

## FICTION GUIDELINES

COSMOS is a literary science magazine of high production values, published in Australia six times a year and sold worldwide. The winner of 35 local and international awards, the print magazine has a global readership of 100,000. Its daily news content site, Cosmos Online ([www.cosmosmagazine.com](http://www.cosmosmagazine.com)), has an audience of 300,000 unique visitors and more than 1 million page views a month. Both also publish original science fiction short stories.

Although better known for its science journalism, COSMOS has a respectable fiction pedigree: our Fiction Editor is noted Australian SF author Cat Sparks; five COSMOS SF short stories have appeared in 'Year's Best' anthologies; a story in COSMOS helped Mary Robinette Kowal win a 2008 Nebula; and pieces in the magazine – as well as the magazine itself – have been finalists at the Aurealis Awards and twice in the Ditmars. COSMOS has twice won the trophy for Magazine of the Year at the annual Publishers Australia Excellence Awards.

COSMOS invites 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. A story should involve some element of science at its heart: whether a new technology, a new idea, a different society or alternate reality, and based on scientific premises, principles or possibilities. Characterisation is valued, as is a story arc. We are, in short, looking for good science fiction, and we only consider previously unpublished works.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\$300). We buy an exclusive worldwide licence for three months 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\$75); 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 Cat Sparks first, with the final decision made by me. Please send your submissions to the email address above.

**Wilson da Silva**  
Editor-in-Chief

