

FICTION GUIDELINES

Cosmos is an Australian popular science magazine sold internationally. A glossy, high-quality title appearing six times a year, it also publishes original science fiction in every issue. *Cosmos Online* (see www.cosmosmagazine.com), the magazine's daily news and features website, has a monthly audience of 375,000 and attracts more than 1 million page views a month; it also has a fiction section.

Cosmos has won Magazine of the Year and Editor of the Year at Australia's Bell Awards for Publishing Excellence – among the 27 awards it has picked up. It was a finalist at the 2006 Ditmar Awards for Australian SF, and "For Solo Cello, op. 12" (*Cosmos* Feb 2007) helped Mary Robinette Kowal win a Nebula in 2008. "Angel of Light" by Joe Haldeman was named one of the Top 10 SF short stories of 2005 by the *New York Review of Science Fiction*, while four *Cosmos* stories have appeared in "year's best" anthologies internationally.

We invite fiction submissions for short stories of between 2,000 and 4,000 words in length. They should be literature first: well written pieces, stylistically and imaginatively executed, and polished works. They should involve some element of science at their heart: whether a new technology, a new idea, a different society or alternate reality, and based on scientific premises, principles or possibilities. We are, in short, looking for good science fiction, and we only consider previously unpublished works.

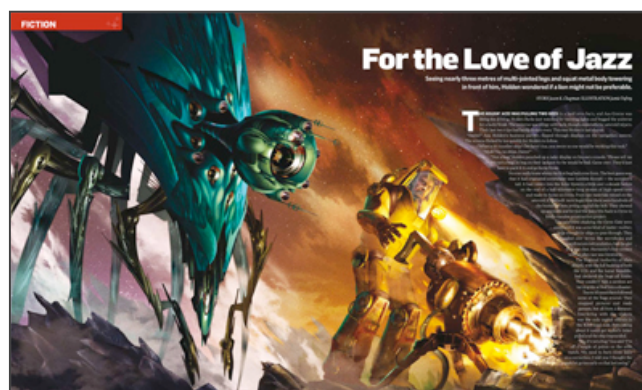
What we're *not* looking for: we're not interested in fantasy, literary allegory, magical realism, Harry Potter look-alikes, or lectures about science or politics lightly disguised as narrative. We do have some restrictions, since *Cosmos* has a wide readership, so please avoid profanity, explicit sex or gratuitous violence. Each short story appearing in the magazine is accompanied by a lavish and original illustration commissioned especially for each piece of new fiction (see example below).

For publication in print, we pay a flat fee of A\$300 (approx. US\$220). We buy an exclusive worldwide licence for three months only from the date of first publication in print, plus the right to publish it in the fiction section of *Cosmos Online*. The licence includes a right to republish in future in an anthology or other form for an additional payment equal to 10% of the original fee.

We receive many, many submissions. Rather than reject those judged worthy but which don't fit into the print magazine (since we only run seven stories a year), we may offer publication in *Cosmos Online*. For this we pay a flat fee of A\$75 (approx. US\$55); we buy an exclusive licence for three months from first publication on the site, and the right to republish in an anthology or other form for an additional payment equal to 10% of the original fee.

Our standards are high, so we're only interested in seeing the best. Unless you're convinced your work is top-shelf, it's probably best not to bother.

Fiction submissions are considered by noted Australian SF author Damien Broderick, with the final decision made by me. Damien will only read submissions made via email as attachments and in Rich Text Format (".rtf" files). Send submissions to the email address above. You must format them as follows: View Normal, Times Roman, single-spaced, 12-point, one line space between paragraphs, left justified, ragged right; no tabs (especially no auto-tabs); and Italics, no Underline.



– Wilson da Silva, Editor