be sure to include the entry form and the \$30 entry fee with your submission. Send one copy of each manuscript. Make check or money orders payable to Boa Editions. Do not pay by cash or credit card.

Suggested Guidelines for Physical Submissions:

- Send manuscript in a plain or padded envelope. No boxes, please.
- For notification of competition results, include a business-size SASE.
- Keep a copy of your manuscript, as manuscripts will not be returned.
- We advise that you send your manuscript by first class or priority mail.
- Do not send by FedEx or UPS (please use the United States Postal Service).

***Please fill out the form on the last page of this document and include it in your package. You will also find additional mailing information there.**

Eligibility

- Entrants must be a U.S. citizen, a legal resident of the U.S., or have Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) status, Temporary Protected Status (TPS), or Legal Permanent Status (LPS).
- Entrants must be at least 18 years of age.
- Translations, novels, and novellas are not eligible.
- Individual stories from the manuscript may have been published previously in magazines, journals, anthologies, chapbooks, or self-published books, but must be submitted in manuscript form.
- Employees, volunteers, and board members of Boa Editions, Ltd., or their partners, spouses, or immediate families, are not eligible to submit.
- Authors of Boa titles in other genres and translators who have been under contract with Boa are not eligible to submit.
- No AI-assisted submissions.

Manuscript Format

- Minimum of 100 pages; maximum of 250 pages.
- Manuscript text should be at least 12 pt. font, double-spaced.
- Name, address, telephone number, and email address must appear on the title or cover page of the manuscript.
- Do not send artwork or photographs along with manuscript.
- Typed or word-processed on standard white paper, on one side of the page only.
- Paginated consecutively with a table of contents.
- Bound with a binder clip.
- Attach publication acknowledgments, if any.
- Include a stamped, self-addressed postcard for notification of receipt of manuscript.
- Do not send by FedEx or UPS.
- Email and/or fax submissions will not be accepted (Submittable or post mail only).
- Neither late nor early manuscripts will be accepted.
- Contestants may submit the manuscript elsewhere simultaneously, but must notify Boa Editions immediately if a manuscript is accepted by another publisher.
- Once submitted, manuscripts cannot be altered. The winner will be given the opportunity to revise before publication.
- Contestants may submit more than one manuscript, but a separate entry fee and entry form must accompany each manuscript.

Answers to FAQs

- The winner will be announced in September.
- The honorarium will be awarded in two parts: one part upon receiving a signed contract, the second part upon publication.
- The winning manuscript will be published in spring 2028, in an original paperback edition and an e-book edition of the American Reader Series.
- The winner will retain full copyright of their work.
- The paper from all manuscripts will be recycled after the winner is announced.
- In the unlikely event that a suitable manuscript cannot be found, Boa Editions reserves the right not to award a prize.
- Boa Editions assumes no responsibility for loss of manuscripts.

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Physical Submission Entry Form

Title of Manuscript _____

Author Name _____

Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Mailing Address _____

Where did you hear about this contest?

*Attach this form, along with the \$30 submission fee, to the front of your manuscript.
Send manuscripts, postmarked between April 1st and May 31st, to:*

Boa Editions
ATTN: Boa Short Fiction Prize
250 N. Goodman Street, Suite 306
Rochester, NY 14607