



WOW! FALL 2009 CONTEST

SEPTEMBER 1ST—NOVEMBER 30TH

DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 30TH MIDNIGHT (PACIFIC TIME)

Prizes

1st Place: \$250.00

+ \$25 Amazon Gift Certificate, Published on WOW!, 1 Year Subscription to the Premium-Green Markets Community, *How to Land (and Keep) a Literary Agent* by Noah Lukeman, Interview on the WOW! Women On Writing Blog.

2nd Place: \$150.00

+ \$25 Amazon Gift Certificate, Published on WOW!, 1 Year Subscription to the Premium-Green Markets Community, *How to Land (and Keep) a Literary Agent* by Noah Lukeman, Interview on the WOW! Women On Writing Blog.

3rd Place: \$100.00

+ \$25 Amazon Gift Certificate, Published on WOW!, 1 Year Subscription to the Premium-Green Markets Community, *How to Land (and Keep) a Literary Agent* by Noah Lukeman, Interview on the WOW! Women On Writing Blog.

7 Runners Up:

+ \$25 Amazon Gift Certificate, Published on WOW!, 1 Year Subscription to the Premium-Green Markets Community, *How to Land (and Keep) a Literary Agent* by Noah Lukeman, Interview on the WOW! Women On Writing Blog.

15 Honorable Mentions:

+ \$20 Amazon Gift Certificate, *How to Land (and Keep) a Literary Agent* by Noah Lukeman, Name, title of story, and City, State, and Country published on WOW!



Guest Judge:

Literary Agent, Noah Lukeman

Noah Lukeman is President of Lukeman Literary Management Ltd, which he founded in 1996. His clients include winners of the Pulitzer Prize, American Book Award, Pushcart Prize and O. Henry Award, finalists for the National Book Award, Edgar Award, and Pacific Rim prize, multiple New York Times bestsellers, national journalists, major celebrities, and faculty of universities ranging from Harvard to Stanford. He has also worked in the New York office of a multi-talent management company, where he represented many New York Times Bestsellers, and, prior to founding his agency, he also worked for another New York literary agency. Prior to becoming an agent he worked in the editorial departments of several publishers, including William Morrow, Delphinium Books and Farrar, Straus, Giroux, and as editor of a literary magazine. He was creator of PrePub.com, one of the first publishing rights websites, which eventually became the "Booktracker" division of Inside.com. As a literary agent, he has been written up in media ranging from *The New York Times* to *Variety* (Page 1).

Mr. Lukeman is also an accomplished author. His best-selling [*The First Five Pages*](#): A Writer's Guide to Staying out of the Rejection Pile (Simon & Schuster, 1999),

was a selection of many of Writer's Digest 101 Best Websites for Writers and is now part of the curriculum in many universities. His [*The Plot Thickens: 8 Ways to Bring Fiction to Life*](#) (St. Martins Press, 2002) was a National Bestseller, a BookSense 76 Selection, a *Publishers Weekly* Daily pick, a selection of the Writers Digest Book Club, and a selection of many of Writer's Digest 101 Best Websites for Writers. His [*A Dash of Style: The Art and Mastery of Punctuation*](#) (W.W. Norton, 2006 and Oxford University Press in the UK, 2007) was critically-acclaimed, a selection of the Writers Digest Book Club and the Forbes Book Club, was profiled on NPR, and is now part of the curriculum in over 50 universities and writing programs. His e-book [*How to Write a Great Query Letter*](#), which he gives away for free as a way of giving back to the writing community, has been the #1 Bestselling title on Amazon Shorts for many months. His most recent book geared to help aspiring authors is [*How to Land \(and Keep\) a Literary Agent*](#). He has also made available over 100 pages of free advice for authors from all his books, which you can read by clicking [here](#). Mr. Lukeman's Op-Eds have appeared in the Sunday New York Times, *The Wall Street Journal* and *The Dallas Morning News*, and he has contributed articles about the publishing industry and the craft of writing to several magazines, including *Poets & Writers*, *Writers Digest*, *The Writer*, the *AWP Chronicle* and the *Writers Market*, and has been anthologized in *The Practical Writer* (Viking, 2004). To read more about Mr. Lukeman's work as an author, visit his personal site, www.noahlukeman.com.

Noah Lukeman has been a guest speaker on the subjects of writing and publishing at numerous forums, including The Juilliard School, the Wallace Stegner writing program at Stanford University, the Writers Digest Panel at Book Expo America, the MFA at Northern Michigan University, the National Society of Newspaper Columnist's annual Boston conference, and Riker's Island Penitentiary. He earned his B.A. with High Honors in English and Creative Writing from Brandeis University, cum laude.

WOW! WOMEN ON WRITING
FALL FLASH FICTION CONTEST 2009
~TERMS AND CONDITIONS AND FAQs~

OPEN PROMPT

This season we leave the contest completely open to you! This means you get to decide the subject matter and story for your flash fiction entry. You have the freedom to be as creative and original as possible. Please make sure that your entry is fiction (not poetry or personal essay) and have fun!

WORD COUNT

Minimum: 250 Maximum: 750

The title is not to be counted in your word count. We use MS Word to determine the submitted entry's word count.

CONTEST DEADLINE

November 30, 2009 at midnight, Pacific Standard Time. You can sprint like Cinderella at midnight, but you run the risk of having your story become mouse food. In other words, you worked hard on the story. Safeguard it! Act like the deadline is a day or so **before the deadline**.

LIMITED ENTRIES

To increase your odds at winning, but still enable healthy competition, we've limited the amount of entries to **300 stories** this season. Please enter early to ensure your spot in the competition. If we reach 300 entries, we will disable the PayPal button on our contest page. If the button is still active, that means we haven't reached 300 stories yet. Please visit our contest page <http://www.wow-womenonwriting.com/contest.php> to ensure that the button is active *before you send us an email* asking us if we've reached the limit.

ENTRY FEE: \$10.00

The entry fee is not a reading fee. All fees are used solely and purely for award money, prizes, and administrative costs. To enter this contest, you must pay an entry fee. To pay by credit card, e-check, or PayPal balance, go to: <http://www.wow-womenonwriting.com/contest.php>. Click on the "Buy Now" button. It will take you to Paypal. From there you have two options:

1. Pay Fast with PayPal (If you have an account, choose this option).
2. If you don't have a Paypal account, pay by credit card (If you'd rather not create a PayPal account, you can pay by credit card or e-check here).
3. If for some reason, you do not have a credit card, or a PayPal account, you may send a check or money order if it is early enough. We typically discourage this for it is harder for us to verify and takes time, but if you must, please send to: WOW! Women On Writing LLC, 740 S. Van Buren Suite D, Placentia, CA 92870. Please make sure you put your check number at the bottom of your email when submitting your entry. Also make sure you include your PayPal Transaction ID# at the bottom of your email contest submission. Remember, even if you send a check by snail mail, **you will still have to send your contest entry via email**. We cannot

type it for you. We also cannot send you guidelines in the mail. That's what this PDF is for.

EMAIL SUBJECT LINE

Type **“Fall Contest Submission 2009”** in your subject line when you email your submission. Please do this to ensure that we do not miss the story that you will have worked so hard on. **If you have purchased a critique**, please type **“Fall Contest Submission 2009 with Critique”** in your subject line.

SUBMISSION CONFIRMATION

Our Auto responder will thank you for submitting. It is not a clock-watcher or calendar reader. If your submission is LATE, we humans will note that fact and your story will be disqualified; but our non-prejudicial Auto responder will simply say thank you.

DISQUALIFIERS

1. Turning in your submission LATE! That means we would have received it AFTER midnight, November 30, 2009. If you read articles concerning your chances of winning a writing contest, they will always remind you to get entries in early rather than late. Please take the advice, including ours, because we have no desire to disqualify anyone's entry.
2. We will reject any submission that MS Word counts under 250 words or above 750 words. **THIS DOES NOT COUNT YOUR TITLE OR YOUR PERSONAL CONTACT INFORMATION AT THE END OF YOUR STORY.**
3. You didn't pay for your contest entry.

THE 14 WOW! GUIDELINES

1. Your story must be fiction.
2. Your submission must be **Minimum: 250 words; Maximum: 750 words**. This does not count your title or personal contact information that you add at the **END OF YOUR STORY**.
3. You must pay \$10.00 for the entry before making your submission.
4. You must type **Fall Contest Submission 2009** in the subject line of your email. If you purchased a critique, please type **Fall Contest Submission 2009 With Critique** in the subject line of your email.

5. The **Contest Deadline** is **November 30, 2009, at MIDNIGHT**, Pacific Standard Time.
6. Whet our appetite with a title. It will be the only thing typed above your story in the body of your email. No title means a lower technical score for not following the guidelines.
7. At the **END** of your story, please type on the left hand side the following information:
 - a. Your name.
 - b. Your email address, you may submit more than one to be on the safe side.
 - c. Your mailing address, please give us your street address—**NOT** a P.O. BOX—we use UPS or FedEx to ship prizes to the winners. They don't ship to P.O. Boxes. If you want to win and receive a prize, we need a street address.
 - d. Telephone number where we will most likely be able to reach you. If you win, we need your phone number to be able to send your prize via FedEx.
 - e. Word count—this does not include your title, name or your personal contact information. We use MS Word to verify the word count of your story. We will destroy your personal information after we no longer have any use for it. We will not share your information with any other person or company, or for personal or commercial reasons.
 - f. **WE DO NOT PUBLISH EMAIL ADDRESSES.** Considering all the spammers out there on the internet, we will no longer publish emails, unless specifically asked to do so. If you win and would like to have your email address in your bio, that's up to you. You'll have to include it at that time, since we do not publish email addresses.
 - g. Your unique PayPal Transaction ID or receipt number, which is your confirmation number for payment.
8. **WE DO NOT ACCEPT ATTACHMENTS.** Our Auto responder is polite and may thank you for your email. But, we still **WILL NOT ACCEPT ATTACHMENTS.**
9. Use **Verdana 14 pt type** or **Plain text.**
10. No html emails accepted, except for the above mentioned font. No tables, pictures, etc.
11. The best way to submit your story is to **type your story in the body of your email.** This step is necessary because sometimes when you paste your story from a word program, the email garbles characters which it can not understand: for instance “quotation marks” em—dashes and other characters that aren't friendly with email formatting. So, do yourself and our guest judges a favor, type your story into the body of your email.

12. We accept only one submission per title. We accept only one submission per email. Re-writes are not accepted. Again, our Auto responder graciously thanks you and we, on the other hand, disqualify repeats.
13. Email your submission to: contest@wow-womenonwriting.com, no later than midnight, November 30, 2009, Pacific Standard Time.
14. **The act of entering this contest constitutes an agreement between you and WOW!, that you agree to EVERY ONE OF THE 14 GUIDELINES and that you acknowledge pleading a case for not following these guideline will not move WOW! or our Auto responder to nullify the disqualification.**
 - a. In case of disqualification, remember the only serious mistakes are the ones from which we don't learn.

WOW! Women On Writing Contest: Critiques!

Due to popular demand, we now have an additional critique option. If you purchased the “Contest Entry with Critique” option, you will receive personal editorial feedback from one of our round table judges. Upon the close of our contest, and **after winners are announced**, you will receive a critique of your contest entry from one of our round table judges on four categories:

- ☞ Subject
- ☞ Content
- ☞ Technical
- ☞ Overview

You will be provided with your scores (1-5) in each category, and personal editorial feedback for each category as well. Please be patient upon the close of our contest and allow time for our editors to thoroughly critique your piece. **You will not receive your critique until AFTER the contest winners are announced—which is typically two months after the contest closes.**

To purchase a critique with your entry, please visit our contest page: <http://www.wow-womenonwriting.com/contest.php> and choose the button that says, “Buy Entry w/ Critique.” **Please note: this option must be purchased at the time of entry.** This allows us to verify which piece you are receiving a critique for. Please choose your option carefully. We do not issue refunds.

You must put “**Fall Contest Submission 2009 With Critique**” in your subject line when submitting your entry. This will help us verify that your particular entry is the one you’ve chosen for critiquing.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why should I enter the contest?

Contests provide writers with challenges, including a deadline, word count limitation, and editing practice. Writing an entry for a contest means more practice with writing, proofing, and editing.

What should I write about?

Every quarter WOW! offers a new contest, which means a new prompt. The writing prompt provides the storyline to incorporate in the story, in any creative way that a writer chooses. See the Terms and Conditions above for the most current prompt. If it is an open prompt, that means you can write on any topic that you choose, just make sure it’s fiction and within the word count.

To whom should I target my writing? Who is my audience of readers?

Gear your writing toward women readers and our guest judge and/or sponsor of the season.

How long should my entry be?

Entries must be a minimum of 250 words to a maximum of 750 words. The word count does NOT include your title.

Who is eligible for the contest?

Any person on the planet who can submit their entry in English, via our online means, is eligible to enter. That means: all ages, all genders. Yes, men can enter too!

How do I get my entry published?

If an entrant wins 1st, 2nd, or 3rd Place, or places as one of the 7 Runners Up, then her or his story will be published on WOW!. 15 Honorable Mentions will only have the title of their story, their name, and city/state published on WOW!

What are the quarterly periods and deadlines?

FALL: September - November 30th Midnight (Pacific Time)

WINTER: December - February 28th, Midnight (Pacific Time)

SPRING: March - May 31st, Midnight (Pacific Time)

SUMMER: June - August 31st, Midnight (Pacific Time)

How long must I wait before I hear the results?

We officially notify contestants one to two months after the close of the contest, depending on the expedience of our guest judges. At that time, if you were chosen in the top 10, your entry will be published in the next issue of WOW! We aim to have all the prizes to the contestants within two months after the contest winners are announced.

Can I submit a piece I wrote for another publication that's posted online?

It's unlikely that another posting will have the "prompt" included, so the answer is no. Please submit an original work written for this contest alone.

For open prompt contests: Yes, you can submit a piece you wrote for another publication as long as you own the copyrights to the story. Please make sure you do NOT have to give credit to another publication should your winning entry be published on WOW!

Can I submit a story I previously submitted to a WOW! contest?

Yes, you may, but only if your story didn't place in a previous contest. We've had contestants who didn't place in one contest, place in another. It really depends on the guest judges for the season and their preferences. Just make sure you go back and review your story and make sure it is free of typos, spelling mistakes, and construction errors. Identify any problem areas to rewrite. Some contestants who've purchased a critique take the suggestions of the editor who critiqued their story and rework their story for the next contest.

What is the entry fee?

\$10.00 per entry, per email.

What is the critique fee?

An additional \$10.00 for a critique, per entry, per email. \$20 total.

How do I pay for my entry?

To pay by credit card, go to: <http://www.wow-womenonwriting.com/contest.php>.

Click on the "Buy Now" button. It will take you to Paypal. From there you have two options: 1. Pay Fast with PayPal (If you have an account, choose this option); 2. If you don't have a Paypal account, pay by credit card or e-check (If you'd rather not create a PayPal account, you can pay by credit card here).

What if I don't have a credit card or a PayPal account? Can I send you a check or money order?

Although we discourage this, yes you can. We discourage this because we have to manually look for your check, match it up with your entry, and verify funds. So, if choosing this option, please make sure you send your check early in order for processing.

Mail to:

WOW! Women On Writing
740 S. Van Buren, Suite D.
Placentia, CA 92870

Please make your check out to “WOW! Women On Writing LLC” and **please include a note of which contest it is for, as well as your entry’s title**. Also, **please include your check # at the bottom of your email entry when submitting**. If you are mailing in a check, please **DO NOT mail your contest entry**. You must enter by email. Our guest judges will only read emails, and we cannot type them for you. Also, please **do not** include an SASE and ask for contest guidelines. We only provide them with this PDF and do not mail them. Plus, it’s eco-friendly 😊

Can I enter more than once?

Yes, but please submit each entry in a new email with a new PayPal Transaction ID at the bottom, to facilitate tracking and organization. You can enter as many times as you like as long as you follow the guidelines.

I live outside the United States, can I enter?

We welcome entries from all over the world. But contest entries must be submitted in English. Also, please note, if you live outside the U.S., WOW! will provide you with an Amazon gift certificate in place of a gift package. This is due to extra shipping costs and other fees such as tariffs (which are out of our control) incurred to the contestant in the past.

Can you explain the judging process and who judges?

We have a roundtable of 4-6 judges who blindly score submissions based on: Subject, Content, and Technical. If an entrant scores well on the first round, she goes to the second round of judging which averages out scores to narrow down the top 25 entries. Afterward, it’s up to our guest judge to submit her 15 Honorable Mentions and her Top 10. From the Top 10, she ranks the 7 Runners Up, and then the Third, Second, and First Place Winners.

How should I submit my entry?

Please submit your entry with “Fall Contest Submission 2009” in the Subject heading, your story in the body of your email, and your PayPal Transaction ID at the bottom,

below your name, address, and contact information. Read our 14 Guidelines above for more details.

Submit to: contest@wow-womenonwriting.com after reading our guidelines.

I entered, but I didn't receive an autoresponse: help!

You are welcome to send us an email to verify your submission, but please check your bulk mail folder to make sure it didn't end up there. Also, if you enter more than once in a row, you probably won't receive an autoresponse for each submission. Our autoresponder is set up to only reply once or twice to the same email within a short period. This protects our server against the multitude of spam sent to our contest email address. When in question, feel free to contact us: contestinfo@wow-womenonwriting.com. Please put "contest question" in the subject line.

If I win the contest, can I go ahead and enter the next one?

Yes. Previously, we didn't allow contestants to enter if they'd placed 1st, 2nd, or 3rd, but now we are opening up each contest to allow previous winners to enter again. Make sure you submit a new story.

What about rights?

If your entry wins and is published on the WOW! website, first electronic rights are used with the right to archive indefinitely. It may be republished. You retain all copyrights, such as first print rights and any other rights such as anthology rights.

Can I send my entry to another contest?

That depends. Be sure to check their guidelines. It's fine with us, but many contests want only original entries.

Is there a particular format I should use to submit my entry?

Please avoid fancy and odd-sized fonts. In the body of your email, use a standard-size font, like Verdana, Times New Roman, Courier, or plain text. Please don't indent paragraphs and don't double space after periods, either. Single space your entry beneath your title. Please note: we recommend typing your story into the body of your email. This is the best way to ensure that we don't receive odd characters that occur from copy-pasting a word document. Here is an example of what your entry should look like:

Email Subject Line: Fall Contest Submission 2009 (or Fall Contest Submission 2009 with Critique)

Title of your story

Story goes here. Remember, no indents please, and no double-spacing after periods. Use single spacing only with margins flush left. Please do not center your text or title.

Hit the return key to indicate paragraphs. Type your story into the body of an email to ensure the best outcome. If you want to use em dashes, please use your hyphen key like this--it will help eliminate odd characters. You can also use asterisks to indicate scene changes. These do not count in the overall word count. Please make sure they are flush left, not centered.

At the end of your story, remember to include all the information we listed in our 14 guidelines. Hit the return key a couple of times and then enter your information below your story.

Your Name
Email addresses
Your mailing address (No P.O. boxes, please)
Telephone number(s) with area code
Word count
PayPal transaction ID# (or check number if mailing a check)

Can I use a pseudonym?

Yes, you may. Please make sure you include both your real name (so if you win we know who to make the check to), and your pseudonym.

Does my entry have to be light-hearted or funny?

No. You may write in any style or genre that you choose to. Please keep in mind our guest judge and/or sponsor for the season.

Can I receive feedback on my entry?

We get this question a lot, so we've recently offered an additional critique option when purchasing your entry. Please read above where it says, "WOW! Women On Writing Contest: Critiques!" To receive a critique, you must purchase it at the time of entry.

What style guide do you use for the critique?

We use [*The Chicago Manual of Style*](#) for technical, and [*Self-Editing for Fiction Writers*](#) for content.

Do you notify me if I don't win?

No. Unfortunately, we can't personally respond to contestants that did not place, but you can see the results online on our contest winners' page.

How many people enter the contest?

The number varies each season. Typically, when there's an open prompt we receive more entries. We've limited the number of entries to 300. If we receive 300 entries, we will close the contest early.

What if I have another question that doesn't appear here?

If you have a different question, not answered in here or by the Terms and Conditions, feel free to email us at contestinfo@wow-womenonwriting.com. Please put "Contest Question" in the subject line.

Submit to: contest@wow-womenonwriting.com after reading our guidelines.

**LET'S HAVE FUN THE WRITE WAY!
ENJOY WRITING AS MUCH AS WE WILL ENJOY READING!
THANKS FOR VISITING WOW! AND ENTERING (Y)OUR CONTEST.**

