

MSLEXIA FICTION COMPETITION 2023

'I'm putting this message out there into the world in the hope that it reaches you. How? My best answer has to be "somehow".'

Sophie Hannah, *The Couple at the Table*, 2022

Your passport to publication

Novel winners and shortlisted finalists go on to be published at the highest level – visit mslexia.co.uk/submit-your-work/reader-success-stories for recent achievements

Winners and three finalists of the Short Story and Flash Fiction categories will be published in *Msllexia* magazine

24 Short Story and Flash Fiction finalists will be published in the *Msllexia* anthology *Best Women's Short Fiction 2023*

CLOSING DATE FOR ALL CATEGORIES: 18 SEPTEMBER 2023

mslexia

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NOVEL

For novels of at least 50,000 words by women who are not yet published as novelists.

1st Prize: £5,000

Winner and three finalists also receive feedback from The Literary Consultancy plus pitch training and personal introductions to agents and editors at a Talent Party organised in partnership with New Writing North. Enter the first 5,000 words only. Longlisted authors will be asked to submit their whole manuscripts.

Entry fee: £26

JUDGES

SOPHIE HANNAH

Bestselling novelist, poet, writing tutor

NATASHA ONWUEMEZI

Associate Editor of the *Bookseller*

SOPHIE LAMBERT

Literary agent and MD of the C&W Literary Agency

SHORT STORY

For complete short fiction up to 3,000 words

1st Prize: £3,000

Three finalists all receive £100

Winner and three finalists will be published in *Msllexia* magazine

Eight additional finalists, along with the four winners, will be published in *Msllexia*'s ebook anthology *Best Women's Short Fiction 2023*.

Entry fee £12

JUDGE

DEBORAH MOGGACH OBE

Novelist, short story writer, screenwriter

FLASH FICTION

For complete short fictions up to 300 words

1st Prize: £500

Three finalists all receive £50

Winner and three finalists will be published in *Msllexia* magazine

Eight additional finalists, along with the four winners, will be published in *Msllexia*'s ebook anthology *Best Women's Short Fiction 2023*.

Entry fee £6

JUDGE

TANIA HERSHMAN

Flash fiction and short story writer and editor, poet and novelist

TERMS & CONDITIONS

COMPETITION CATEGORIES

▶ Novel Competition: for novels of at least 50,000 words, for adults and YA.

▶ Short Story Competition: for complete fiction texts of up to 3,000 words.

▶ Flash Fiction Competition: for complete fiction texts of up to 300 words.

ALL ENTRIES

▶ Please submit your work typed, double-spaced, on A4 pages, single sided, with pages numbered.

▶ Your entry will be judged anonymously, so do not put your name on the text pages of your entry.

▶ If entering by post, please print out and complete the submission form on our website (msllexia.co.uk/competitions).

▶ No alterations may be made to your entry once it has been submitted.

▶ Your entry will not be returned, so do keep a copy. If you require confirmation of receipt of a postal entry, enclose an SAE labelled 'Acknowledgement'.

▶ No entrant will win more than one prize in any one competition.

▶ All entrants will be notified of the outcome of their entry via email. Notifications will be sent to Short Story and Flash Fiction entrants in November 2023; to Novel entrants in February 2024.

▶ The winners and finalists of the Novel Competition will be announced in the June 2024 edition of *Msllexia*.

▶ The winner and three finalists of the Short Story and Flash Fiction competitions will be published in the December 2023 edition of *Msllexia*.

▶ The full shortlist of 12 entrants for each of the Short Story and Flash Fiction competitions will be announced in *Msllexia* magazine and on the website, and published in the ebook anthology *Best Women's Short Fiction 2022* on 1 December 2023.

▶ Copyright of any entry remains with the author, but *Msllexia* has the unrestricted right to publish the winning entries or extracts in its magazine and on its website, plus unrestricted rights to use the winning entries and any related material for PR purposes.

ELIGIBILITY

▶ Entries should be in English (or English dialect) and should not have been published or accepted for publication in print or online by a third party.

▶ Entries that have won other competitions are not eligible.

▶ The Novel Competition is for unpublished novelist only. Women who have had a novel published by a mainstream or independent publisher, for any age group, in any country, are not eligible.

▶ All or part of self-published manuscripts with sales of fewer than 500 copies are eligible.

▶ Entries should not be a translation of another author's work.

▶ We will accept entries from women of any nationality from any country.

▶ You do not have to subscribe to *Msllexia* to be eligible, but you do have to self-identify as a woman.

▶ Employees of *Msllexia* are not eligible.

HOW TO ENTER

▶ All competition categories open for entries on 1 June 2023 and close at 23.59 GMT on 18 September 2023.

▶ You may enter online at www.msllexia.co.uk/competitions, or send your entry by post. If entering online, there are full instructions on the website.

▶ If entering by post, please print out and complete the submission form on our website (www.msllexia.co.uk/competitions), mark your envelope 'Msllexia Fiction Competition' and send it to: Msllexia Publications Ltd, PO Box 656, Newcastle upon Tyne NE99 1PZ.

▶ If entering by post, please pay by cheque (payable to Msllexia Publications Ltd.) or by debit/credit card (phone +44 (0)191 204 8860 with your details).

▶ You may enter as many competitions with as many submissions as you like, but you must enter each competition separately, accompanied by a separate fee.

▶ Entry fees must be in pounds sterling. For overseas entries, international online card payments are accepted.

PRIZE TERMS

NOVEL COMPETITION

▶ Manuscript feedback from The Literary Consultancy is optional. Practical arrangements should be agreed between the finalists and TLC.

▶ The pitch training is a day-long professional workshop in Newcastle upon Tyne. The personal introduction to agents and editors will take place at a Talent Party in central London. Both events are arranged in partnership with New Writing North. These parts of the prize are also optional. *Msllexia* will contribute a total of £100 towards each finalist's travel expenses.

▶ These additional prizes must be taken before 30 September 2024.

SHORT STORY COMPETITION

▶ Payment for each of the eight additional shortlisted stories that will be published along with the four winners in the ebook anthology *Best Women's Short Fiction 2023* is £25.

FLASH FICTION COMPETITION

▶ Payment for each of the eight additional shortlisted flash fictions that will be published along with the four winners in the ebook anthology *Best Women's Short Fiction 2023* is £25.

The closing date for all three competition categories is

18 SEPTEMBER 2023