

The Best American Short Stories

Submissions for the 2026 volume: Authors and editors who wish for their print short fiction to be considered should send their publications or hard copies to the following address:

The Best American Short Stories
Mariner Books
ATTN: Jessica Vestuto
HarperCollins Publishers
195 Broadway, 23rd Floor
New York, NY 10007

Stories published by online journals and magazines can be sent to thebestamericanshortstories@gmail.com.

A list of magazines consulted appears at the back of the book.

Eligibility for the 2026 volume: The qualifications for selection are (1) original publication in nationally distributed American or Canadian periodicals in 2025; (2) publication in English by writers who are American or Canadian, or who have made the United States their home; (3) original publication as short stories (excerpts of novels are not considered). Unfortunately, we are unable to reply to individual submissions from authors, but will consider work that meets the above criteria.

The Best American Essays

For the most up-to-date, complete nomination guidelines, please visit the [Best American Essays Newsletter](#).

The qualifications for essays nominated to the series are:

- Original publication as an unabridged, stand-alone essay in a nationally distributed North American periodical or by a North American writer in a foreign, English-language publication and
- Publication in English (originally written in English or translated into English by the essay's author) and
- Publication during the calendar year for the volume (note that each volume comprises essays published in the year preceding the date of the volume; thus *The Best American Essays 2025* features essays published January 1-December 31, 2024).

Other considerations:

- **Print periodical editors** are encouraged to send a complimentary subscription to the series editor (see the address below). No further action is required as *all* eligible essays will be considered.
- **Former guest editors of the series and writers whose essays have been published—i.e., reprinted**—in a previous volume of the series are encouraged to nominate up to five of their own eligible essays, or up to five essays by other writers.
- **Editors of digital periodicals** are encouraged to nominate up to five essays per calendar year. Please send hard copy (including author contact information) of the majority (four of five) by November 15, 2025. You may send a final, fifth nomination, to arrive by December 29, 2025, 5:00 pm, via email.

- **All eligible self- and print-journal nominations (with exception of publications sending complimentary subscriptions) must be submitted as hard-copy tear sheets before or on December 15, 2025, for the 2026 volume.** Allowances will be made for those periodicals whose final issue of the calendar year is published between December 15-31 to submit up to one of the five nominations via email.

Please mail complimentary subscriptions or hard-copy tear sheets to:

Kim Dana Kupperman
Series Editor
The Best American Essays
P. O. Box 569
Hartland VT 05048

Best American Food and Travel Writing

Submissions for the 2026 volume: Writers or editors are welcome to submit published work from any North American periodical in 2026. Please include a link (or PDF), along with the name of publication, date, and author contact information by December 31, 2025 to: bestamericanfoodtravel@gmail.com.

Eligibility for the 2026 volume: To be considered, articles must be originally written in English (or translated by the original author of the article) by a North American or permanent resident. They should be works of respectable literary quality, intended as fully developed, independent articles (not excerpts) on subjects of food or travel writing or related to food or travel writing published in 2025.

The Best American Mystery and Suspense

Submissions for the 2026 volume: Authors and editors are welcome to submit published, online or in print, works of short fiction to bestamericanmysterysuspense@gmail.com by December 31, 2025.

If you would like to send a full magazine issue (or subscription), email bestamericanmysterysuspense@gmail.com for a mailing address.

Eligibility for the 2026 volume: To qualify, stories must be originally written in English (or translated by the original author) by an American writer, that is writers who are citizens of the U.S. or who have made the U.S. their permanent home. They should be works of respectable literary quality, intended as fully developed, independent stories (not excerpts) published in the calendar year 2025 by an American publication. No unpublished stories are eligible

The Best American Science and Nature Writing

Submissions for the 2026 volume:

The Best American Science and Nature Writing is open to submissions from publishers, editors, and writers. (Writers are welcome to nominate their own published work, three pieces max per year.) To submit, visit jaimegreen.net/BASN. Please do not send submissions via email.

If you would like to send a full magazine issue (or subscription), email BASNSeries@gmail.com for a mailing address. Editors are encouraged to nominate their best handful of pieces via jaimegreen.net/BASN.

Eligibility for the 2026 volume: Pieces must have been published, online or in print, by an American or Canadian periodical in 2025. They must be about science, nature, or the environment. Essays are eligible, poetry is not, nor are excerpts from books. Submissions are open through December 20, 2025. (Work published between 12/20 and 12/31 may be submitted until 12/31.)

The Best American Science Fiction and Fantasy

Submissions for the 2026 volume:

Authors: If you are a writer and would like to submit your own short fiction for consideration directly, that is quite welcome. If you're interested in doing so, please review the selection criteria and if your work meets all of the criteria, please send it via the submissions portal located at johnjosephadams.moksha.io/publication/basff

Editors/Publishers: If you'd like to submit complete magazine issues, anthologies, or collections that you edited or published please email johnjosephadams+BASFF@gmail.com. Please ensure that your publication meets item #1 of the selection criteria found below.

Submission Responses: Because this is a best-of-the-year anthology that will be considering thousands of stories, no rejections will be sent out; instead you will just be notified if we wish to include your story in this year's volume. No decisions will be made until after the end of the year and all stories have been considered equally. Final selections for each volume will be made in the March following the eligibility year.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Timing of Submissions

Please submit your works throughout the year (ideally right around time of publication), so that I have as much time to consider your work as possible, whether it's an individual short story submitted directly by the writer, or a magazine or anthology submitted to me by the editor or publisher. Please DO NOT wait until the end of the year to submit. (If your publication is publishing toward the end of the year, that's fine, but if you publish in January, for instance, please don't wait until December to submit for consideration.)

Deadline: You must submit any material for consideration by December 31st of the eligibility year (2025). Though as noted above, please send much earlier if at all possible!

Eligibility for the 2026 volume: The stories chosen for this anthology must meet **ALL** of the following criteria:

1. The original publication of the story must be in a nationally distributed American or Canadian publication (i.e., periodicals, collections, or anthologies, in print, online, or ebook form);

2. The story must be written in English and written by a writer who is American or Canadian, or who has made the United States his or her home;
3. The story must be published as text (audio fiction is not considered unless it also appears as text);
4. The original publication of the story must be as short fiction (excerpts of novels are not knowingly considered);
5. Story length must be 17,499 words or less;
6. The story must be at least loosely categorized as science fiction or fantasy (horror is acceptable if it also has elements of science fiction or fantasy);
7. The story must be published by someone other than the author (i.e., self-published works are not eligible);
8. The story must be an original work of the author (i.e., not part of a media tie-in/licensed fiction program);
9. The story must have been originally published between January 1 and December 31 of the eligibility year (2025).