

Submission and Style Guide - Horrified

Horrified celebrates British horror. From the outset, our intention has been to champion all facets of horror genre output from the British Isles, from the micro-budget independent film to the mainstream horror sending shockwaves across the globe, and from the self-published author looking for an audience to the renowned author's latest release. We cover both contemporary and classic British horror with equal verve, and we aim to accentuate the positive in the genre we all so adore.

To **Horrified**, the term 'British horror' covers a broad spectrum. It can include, for example, a film produced and funded abroad but made in the UK, or the career of Boris Karloff (a British actor who spent much of his career working abroad). Some may not agree with our definition of British horror, but we sincerely hope that this doesn't spoil the reader's enjoyment of **Horrified's** content. It is, after all, a celebration.

To this end, we're keen to publish both new and established writers, from the enthusiastic well-informed fan to the academic, who has a passion for British horror. We're always open to pitches, including articles, reviews, essays, and short fiction.

Below, you'll find our guidelines for submission. We've covered specific requirements for each submission type along with our standard style regardless of submission type:

General guidelines

When first introduced, titles should be written as follows:

Film – *Dracula* (UK, Terence Fisher, 1958)

Television – *The Woman in Black* (Granada, Herbert Wise, 1989)

Radio – as with Television

Book – *Dracula* (Bram Stoker, 1897)

Edited volume – *The Book of the Dead* (Jurassic London, Jared Shurin, 2013)

All submissions must include a short (approximately 25-word) synopsis of the piece and a proposed title.

Do *italicise* episodes or short story titles and place them within single quotation marks. For example, 'During Barty's Party'

Don't *italicise* quotations but do use single quotation marks. For example, 'I am Dracula, and I bid you welcome, Mr. Harker, to my house.'

Do *italicise* non-UK English words, where possible. For example, *schadenfreude*.

As **Horrified** is a British publication, please write in UK English unless quoting a non-UK source.

Please apply a space between em dashes. For example, where the writer goes briefly off at a tangent – only to return, at which point, the em dash is closed off again – with spaces on either side.

We're fans of the Oxford comma.

All submissions should be forwarded in one of the following formats: Word Doc, Google Doc, or an editable PDF.

Horrified will usually source images, but if there are specific images* you'd like to include, please include these with your submission (including where you'd like them to feature within the piece).

**Images may not be included if their resolution is too low as this will not render well on the page.*

Do ensure you proof-read and check your spelling, grammar and punctuation carefully before submission, so the article you send is your best work. We can fix the odd typo but are unlikely to be drawn towards careless work which has not been thoroughly checked for possible issues. Our desire is to be accessible and welcoming to people with diverse needs who wish to pitch and submit to **Horrified**, but please be mindful that we're receiving an increasing number of submissions daily and wish to present your work in a way that stands out. Fixing errors to the copy can take a great deal of time, so check and check again before submitting.

When submitting for the first time, please ensure you forward a brief personal bio (30-words maximum), links to personal website/social media, and a photo headshot – if you'd prefer not to forward a headshot, any image that is representative of you is perfectly fine. We can take this image directly from your social media profile picture if preferred.

** Please note – as a small publication, we are unable to pay contributors at this time. **

Non-fiction (articles, essays, retrospectives, film reviews, etc.) – please submit to nonfiction@horrifiedmagazine.co.uk

Word count: Unless specifically stated, there is no prescribed word count for non-fiction submissions. We prefer the writer to be free to express their insight and critical, though constructive, opinion without the parameters of a specific word count. The editor may suggest edits or remove any unnecessary phrases or paragraphs.

Editing: Concerning editing, simple amendments (grammar, punctuation, etc.) will usually be undertaken by the editor and not returned to the writer for final review. Should more extensive edits be required, these will be undertaken by the writer with unanimous agreement on the final draft before publication. Please take note of our guidelines on grammar and punctuation in our General guidelines above.

Deadlines: The deadline for all non-fiction submissions is generally two weeks from commission, but there are specific circumstances which may necessitate a shorter turnaround. Alternatively, a longer lead time may be required for less time-sensitive pieces. This can be agreed with the editor.

Sources/citations: Please ensure that a full list of sources/citations is included with the final piece. **Horrified**'s style is to include these at the footer of the article.

Reviews – please submit to reviews@horrifiedmagazine.co.uk (film reviews should be sent to our non-fiction email above)

Word count: The word count for book reviews should be dictated by the material on review, but in general, somewhere in the region of 800 words is requested. However, a reviewer shouldn't feel obliged to artificially lengthen a review to meet this word count.

Editing: Concerning editing, simple amendments (grammar, punctuation, etc.) will usually be undertaken by the editor and not returned to the writer for final review. Should more extensive edits be required, these will be undertaken by the writer with unanimous agreement on the final draft before publication. Please take note of our guidelines on grammar and punctuation in our General guidelines above.

Deadlines: Deadlines for reviews are usually dependent upon publication date of the work being covered or in other cases two weeks from receipt of the material. These can be discussed with the Reviews editor.

If writing about a short story collection, there is no need to summarise each story individually. Rather, the writer should supply illustrative examples as part of the overall review.

When writing critically on a specific facet of the book, highlight the section you're referring to. If, for example, you find a particular sentence profound, feature this in the review with a quotation (unless you have been specifically informed that you are reviewing an uncorrected advance copy). If something is unsuccessful, explain why and how (with an example).

Horrified is generally happy with constructive criticism but we will not accept snarky reviews (this extends to all submissions). We understand that the reviewer cannot enjoy everything they read, but the writing is the culmination of months - sometimes years - of incredibly hard work and while, as a publication, we should always strive to be honest in the assessment of the work we're covering, critical assessment should always be as constructive as possible. Therefore, condescension and/or deliberately negative reviews that attack the work in a non-constructive or personal manner won't be accepted by the editor.

Conversely, an over-complimentary review can be just as unconstructive; balance is key when reviewing a title. We're not after hatchet jobs nor puff pieces, but thoughtful, well-reasoned reviews which constructively examine the work. If, on reflection, the reviewer

can't find a way to write the piece in a broadly positive fashion, speak to one of the editors to discuss possible alternatives. As described above, **Horried** is intended to be a celebration of British horror, and we are unlikely to publish negative reviews.

Try to conclude the review with a final thought on your overall impressions for the reader to consider. They should be able to make an informed decision on whether to purchase the title and your review, including the final paragraph(s), should help them draw their own conclusions.

When submitting a review, please include a brief synopsis. For example, [Name of reviewer] reviews [name of book], which is [a short story collection, for example] and thinks it's [an excellent anthology].

Fiction – please submit to fiction@horriedmagazine.co.uk

Word count: The word count range is between 1,000 and 5,000 words (though outstanding tales that fall outside this range may be considered). The editor may suggest edits or remove any unnecessary phrases or paragraphs.

Editing: Concerning editing, simple amendments (grammar, punctuation, etc.) will usually be undertaken by the editor and not returned to the writer for final review. Should more extensive edits be required, these will be undertaken by the writer with unanimous agreement on the final draft before publication. Please take note of our guidelines on grammar and punctuation in our General guidelines above.

When submitting a piece of fiction, please include a brief synopsis.