

## Edd Vick's Guide to Finding Short Speculative Fiction Markets

Not all magazines buy stories all the time. Some get overstocked, some have set periods when they look at new stories, and some set a limit on how many stories they'll accept and close when it's reached. Check guidelines carefully to see what they want, when they'll accept it, and how they want it formatted. Unless an editor has specifically requested you not send a cover letter, a short, friendly note is appreciated.

When I've finished a science fiction, fantasy, or horror story, here are the places I look for markets. You can find each magazine or anthology's guidelines by searching on the name of the market plus "submission" or "guidelines". I have links in my browser for well over a hundred magazines. However, if it seems like a good fit for one of the big three print magazines, I send it there first.

- *Analog* <analogsf.com> wants more hard science, usually upbeat fiction. Slow response time.
- *Asimov's* <asimovs.com> wants more character-oriented stories, a good market for humor. Moderate response time.
- *Fantasy & Science Fiction* <sfsite.com/fsf/> tends toward a more literary audience. Quick response.

The following online magazines are tough sells, but pay very well.

- *Clarkesworld* <clarkesworldmagazine.com>
- *Daily Science Fiction* (stories up to 1500 words) <dailysciencefiction.com>
- *Lightspeed* <lightspeedmagazine.com>
- *Nature: Futures* (850–950 words, hard sf)
- *Strange Horizons* <strangehorizons.com>

The following aggregators list as many markets as they can find. Some places will be on one but not the others. Some offer a tracker so you can keep on top of which stories have gone to which markets. I have links to forty or so aggregators, but following are the ones I use 90% of the time.

- *Aswiebe's Market List* <aswiebe.com/writing/markets.html> frequently updated Excel list of markets, so you can sort it and find the perfect market
- *The Grinder* <thegrinder.diabolicalplots.com> my favorite, maintains bar graphs of response times

- *Duotrope* <duotrope.com> full featured, charges a fee so I don't use it
- *Ralan* <ralan.com> bare bones, but divides markets up by kind and payment

If you don't have a story to sell, but are looking for an interesting subject to write about, the following let you know about new anthologies open now or coming soon. Of the eighty-some-odd lists I follow, these are the most useful. Many of these I follow via their RSS feeds.

- *Absolute Write Forums* <absolutewrite.com/forums/forum.php> (click on Paying Markets)
- *Angie's Desk* <angiesdesk.blogspot.com>
- *Cathy's Comps & Calls* <compsandcalls.com/wp/>
- *Dark Markets* <darkmarkets.com>
- *The Horror Tree* <horrrortree.com>
- *Jeanne's Writing Desk* <jeannelyetgassman.blogspot.com>
- *My Little Corner* <sandruseamans.blogspot.com>

Finally, a few specialty market listings. I subscribe to Pamelyn Casto's monthly email list of flash fiction resources. Send an email message with a blank subject line to [FlashFictionFlash-Subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:FlashFictionFlash-Subscribe@yahoo.com).

If you're interested in selling reprint rights to foreign markets for your genre stories, check out Douglas Smith's page at <smith-writer.com/foreign\_market\_list.htm> He tells you which ones pay. Most of them will do the translating.

For poetry, there's a good list of markets at <sfpoetry.com/markets.html>

There are quite a few podcasts that record short fiction, some of them paying, some of them accepting reprints. Do a search on *starshipsofa*, the *drabblecast*, *escape pod*, *pseudopod*, and *podcastle* to start.

Good luck! If you have interesting market resources you'd like to share with me, feel free to write me at <edd@speakeasy.net>

