

**“Fishy Ocean Tales” Short Story Contest 2019**  
**(herein, the “Competition”, the “Contest”, or the “Challenge”)**  
**“<http://artisticwarrior.com>” (the “Contest Website”)**

**“Official Rules”**

**(Official Fishy Ocean Tales, Short Story Contest Challenge 2019 Rules & Participation Agreement)**

This Agreement, comprised of the Official Rules of the Contest as set forth herein, is made and entered into by and between the individual registering for the Contest (hereinafter, the “Entrant”), on the one hand; and Artistic Warrior Publishing, (hereinafter, “AWP”), on the other hand. By paying the entry fee and registering for the Contest, the Entrant indicates that the Entrant accepts the terms and conditions in the Official Rules as set forth herein. This Agreement and the Official Rules shall govern Entrant’s participation in the “Fishy Ocean Tales Short Story Contest 2019,” and the intended creation by Entrant of a short story as within-described, as part of that Competition, pursuant to the provisions set forth herein. Entrant and AWP are hereinafter referred to as the “Parties”. The Parties hereby further agree as follows:

**Short Story Content/Subject/Genre**

The genre for this contest is wide open. It can be fiction, non-fiction or creative non-fiction. The only requirement is the story must involve an ocean, any ocean, anywhere, and be somewhat unbelievable. You must therefore suspend disbelief and have the reader wonder if it could possibly be true. Some call it fishy, some call it a tall tale, other call it a fable or a yarn. Call it what you will, just make sure it is entertaining. Any submissions that do not predominantly feature an ocean will be disqualified.

**Short Story Requirements**

All submitted works must be original and unpublished works. Texts submitted to AWP must be written in English. A writer can only win one prize, regardless of how many times they enter.

The Short Story must be no longer than 2000 words. Word count includes all words contained in the actual Short Story entered. It does not include the title page and synopsis. Submissions over the specified word count will be disqualified.

Our word limits are strict. To calculate word counts, we put your entire submission into Microsoft Word and use Word’s word counter. Since Word only relies on spaces to delimit words, any term containing a hyphen (“twenty-five”) or an apostrophe (“can’t”, “don’t”) counts as a single word. Word also counts every article (“the”, “a”, etc.) as a separate word. Microsoft Word also automatically counts groups of characters (e.g. “xxx”) as well as symbols (e.g. “\*\*\*” or “~::~”) as a word.

For each manuscript entered, participants must complete a separate official entry form and pay the entry fee.

**All Contestants Bound By These Rules** - Entrant hereby agrees to take part in the Fishy Ocean Tales Short Story Contest 2019, which will be conducted by AWP and is currently scheduled to take place between January 7, 2019 and March 31, 2019. These Official Rules (herein, “Official Rules”) apply to the Fishy Ocean Tales Short Story Contest 2019, and to each and every Entrant who enters the Competition.

**Rules and Communications** - Any Entrant that enters a Short Story in this Contest or otherwise communicates with Artistic Warrior Publishing (AWP) regarding this Contest, shall be deemed to have carefully read, reviewed, and specifically agreed to all of the text of these Official Rules; and also to any prior, other, and further writings of text; including, without limitation, rules and postings relating to the Contest (collectively, “Communications”)

which AWP may in the past, present, or future issue, distribute, post, or otherwise make available (collectively, "Communicate") to prospective Contest entrants by e-mail, by mail, by fax, by hand, via Internet posting, and/or otherwise in any other manner. E-mail alone shall suffice to constitute notice to any Entrant, if and in the event that such method is elected for notice purposes by AWP for any specific Communication. AWP relies upon word-of-mouth within the creative writing, and writing communities and groups to foster further recognition of the Contest and a resulting adequacy of the number of quality Entries.

**Entry Fee & Entry Deadline (Individual)** - The Entry Fee is US \$28 starting January 7, 2019 and ending March 31, 2019. The entry fee must be **received** in full by AWP on or before midnight on March 31, 2019 in order to participate in the Fishy Ocean Tales Short Story Contest 2019. Once the registration is completed online and the Entry Fee received in full and in proper order by AWP, a confirmation e-mail will be sent to the Entrant as identified in the Fishy Ocean Tales Short Story Contest 2019, online registration form (on PayPal), to the e-mail address identified on the form, confirming the corresponding Entrant's registration in the Competition. This may take up to 48 hours as each entry must be looked at in order to ensure eligibility. Entry Fees are non-refundable.

**Exercise of Skill** - This Contest requires an exercise of skill, only, and is NOT a game of chance in any respect whatsoever.

#### **Short Story Submission Format & Deadline**

All short stories must be emailed before by 11:59 PM PST on March 31, 2019. A confirmation email will be sent within 48 hours of the submission. All Entries that are not received by the AWP by the end of the competition period will not be reviewed and will be ineligible for the Fishy Ocean Tales Short Story Contest 2019.

Entrants must fill out an entry form (through PayPal) and submit any parental permission (electronic or print version) if applicable. All entries must be submitted anonymously, which means the name of the entrant must not appear anywhere on the manuscript to ensure the objectivity of the jury. Name and contact info will be cross referenced with Story Title once the contest judging is complete.

**Short Story Format Requirement** – AWP must receive one (1) copy of the completed Short Story as a **.pdf** (Adobe Acrobat) or **.doc** or **.docx** (Word document) adhering to the following format requirements. AWP reserves the right to reject any Entry for failure to observe any format requirements.

**LANGUAGE** – Short Stories must be submitted in English.

**ELECTRONIC FILE** – The short story must be sent as a .pdf (Adobe Acrobat) or .doc/docx (Word document). The name of the file must be the title of your Short Story.

**FONT** - Each individual Short Story must be typed in 12 point and in Arial or Times New Roman typeface – ONLY.

**PAGE SIZE** - Be in letter format (8½" by 11") with proper margins (no less than 1.91 cm on all sides)

**TITLE PAGE** - The Title Page of the Short Story must only contain the *TITLE* of the Short Story, the Synopsis, and identified as fiction or non-fiction.

**SYNOPSIS** - The synopsis must be a maximum of two sentences and a minimum of one sentence (and no longer than one-half page in length). The synopsis serves as a brief description of the Short Story.

**ANONYMITY** - The author's name must NOT appear anywhere in the Short Story including the title page.

**LENGTH** - The maximum length for each individual Short Story is 2000 words. All pages must be numbered. You must use double spacing and be indented for new paragraphs.

**All submissions must:**

**Restrictions:**

- All submissions are final: no changes or substitutions are allowed
- No handwritten manuscripts or fax texts will be accepted

**Copyright / Registration** – AWP is granted permission to print the winners and honourable mentions into a collection currently titled “Fishy Ocean Tales” and make said book available on Amazon in Print and eBook format.

**Royalties** – There will be no royalties paid to Entrants from the sale of “Fishy Ocean Tales” should their stories be chosen to be in “Fishy Ocean Tales”.

**Disqualifications** - AWP reserves the right to disqualify any Entrant or Entered Short Story that does not comply with these Official Rules and other Contest requirements from time to time communicated by AWP.

**Judges** - The judges for the Competition are individuals with experience in the writing and/or publishing industry, such that they are qualified to select winning Short Stories, as determined by AWP in its sole discretion. Works are judged anonymously and the judges will remain anonymous. Each text is read by two judges. All decisions by the judges are final (subject to meeting any conditions and eligibility criteria as determined by AWP). Readers' names are confidential until the end of the competition to ensure the judging process remains blind.

**Judging Criteria & Decision of the Judges** - The fixed standard and criteria used by each of the Judges shall be instructed by AWP to the Judges, and shall be as follows:

5%	Spelling & Grammar
15%	Format (Adherence to format as listed above)
80%	Short Story (Writing, Originality, Character Development, and Plot Development)

A point system will be assigned (from 1 to 10, 10 being the highest) to help judges decide the winners.

**Eligibility**

This is an international contest, and as such it is open to everyone of legal age. Those under the age of consent must have parental or guardian consent, which is necessary to enter the Contest.

Previously published authors may submit texts **providing that the submissions are original unpublished works**. You can enter as many times as you like, with as many stories as you like, providing the entrance fee is paid in full for each entry.

All works that have been previously published or broadcast are considered not eligible for the competition. This includes online and in print.

## **Rights**

Candidates warrant the work they are submitting is an original and unpublished work written by them and that they own all rights to it. Candidates will indemnify Artistic Warrior Publishing and their affiliates, harmless from and against any and all loss, damage, costs and other expense arising out of claims, whatever their nature, resulting directly or indirectly from breach of this warranty.

## **Candidates submitting to the prize**

In submitting their work, each participant grants Artistic Warrior Publishing the following licenses free of charge and irrevocably:

- The non-exclusive right to reproduce and publish an excerpt from the work submitted (no more than 15% of its total length) on the websites and platforms controlled or authorized by Artistic Warrior Publishing.

## **Finalists and winners**

In accepting a prize, the winners and finalists grant to Artistic Warrior Publishing, for the entire term of all rights, the following licenses:

- The right to reproduce and publish the work in all formats, including on the websites and platforms controlled or authorized by AWP and on any future merchandise.
- The right to edit, abridge or excerpt the work for the purposes of publication or broadcast. (The author will be consulted if significant edits are necessary.)

For a purpose of clarity, the Licenses granted to Artistic Warrior Publishing by the winners and honourable mentions are for all territories throughout the world (unless another agreement is reached with AWP) and are exclusive for a year from the date of acceptance of the prize and non-exclusive thereafter. Moreover, the winners and honourable mentions, as well as the people accompanying them, or their parents or guardians if the winners are minors, shall agree, if necessary, to have their name and/or picture, including their photograph and/or their voice used for marketing purposes related to this competition, free of charge.

## **HOW TO SUBMIT**

### **Online:**

Texts can only be submitted via email once the registration fee has been paid through PayPal. Participants must fill out their contact information at PayPal and will be redirected to a site with the email address to submit your story. All stories must be submitted via email and in .pdf, .doc, or .docx format.

### **Fees:**

A fee of \$28 US (taxes included) for administration purposes is required for each entry. All fees go towards covering administrative costs, which includes editing, design and layout of the “Fishy Ocean Tales” collection to be placed on Amazon in eBook and print format.

The entry fee will not be refunded if your submission is ineligible. All submissions are final: entry fees are non-refundable and non-transferable.

## **PRIZES**

***Total Value of Prizes is \$2500***

### **First Prize: Total prize worth \$1375**

\$500 off the price of the *Reboot Your Muse* retreat in Sooke, BC, May 17 to 20, 2019\*

3 – ½ hour coaching sessions with writing coach, author and editor, [Darcy Nybo](#)  
1 hour one-on-one with best-selling author [Jonas Saul](#) - via phone or online  
Edit of the first three pages of a manuscript of the winners choosing, by Jonas Saul  
Edit of the next three pages by Darcy Nybo  
Inclusion into the "Fishy Ocean Tales" short story collection and one copy of the book

**Second Prize: Total Prize worth \$750**

\$300 off the price of the *Reboot Your Muse* retreat in Sooke, BC, May 17 to 20\*  
2 – ½ hour coaching sessions with writing coach, author and editor, [Darcy Nybo](#)  
Edit of the first three pages of a manuscript of the winners choosing, by [Jonas Saul](#)  
Edit of the next three pages by Darcy Nybo  
Inclusion into the "Fishy Ocean Tales" short story collection and one copy of the book

**Third Prize: Total Prize worth \$375**

\$100 off the price of the *Reboot Your Muse* retreat in Sooke, BC, May 17 to 20\*  
1 – ½ hour coaching sessions with writing coach, author and editor, [Darcy Nybo](#)  
Edit of the first two pages of a manuscript of the winners choosing, by [Jonas Saul](#)  
Edit of the next two pages by Darcy Nybo  
Inclusion into the "Fishy Ocean Tales" short story collection and one copy of the book

**10 Honourable Mentions:**

Inclusion into the "Fishy Ocean Tales" short story collection and one copy of the book

Note: \* In the unlikely event that the retreat is cancelled, the equivalent dollar value will be given to the winners in writing coaching sessions and/or editing services. Retreat discount must be used and cannot be traded for services.

**PRIZES MAY NOT BE TRANSFERRED. ONLY THE ENTRANT MAY CLAIM THE PRIZE AND MAKE USE OF THE PRIZES GIVEN.**