

Story Contest Guidelines

At Summit Studios, we like to think that we take humour seriously. So seriously, in fact, that we've decided to organize another story contest with the hope that you will write to us with your funniest and most outrageous tales of misadventure. How to encourage you? How about the \$3,000 in cash prizes we're giving away!

We've also decided to move beyond our traditional sphere of publishing - specifically, five anthologies (and counting) containing funny stories about travel and the great outdoors. This time 'round we're opening up the contest to other genres of storytelling.

So: do you have a wacky, funny or outrageous yarn that would fit into one of the four categories we're seeking? If so, we want to hear from you!

We are looking for short stories in the following four categories.

Category One: Travel and Outdoor Humour

This series showcases the funny, whimsical and at times nutty side of travel. You know, the kind of episodes that are *not* funny at the time but later on make for a great story? From misadventures of the most unexpected sort, to situations created by the authors themselves, tales in this category should have something to do with travel or the great outdoors and should leave your readers alternately laughing, cringing, giggling and shaking their heads with disbelief as they turn the pages.

Category Two: Funny Stories from Cottage Country

There is no question Canada has been blessed with more lakes and trees – not to mention moose and canoes and outhouses – than it knows what to do with. Perhaps this is one of the reasons we've also been blessed with a superabundance of cottages. During the summer months, it has become a ritual for Canadians to pack their cars to the seams and head to the cottage. Any cottage. Of course, when they are there, it provides one of the most fertile backdrops for funny stories that one could ever imagine. And your job, dear writer, is to tell us your funny story.

Category Three: Funny Animal Stories

One of the reasons people have such an affinity for animals are the wonderful, silly and often unique personality traits their pets exude. Like the cat on that YouTube video that got its giggles from flushing its master's toilet. Repeatedly. Every day. It took the owner many months of investigating for leaky pipes and doing water audits, trying to figure out why the heck his water bill was always so high. Then, one day while he was home from work, he finally discovered the truth. So if you have a laugh-out-loud story about your pet (or somebody else's pet), write it up and send it to us.

Category Four: Funny Stories about Children

One way to guarantee some laughs and giggles is to gather a group of parents in one room and get them talking about their children. Perhaps this is because of the unique, innocent

and refreshing perspectives that children bring to our collective lives (this is how parents describe the shenanigans of their kids on a good day). Or maybe it's because the little %\$*&@ are so good at getting themselves into anything and everything that they shouldn't (see: Calvin, best friend of Hobbes). Whatever the case, the phrase "Kids can say (and do) the darndest things" is a pretty good starting point for considering stories that might fit into this category.

Prizes: Summit Studios is offering \$3,000 in cash prizes, including a \$1,000 Grand Prize for the best overall story received.

We're also giving away four First Prizes of \$300.00 and four Second Prizes of \$200.00, to be awarded in each of the four categories. Even if your story doesn't win one of these prizes, if we think it will fit nicely into one of our categories, there is a good chance we will publish it in one of our four upcoming humour anthologies to be released in 2012 and 2013. A \$100 honorarium will be paid for any story that we publish; \$30 for short pieces of between 300 and 500 words.

Length: Stories that will be considered for our main story contest must be between 800 and 2,500 words in length.

Submission Guidelines: Please mark the following clearly at the top of your story:

- The story's title
- Your full name
- Your telephone phone number and email address
- The category that your story best fits into

Of course, it is conceivable that a story about a moose hijacking your three-year-old at the cottage on Labour Day weekend, only to be saved by the family dog, might fit into any one of the four categories (so long as nobody was hurt). Just make sure to mention which categories you're submitting to at the top of page one.

Deadline: Writers may submit as many stories as they would like, with no limitations, and in as many categories as you want. All stories must be submitted by email or snail mail, no later than Midnight PCT on **Wednesday, February 29, 2012**. Stories sent by post must be date- stamped no later than February 29, 2012.

Send story submissions to publisher Matt Jackson at hitchhikecanada@yahoo.ca or mail them to the following address:

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Further contest details, as well as samples from our previously published books can be found at www.summitstudios.biz.