

Submission Guidelines

Book Manuscripts, Proposals, or Queries

Cat & Mouse Press accepts a small number of projects each year. We pay a traditional author's royalty and do not charge writers to publish their books. We only accept manuscripts that have a connection to the Delaware shore. We are open to ideas for books and other materials that are unique, have an unusual approach, or target a niche audience. We are not accepting manuscripts for children's picture books at this time. To submit, please start with an email query to nancy@catandmousepress.com.

Contest Entries

Short stories of 500–3,500 words will be accepted for the contest from March 1 through July 1 each year. Submissions must fit the year's theme and have a connection to Rehoboth Beach, DE. Writers do not have to reside in Rehoboth.

Submissions may be fiction or nonfiction, but must be plausible as a “beach read” (engaging, entertaining, and/or humorous). No poetry, erotica, children's literature, or religious material will be accepted. All work must be original, unpublished, and free from libelous material (a signed release will be required).

Writers retain copyright but must grant first publication rights if their work is selected. Publisher reserves right to edit for grammar and spelling; writers will be given an opportunity to review changes before publication. There is no guarantee of publication.

Stories are judged on creativity, quality of writing, suitability as a beach read, and fit with the theme. Work should be publication-ready (in final form and free from grammatical, spelling, and structural mistakes).

Manuscripts should be in an editable form (not a pdf), preferably in Microsoft Word. There is no required format, but the document should be easy for the judges to read. We prefer Times New Roman 12pt, double-spaced, no headers or footers.

Do not place contact info on the manuscript. Any identifying information, including headers, will be removed. Attach the document to an email and include your name, address, and phone number in the email. We go by our own word count, so don't bother putting the count on the document and don't risk disqualification by cutting it too close.

You will get an email response within a few days. If you don't receive a response, please confirm that we received your entry. The deadline is absolute. Those who wait until the last minute have no margin for error (email problems, word count over by a word, etc.). To be fair to all entrants, we make no exceptions.

Manuscripts should be submitted electronically, as an email attachment, sent to nancy@catandmousepress.com. There is a limit of three entries per person. Each entry must be accompanied by a \$10 fee.