

MurderedforMoney Script Writing Competition 2023

Competition Rules

Please ensure that you follow all rules when submitting your entry. If any rule is not complied with then unfortunately your entry will be disqualified.

1. Explanation of terms

- 1.1. **Competition** – means the MurderedforMoney Mystery Writing Competition 2023 (this Competition), which seeks to find the best interactive murder mystery script from all submissions, as determined by the appointed judges, along with two runner-up scripts.
- 1.2. **Entrant(s)** - means all authors submitting an Entry.
- 1.3. **Entry** - means any interactive Murder Mystery Script entered for the Competition that meets the submission criteria.

2. Format of your submission

- 2.1. Your Entry should be submitted as a Microsoft Word document (with a filename ending .doc or .docx). Anything that is not a Word document will be rejected. We will not be able to accept PDFs, image or picture files or content typed in the body of an email.

- 2.2. The document must follow the following format:

2.2.1 Title page <**Unique Entry Number**><**Title of Script**> (these elements will not be included in the script word count).

2.2.2 Character page – List of characters and a brief character description/background for each (max 200 words per character - not included in the script word count).

2.2.3 Script (maximum word count 6500).

Act 1 – Scripted, approx. 5 pages of A4 (double spaced)

Act 2 – Scripted, approx. 5 pages of A4 (double spaced)

Act 3 – Scripted, approx. 5 pages of A4 (double spaced)

Act 4 - Unscripted live interrogation of suspects by audience – to be facilitated by the 'detective' character, or any other character who is clearly above suspicion.

Act 5 – The reveal – Scripted, approx. 5 pages of A4 (double spaced)

Props and sound effects page - List of any props and sound effects used in each Act (not included in the script word count).

- 2.3. Your Entry must be written in English.
- 2.4. Entrants may submit one script ONLY.
- 2.5. The typeface used in your Entry should be Arial 12pt.

- 2.6. Your Entry should be double spaced.
- 2.7. The maximum wordcount for the main script (see above) is 6500 words.
- 2.8. The story should involve a minimum of 5 characters, but no more than 8 (including the 'detective character').
- 2.9. The script must include one or two murders and these must take place before the end of Act Two.
- 2.10. The interrogation of the suspects should be facilitated by a 'detective' character who is clearly above suspicion.
- 2.11. The identity of the murderer(s) and how and why the murder(s) took place must be explained within Act 5 (The Reveal)
- 2.12. The theme/storyline of your mystery is entirely up to you, however, please be aware that the play must be easy to stage in a variety of venues.
- 2.13. As we are encouraging work from unpublished writers, we are not being prescriptive as to the actual layout of the dialogue on the page.
- 2.14. **The deadline for registration is midnight (UK time) on 31st July 2023**
- 2.15. **The deadline for submission of your Entry is midnight on 30 August 2023.**

3. Submitting your Entry

To submit your Entry to the Competition, please follow the steps below:

3.1. Step 1: Register

Register your intention to enter and pay the registration fee of £10. This fee goes towards the administration, printing and judging costs.

To register, please visit <https://bit.ly/RegisterMyScript2023>

The deadline for registration is midnight (UK time) on 31st July 2023

As a condition of Entry to the Competition, Entrants consent to their names being published by MurderedforMoney Ltd should they win first prize or be runner up.

Following registration, you can decide not to submit a script, however entry fees cannot be refunded.

On receipt of your payment, we will email you your **Unique Entry Number** which **must** be displayed in the footer of every page of your Entry and quoted in all future correspondence.

Once registered you will be invited to a free Zoom workshop entitled Introduction to writing a murder mystery. This session will be led by experienced MurderedforMoney murder mystery writers. If you register after the 1st July 2023, a recording of the live workshop will be made available to you.

3.2. Step 2: Submit your Entry.

Email your Entry to Writingcomp@MurderedforMoney.co.uk before the deadline of midnight on **30th August 2023 (UK time)**.

The subject of your email should read: **<unique reference number><Title of your script>**.

The name of your attached Entry should read **<unique reference number> <Title of the script>**

All entries are judged anonymously. Please do not include your name, address, phone number, email, website, social media details, etc. on the script or in the file name as this will result in disqualification.

Please check you are submitting the correct version of your work before uploading, as mistakes cannot be rectified later.

3.3 MurderedforMoney Ltd will not be liable for any failure of receipt of Entries.

MurderedforMoney Ltd have no responsibility or liability for any Entries that are lost, delayed, illegible, damaged, incomplete or otherwise invalid.

3.4 MurderedforMoney Ltd reserves the right to refuse any Entry to the Competition for any reason at their absolute discretion.

4. The Prizes

4.1. From the entries submitted in line with Competition rules, the judges will choose the winner of the first prize and one runners-up.

4.2. The first prize, presented to the author of the best eligible Entry, in the opinion of the judges, will consist of:

- i. £100
- ii. The opportunity for their script to be adapted (as required) and performed by MurderedforMoney Ltd as a public dinner theatre mystery or virtual murder mystery during 20.
 - a. If performed as a public dinner theatre event, the winner will receive two free tickets to the premiere event.
 - b. If performed as a public virtual murder mystery, the winner will receive six free tickets to the premiere event.
- iii. A free script appraisal of their work by the Murder Mystery Publishers Lazy Bee Scripts Ltd. This will include:
 - a. A critique of the script, covering points of style, content, and suitability for the chosen market

- b. A marked-up copy of the script, highlighting any errors.

4.3. The runner up will each receive:

- I. A free script appraisal of their work by the Murder Mystery Publishers Lazy Bee Scripts Ltd. This will include:
 - a. A critique of the script, covering points of style, content and suitability for the chosen market
 - b. A marked-up copy of the script, highlighting any errors.

- 4.4 There is no alternative to the prizes stated above and the prize is not transferable. No part or parts of the prize may be substituted for other benefits, items or additions.
- 4.5 The winning Entrant acknowledges and gives their permission for the adaptation of their script as required by MurderedforMoney Ltd for one performance of a dinner theatre event during 2024 in Hampshire UK.
- 4.6 Prizes do not include a guarantee that Lazy Bee Scripts Ltd will publish the winning and/or runner up scripts. This will be a subject for discussion between the author and Lazy Bee Scripts Ltd. following the free appraisal.

5. Original work

- 5.1. Entries must be submitted by the author.
- 5.2. The author may submit only one interactive murder mystery script.
- 5.3. Entries must not have been published, self-published, published on any website, blog or online forum, broadcast, have won or been placed (2nd, 3rd, runner up etc) in any other Competition. If an Entry has been long-listed or shortlisted in other Competitions, and provided it has not won a prize or been published, it is eligible for the Competition.
- 5.4. Entrants warrant that their Entry is original, entirely the Entrant's own work, does not infringe any existing copyright, moral rights or any other rights of any third party and contains nothing obscene, libellous, unlawful, defamatory or anything which MurderedforMoney Ltd may otherwise deem to be inappropriate, and the Entrant warrants that the Entry is suitable for performance by MurderedforMoney Ltd. Any evidence to the contrary will result in immediate disqualification.
- 5.5. Any author who submits an Entry, warrants that they have all necessary consents, approvals, rights and licences required to submit an Entry in accordance with the Competition rules.
- 5.6. The Competition is not open to employees of MurderedforMoney Ltd or Lazy Bee Scripts Ltd, or any of their associated, affiliated or subsidiary companies, the administrators, or anyone connected with the Competition or their direct family members.
- 5.7. Worldwide copyright of each Entry remains with the author, but MurderedforMoney Ltd will have the unrestricted right to perform and promote the winning script, at public dinner theatre events and virtual murder mystery events throughout 2024.

6. Judging

- 6.1. The Competition judges will be appointed by MurderedforMoney Ltd.
- 6.2. The Winner and two runners up will be contacted by email. The overall winner of the Competition will be announced on 31st October 2024, on the MurderedforMoney Ltd website and social media channels.
- 6.3. The judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into or appeals will be heard. Judges are unable to comment on individual Entries.
- 6.4. MurderedforMoney reserves the right to change the panel of judges without notice.

7. Publicity

- 7.1 The Entrant acknowledges and agrees that each shortlisted Entry shall be cleared and can be used for publicity purposes to generate coverage for the Competition, in a format, manner and for such time as may be determined by MurderedforMoney Ltd.
- 7.2 The first prize winner and runners up may be requested to take part in promotional activity and MurderedforMoney Ltd reserves the right to use the name of the winner and runners up in any publicity, both on paper and online.

8. Indemnity

- 8.1 Entrants indemnify and will keep MurderedforMoney Ltd indemnified against loss, injury or damage (including any legal costs or expenses and any compensation costs and disbursements paid or incurred by MurderedforMoney Ltd, on the advice of legal counsel to compromise or settle any claim) occasioned to MurderedforMoney Ltd in consequence of any breach of the warranties contained in these rules and terms and conditions or arising out of any claim alleging that the submitted Entry constitutes an infringement of any third party intellectual property rights or contains libellous, obscene or defamatory matter.
- 8.2 Entrants agree not to bring any actions, suits, claims and demands against MurderedforMoney Ltd in respect of defamation or any infringement or violation of any personal and/or property rights of any sort from our use of their script.
- 8.3 The Competition is exclusively governed by the laws of England and Wales and Entrants submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of England and Wales.
Nothing contained in these Competition rules shall limit the right of MurderedforMoney Ltd to bring a claim against any party in any other jurisdiction.

9. Cancellation

MurderedforMoney Ltd reserves the right to cancel or amend the Competition in the event of unforeseen circumstances or circumstances outside its reasonable control. It is the responsibility of the Entrant to check for any changes to the rules.