



SUBMISSIONS PROCESS GUIDE





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Thank you for your interest in publishing your work with Dreamspinner Press or one of our imprints, DSP Publications and Harmony Ink Press.

A SHORT INTRODUCTION TO DREAMSPINNER PRESS

Dreamspinner Press is an international full-service publisher of gay romance based in the United States of America. We publish stories from 3,500 words and up in several genre categories and eBook formats, as well as audiobooks and translations in French, German, Italian, Spanish, Japanese, Korean, Turkish, and Hungarian. Novels of 60,000 words+ are published simultaneously in paperback. Since its founding in 2007, Dreamspinner has built a catalog of more than 3,000 titles written by more than 500 authors from six continents. The press now operates three imprints: Dreamspinner Press, specializing in gay romance; Harmony Ink Press, devoted to LGBTQ+ Teen and New Adult fiction; and DSP Publications, a boutique publisher of specialty genre fiction. dreamspinnerpress.com has almost 30,000 registered users.

- We believe in growing in small sustainable steps and attribute our success to careful planning and a commitment to quality.
- We do our best to provide every customer and every author the best experience possible.
- We approach submissions selection with the goal to balance growth and demand with choosing the quality stories we think a varied audience will appreciate.

Dreamspinner Press is a full-service publisher. Authors do not pay for our services. We are a member of the Independent Book Publishers Association and Association of American Publishers Inc.

For specific questions, please contact submissions@dreamspinnerpress.com.

- Contracted manuscripts work through a 20+ week editorial production process coordinated by a senior editor.
- Specialized content editing for historicals and other genres is available.
- All cover art is unique to the book and designed by an artist based on the author's input.
- We provide marketing and distribution services for every title we contract.

THE SUBMISSIONS PROCESS

How do I submit a story for review?

Please refer to the Submissions page on dreamspinnerpress.com. The specific steps are outlined, including how to prepare the manuscript, what information to include with your submission, and general information about contracts. Please note that following the guidelines will give your story the best advantage in review.

How do I know what you want?

We recommend studying our catalog for examples. You can also check our Open Calls for Submissions page, our House lines explanations, and any special projects underway.

Updated 10/5/16: Dreamspinner Press will give priority attention and review time to strong single-story romances. Works that are intended to be a sequel or part of a series must be approved prior to submission by Editor in Chief Lynn West by mailing lynnwest@dreamspinnerpress.com.

Why do I have to ask to submit a sequel or series?

Very few sequels and/or series have the legs to be strong sellers. Historical sales numbers prove that sales of a sequel will very rarely match even half the number of copies as the first book. By evaluating your ideas, we can either help you craft a plan to give you the best chance for success or recommend you spend your time on a new standalone romance instead.

For specific questions, please contact submissions@dreamspinnerpress.com.

I submitted my story. Now what?

Your submission has been logged and dated. We may have requested a summary/synopsis if one was not submitted. This summary is very important: it will help us select submissions reviewers based upon the content and genre of your story.

How long will this take?

Our reviews process lasts from two to eight weeks. It's rarely predictable. Factors include availability of reviewers and evaluators, especially for particular genres; story length; genres we are specifically seeking for publication schedule balance; priority for veteran authors with planned submissions, then return authors, then new authors; review results returned; and time required to compile decision responses.

It's been eight weeks. What do I do?

You are welcome to contact submissions@dreamspinnerpress.com to ask for an update when the eight-week mark passes. We ask that you do not query before then.

Who will read my story?

Your submission will be sent to independent reviewers. It will be read from beginning to end and rated on an extensive, specific review form that asks questions about the story's craft and content, its technical condition, possible red flags, and personal enjoyment.

The submission review forms are then routed to an evaluator. Many evaluators are our in-house Senior Editors who specialize in particular genre work, such as historicals or science fiction. Other evaluators are highly experienced reviewers who have proven analytical skills. This evaluator studies the reviews and makes an action recommendation.

Who makes the ultimate decisions?

The action recommendation and all associated materials are reviewed by the Editor in Chief for a final decision.

For specific questions, please contact submissions@dreamspinnerpress.com.

What kind of answer will I get?

Authors new to our company may receive a simple decline with our thanks. Return and veteran authors may receive a variety of individualized decisions: a contract offer, a request for revisions, or a decline with feedback.

My story was declined. Do I have any recourse?

Decisions of the Editor in Chief are final.

Can I revise it and resubmit it?

You are welcome to revise and resubmit, especially if we sent specific feedback.

Who will read it the second time?

At least one of the readers from the first time, a brand new reader, and the original evaluator, who will analyze the specific revisions.

How long will it take for a decision the second time?

We attempt to make resubmission decisions within four weeks, but it could take up to the full eight weeks again. We give resubmissions more attention to gauge the effect of revisions made.

What happens after I sign a contract?

You will receive an acknowledgment from our staff, along with information about the editorial production process.

Who do I ask if I have any other questions?

E-mail your specific questions to submissions@dreamspinnerpress.com. Please be sure to read the entirety of the Submissions page on our web site—including the Learn More links—first.

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