

## Submission Guidelines

**Julie Czerneda & Susan MacGregor**

*Tesseract's Fifteen*

*A Case of Quite Curious Tales*

### **YA Criteria**

We, your editors, Julie Czerneda and Susan MacGregor, have set the following criteria for the stories we'll buy for this anthology.

#### If yours doesn't fit, please don't submit it.

Whatever other definitions of a story suited to a **13 and older reader** you may encounter or hold, the only ones that matter to this anthology are ours, plain and simple.

- \* No torture or explicit acts of violence. (Action/fights/struggle are fine.)
- \* No explicit sex. (Be romantic.)
- \* No obscenities. (Be inventive. Yes, kids swear. No, we won't buy your story if your characters do.)
- \* No shades of what's already been done in YA speculative fiction, i.e. schools for magic or vampire boyfriends, unless you are presenting a markedly different and original approach.
- \* No flat, clichéd characters or character place-markers, i.e. the lost little girl, the unhappy dad, the sandwich-fixing mom.
- \* No stories without a strong speculative fiction element that drives the plot, i.e., mom and dad getting a divorce on Mars won't cut it for science fiction, unless there is something more to be made of the setting's effect. The same applies for fantasy and horror.

Think of the glorious stories of science fiction, fantasy, and horror that mattered most to you as a young reader. Don't re-tell them, but let yourself be inspired. This is a fresh audience; ideas and situations that seem familiar to you will be new to them.

In some ways, YA is harder to write because the writer must appeal to a wider range of audience – both the young and the not-so young. Be inventive, surprising, quirky, funny, or poignant. Throw your characters into difficult, dangerous, trying, or awkward situations, but be sure their reactions and abilities are credible to the reader. For example, a younger character might be less confined by the idea of what is or isn't possible, than an adult. Make that work in your story if the plot calls for it. Engage us emotionally.

We seek wonder and astonishment. We want stories that engage the imagination, inspire dreams, and leave hope in their wake. We challenge you to write what will become the classics for a new generation of readers, to be remembered, fondly, for years to come.

## **The Submission Process**

**When:** EDGE Science Fiction and Fantasy Publishing announces that *Tesseract's Fifteen*, the 2011 volume in the award winning series of original anthologies of Canadian Speculative Fiction, will be open for submissions on September 1, 2010 through November 30, 2010, only.

**Who:** The *Tesseract's* anthology series is open to submissions in either English or French from Canadians, landed immigrants, long time residents, and expatriates. French stories must have been translated into English for publication.

**What and How Long:** The theme for *Tesseract's Fifteen* is Young Adult Speculative Fiction\* (\*includes science fiction, fantasy, and horror). Submissions must appeal to the YA audience and be PG-14 in content. *Tesseract's*<sup>15</sup> is open to both short fiction and poetry. The preferred maximum length is 5,500 words, with shorter works preferred. More detailed guidelines are available online [www.edgewebsite.com after September 1, 2010].

**Payment and Rights:** Reporting time is about 20-24 weeks following the deadline. Payment is \$20 for poetry, \$50 for stories under 1,500 words, rising to a maximum of \$100 for stories up to 3,500 words and \$150.00 for stories between 3,500 and 7,500 words.. (Significantly longer stories, where chosen, are paid a slightly higher fee, but in order to exceed the word length limit of 7,500 words, the editors must judge a story to be of surpassing excellence.) EDGE Science Fiction and Fantasy Publishing buys non-exclusive world rights; and is free to market the *Tesseract's Fifteen* anthology as a whole anywhere in any language, but contributors retain the right to market their individual entries outside the anthology.

**Format:** Manuscripts must be submitted by e-mail attachment in .rtf format. The manuscript must be double-spaced, 12-point type (preferably Times New Roman) formatted for either quarto (8 1/2 x 11) OR A4 (8 1/4 x 11 3/4) paper. Margins should be 1 inch. Please include your name, address, e-mail and telephone number on the first page of the manuscript; each page should also have a number and a brief identifier in the header. EDGE Science Fiction and Fantasy Publishing cannot be responsible for submissions lost in transit. Manuscripts must be submitted to the email below, not to the editors.

**EMAIL address for *Tesseract's Fifteen* submissions only:  
tesseract15@edgewebsite.com**

## Submission Tips:

### **What constitutes “original” for a submitted story?**

Never before published. That includes being posted online.

### **Before declaring your story done, check the following:**

- Does the plot wrap up at the end, without character abandonment, missed threads, or wee bits left in closets?
- Is the story complete in itself, i.e. doesn't read like the beginning of a novel or the cliffhanger ending of something else?
- **Have you met the specified criteria for a YA story in this anthology?**

### **General Format Preferences:**

- No title page
- Header: “Story Title” and Your Name on the left, page number on the right
- Title, Your Name, Email, Address, and Word Count at the top of the first page.
- Font: Times New Roman, 12 pt.
- Double space. Normal margins (1” each side, 1” top and bottom)
- Show italics as italics, not underline.
- EM dashes must be typed in as either (1) ALT+0151 (—) or (2) as 2 dashes (--).
- If you are comfortable with styles, then apply an indent to all but the first paragraph of each scene. If not, please tab rather than use multiple spaces.

### **Before emailing your story, please check the following:**

- Did you put your real full name, mailing address (for contracts), and story title in the body of your email as well as in the story?
- If you wish to use a pseudonym for your story, have you supplied both names and made which is which clear? (If new to writing and wondering about this, my advice is to use your own name.)
- Did you put your name, word count, and story title at the start of your story?
- Take a final look at the guidelines. Does your story still suit the stated theme? Be sure! It's astonishing how things can change during the writing process.

Good Luck!