



EVESHAM FESTIVAL OF WORDS

SHORT STORY COMPETITION 2023 – RULES (Open to Adults only)

Welcome to the Evesham Festival of Words Short Story Competition - an annual writing competition open to all published and unpublished, UK and non-UK based writers.

Summary:

Eligibility: For 2023 the Competition is open to adults only (i.e. over 16 years of age at the closing date). There is no Junior Competition.

Word count: A maximum of 2,200 words, excluding the title.

Entry fee: £5 per story submitted.

The work submitted must not have been previously published. There is no particular theme, and entries may be any genre or subject.

Closing date for submission is **5pm (UK time) on Friday 10th March 2023**. Entries received after the closing date and time will not be considered.

Early bird incentive! Entries received before midnight on 31st January 2023 will be entered into a draw for a chance to win an early bird £20 book token, so don't delay!

Online entries only will be accepted.

Judge: [Alison Jean Lester](#), author. **Readers:** Noelle Chambers and Gillian Proops will agree a longlist of 15 entries for consideration by the judge. (For more information about the judges see page 5).

Results: Winners and all entrants will be notified by **Friday 7th April at the latest**.

Prizes: Cash prizes of £200, £100 and £75 (1st, 2nd and 3rd).

Titles of long- and shortlisted entries will be posted on the Festival website once entrants have been notified. Names of the winners will be posted on the Festival website once they have been announced. The winning short stories will, with the author's permission, also be added to the website.



The following rules apply for the 2023 Evesham Festival of Words Short Story Competition.
Please read carefully before entering.

Entries:

- The Short Story Competition is open to all published and unpublished writers, whether they are based in the UK or outside the UK. All entries should be in English.
- There is no specific theme for the 2023 Competition and entries may be any genre or subject.
- Stories should be aimed at adult readers.
- Entries must be entirely the work of the entrant and must never have been previously published, in print or online (including self-published, magazines, journals, websites, blogs, social network sites), or broadcast or won a prize in another writing competition. Any entry found to have been plagiarised will be disqualified.
- Simultaneous submissions are welcome – but please let us know as soon as possible if a story is to be published elsewhere or wins a prize in another writing competition.
- Authors may enter as many stories as they like. There will be a fee per entry.
- Members of the Festival Steering Group, Competition Judges, and Readers, will not be eligible to enter the Competition.
- Entries must be received by the **closing date of 5pm on Friday 10th March 2023**. Entries received after this date/time will not be considered. Early entries much appreciated! As an incentive, entries received before midnight on 31st January 2023 will have a chance to win an early bird £20 book token, so don't delay!
- Entries will be judged anonymously so it is essential that you follow the more detailed instructions below in order to keep your personal details separate from your story during judging.
- Stories should be free of spelling and grammatical errors, and contain no racist or bad language.
- Entry to the Competition implies an acceptance of the Evesham Festival of Words Short Story Competition Rules.

How to submit your entry:

- All entries must be submitted electronically. Paper entries will not be accepted. **Note that entries that do not comply with the Rules will be disqualified.**
- Stories should be typed in either Times New Roman or Arial 12pt, with double line spacing.
- Include the title of your story as a header on each page submitted.
- Include the word count at the end of your story.
- Entries should be submitted as doc, doc.x, rtf or pdf format by email to: info@eveshamfestivalofwords.org. Please include in the email your name, address and contact telephone number. (Any problems with Festival email, please resend to: sueablett1@btinternet.com). Stories should not be embedded within an email.
- Online payment of the entry fee should be made via Paypal from the Festival website – www.eveshamfestivalofwords.org/Competition. Your payment will be processed



securely by PayPal. They do not pass your card or other details to the Festival organisers.

- After you have made your payment, you will receive a confirmation email from Paypal. That email will quote a Transaction ID number. Please ensure you quote that number in your email with your entry.
- Please use the title of your story as the file name (.doc, .docx, rtf or pdf files only). Do not include your name in the title of the story.
- An acknowledgement email will be sent by the Competition coordinator on receipt of your entry.
- If you are unable, or do not wish, to make payment online, please send a cheque for the value of the entry fee(s), payable to 'Evesham Festival of Words' to 20 Allardene, Evesham, Worcs. WR11 1EA. Please include your name and the title of your short story/stories with your cheque.
- Entries will only be accepted for judging when payment has been received.
- Entrants who wish to make amendments or corrections to their submission must submit a new entry with payment in full of the entry fee. They should mark the new entry 'Amended' on the title page and in the name of the file. We will not enter into any correspondence or discussion about amendments or corrections.
- Please contact us by email (info@eveshamfestivalofwords.org) at any time if you wish to withdraw your entry. No refund will be given for any withdrawn entries.

Judging:

- Entries will be read and judged anonymously: entrants' names and contact details should only appear in the accompanying email and not anywhere on their stories.
- The stories must be free of all personal information about the author.
- There will be one judge – author Alison Jean Lester)
- Formation of a longlist of 15 entries will be carried out by two experienced readers (Noelle Chambers, retired School Librarian and member of the Festival Steering Group, and Gillian Proops, avid reader and member of Evesham Festival of Words Book Club and other book clubs).
- The judge will select a shortlist of 10, and from those a winner, 2nd and 3rd.
- No competitor may win more than one prize.
- Judge or readers will not comment on individual stories or give feedback on individual stories.
- The judge's decision is final and no individual correspondence will be entered into.
- In the event of the named judge being unable to carry out judging, an alternative will be identified and their name published on the Festival website.
- Winners and all entrants will be notified by Friday 7th April at the latest.
- Long- and shortlisted entrants will be listed on the Festival website once all entrants have been notified.

Prizes:



- There will be cash prizes (£200, £100 and £75 – for 1st, 2nd and 3rd).
- Following announcement of the winners, the winning entries will be announced on the Festival website.
- The winner, and those placed 2nd and 3rd will be invited to have their stories published on the Festival website or, if they prefer, to provide a brief synopsis for inclusion.

About the Judge: [Alison Jean Lester](#) is the author of the short-story collection *Locked Out: Stories Far From Home*; the novels *Lillian on Life*, *Yuki Means Happiness* and *Glide*; and the memoir *Absolutely Delicious: A Chronicle of Extraordinary Dying*. Her next novel, *The Sound of It*, will come out in December 2022. She lives in Droitwich Spa.

Advice from the Judge: If you've got a story that made you uncomfortable to write, or confronted you with something you didn't know you were concerned with, or spoke to you for years before it became words on the page, those are the ones I want to see. If a story felt easy in the writing, not just technically but also emotionally, I'm pretty sure it's unlikely to be your most compelling one.

About the Readers:

Noelle Chambers is a retired School Librarian. She is a member of the Festival Steering Group. When she isn't designing Festival posters and providing other admin support, she spends many a happy hour researching her family history. She is also a great story reader.

Gillian Proops is a retired GP. She has been an avid reader since the age of 6, going and joining a public library on her own at the age of 8. She was desolate to learn she couldn't get more than two books a day! She is now in four book clubs and finds the variety of books she finds herself both fascinating and enriching.

Thank you for supporting Evesham Festival of Words Short Story Competition!

If you have any queries about the competition, please email:

info@eveshamfestivalofwords.org

Any problems with the Festival email please resend to sueablett1@btinternet.com.