OCCULT DETECTIVE MAGAZINE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

FICTION

We are looking for intriguing fiction which features those who **investigate** or **explore** the strange and unusual, and we are eager to read submissions featuring a diverse range of characters, cultures and periods. So although we do enjoy and accept classic Victorian/Edwardian sleuths, seventies PIs and so on, a fresh twist is always likely to interest us. Your 'investigator' does not have to have a professional role, and can be anyone seeking answers – check out what we have already published to see the very broad range we cover.

Tales with more varied geographical and historical settings are encouraged as a welcome change from the usual 21stC UK and US settings (though we take these as well, naturally). We love weird literary tales, will consider well-written Pulp, and will also accept fantasy and SF stories, **as long as they fit the overall concept**. *Do not send us detective stories with no paranormal, occult, psychic or weird elements – or general weird and paranormal stories with no investigative work of any nature.*

Please read a back issue to see what we like. They're not expensive on Kindle, yet a number of people who submit to us obviously haven't read the magazine!

We actively seek out new and established voices of all identities/orientations, and are very receptive to BIPOC and LGBTQ+ writers, and to characters with such backgrounds. Whoever you are, wherever you come from, the primary goal is to have a great story with great characters for our readers to appreciate.

Technical Specs: We are primarily looking for stories between 5000-10,000 words, the sweet spot being 5000-7000. Please query if you have something outside this range before sending. Payment for original fiction is currently 1 penny (UK) per word, with a £45 cap (*c. $56 US*), paid on publication, plus contributor's copy in e-format (and a print copy when we have the cash). We sometimes have a **small** number of reprint slots, paid at a flat rate of £20 per accepted reprint, but these are not common.

NON-FICTION

ODM also wants your articles and essays about Occult Detectives. We're looking for articles that discuss the history of this unusual genre, and essays about the many writers who contribute or have contributed to it. We welcome literary criticism as well as retrospectives, and pieces about films, comics and graphic novels. Basically, if you have an article about ANY aspect of Occult Detectives, we want to read it!

Technical Specs: We're looking for articles and essays between 2,000-4,000 words.. Payment is 1 penny (UK) per word, £25 cap. **Reviews** are unpaid, but reviewers receive a free .pdf copy of the magazine.

ARTWORK

We are looking for talented artists to contribute to ODM. We need illustrators for stories as well as cover artists. If interested, please forward a small sample of your work (.jpg please) and we will add you to our list. Artists own copyright and rights to work after initial publication. Interior B/W art rates are typically £25-35 per piece. Covers are dependent upon previous agreement between publisher and artist.

PRACTICAL NOTES

Submissions (fiction and non-fic) should preferably be in either LibreOffice .odt or Word .doc format (not .pdfs). **Contact info, word count, title and author's name must appear at the top of the first page**. Standard manuscript formatting:

- double line spacing, no fancy effects, *italics* for italics
- formatted with a simple indent at the start of each new paragraph, **never** by tab indents or space-bar, and no extra lines between paragraphs
- common font like Times New Roman 12pt
- use * * * centred to indicate major breaks.

All submissions should be by email, with story or article attached, **not** in the body of the email.

Important: The subject line **must** have "Story/Article/Review" in it, plus your surname and story title, e.g. ***Story – Henderson – The Drowned Man***. Failure to keep to these guidelines may do our heads in, and prejudice your chances of being read.

Your submission will be judged on the quality of the work attached, so there's no point in sending loads of stuff about you or your past publications in the email. If accepted, we'll request a short author bio closer to publication. **Note**: If we suspect you have drawn substantially on AI to generate the work, we will check it, and query you, so please don't do that. **Responses:** Acknowledgment of receipt is usually within a week; final response time should now run at eight to twelve weeks after deadline.

ODM is broadminded and willing to experiment, but is not the place for extreme horror, and we do **not** want routine slasher, rape, or child abuse works. Racism, misogyny, homophobia and transphobia are totally out, except in cases where an antagonist character exhibits such aspects for a defined storytelling purpose. We are unlikely to consider anything which includes animals being abused.

Send to occultdetectivemagazine@gmail.com during our Open Call periods. **Do not send anything other than proposals/queries outside of these times (unless invited), as they may be binned.**

We look forward to seeing your work.

John Linwood Grant and Dave Brzeski *for* ***Cathaven Press***

jlg- 5/23