

## Competitions for Crime Writers

Finding competitions for writers of crime has proved to be a frustrating but interesting endeavour.

I basically carried it out via searches on the internet and picking the brains of Carmel Shute from *Sisters in Crime*. Much of the information was limited or out of date, but I made a list and attached the URLs. Then I went through them and double checked. Some of the URLs didn't work, even though I had taken them from their sites, and I had to search around to find them again. The URLs I have listed below are the ones that work. I eliminated some of the competitions as I found on further investigation they no longer existed or, in the case of international ones, weren't open to Australians.

I tried to check that the USA competition run by *Writers Digest* is indeed open to Australians, but I haven't heard back. All I seemed to accomplish was signing up to their site. Ho hum! The competition is listed as being open to any work in English, so I am including it and hoping for the best.

There are two competitions for published Australian fiction and non-fiction crime: *The Davitt Awards* for women crime writers run by *Sisters in Crime* since 2001 and the *Ned Kelly Awards* run by the *Australian Crime Writers Association* since 1995. Australians are also eligible to compete in some of the categories in the UK's *Dagger Awards*.

There are also many other general competitions that published and unpublished crime writers can enter, but I haven't included these.

The following is a list of organisations and competitions for unpublished crime writing. In some cases the URL refers to old information, but that is often all that is available for now. Some are located overseas, but are open internationally. Also in some cases the information is too late for you to enter now, but you can try next time.

1. **Spineless Wonders** – Carmel Bird Digital Literary Award -  
(Closed Feb 2019)  
<https://shortaustralianstories.com.au/submissions/the-carmel-bird-award/the-carmel-bird-digital-literary-award/>
2. **The Newcastle Writers Festival / Joanne Burns Microlit Award**  
(Closes 30 Sept, 2019)  
<https://www.newcastlewritersfestival.org.au/the-2019-newcastle-writers-festival-joanne-burns-microlit-award/>
3. **New England Writers' Centre** – Thunderbolt Prize for Crime Writing  
6 prizes in a number of sections  
(entries - 13 June – 7 Oct 2019)  
<http://www.newc.org.au/thunderbolt-prize-2019.html>
4. **Australian Crime Writers' Assoc** – S.D. Harvey Short Story Award  
(closes 31 July 2019)  
<https://acwa.squarespace.com/news/2019/4/17/sd-harvey-short-story-awards>
5. **Sisters in Crime** - The Scarlet Stiletto Awards - Women's Crime and Mystery  
Short Story Competition (for women writers)  
(closes 31 Aug, 2019)  
<https://www.sistersincrime.org.au/the-scarlet-stiletto-awards/>
6. **Crime Writers' Assoc & Margery Allingham Society (UK)** – Margery  
Allingham Short Story Competition  
(closes Feb 2020)  
<https://thecwa.co.uk/debuts/short-story-competition/terms-and-conditions>
7. **Crime Writers' Assoc (UK) – Debut Dagger** (International competition for  
unpublished crime writers)  
(closed 28 Feb 2019)  
<https://thecwa.co.uk/debuts/debut-dagger/>
8. **Writer's Digest (USA)** Genre Short Story (Mystery, Romance, etc. - 4,000  
words) (seems international to me)  
(closed 6 May 2019)  
<https://www.competitioninfo.com/opportunity/writer-s-digest-annual-writing-competition-2019-123903>

9. **Killer Nashville with Kensington Books (USA)** – Killer Nashville Claymore Award (unpublished English-language manuscripts containing elements of thriller, mystery, crime, or suspense not currently under contract.  
(closed 1 April 2019)  
<https://killernashville.com/claymore>
10. **St Martins Minotaur Books/Mystery Writers of America (USA)** - First Crime Novel Competition  
(closed 1 April 2019)  
<https://mysterywriters.org/about-mwa/st-martins/>
11. **Minotaur Books & Malice Domestic (USA)** – Minotaur Books/Malice Domestic Best First Traditional Mystery Novel Competition  
(closed 12 Jan, 2019)  
<https://us.macmillan.com/minotaurbooks/submitmalicedomesticmanuscript>
12. **Chanticleer Book Reviews (USA)** - A number of competitions for published & unpublished writers. This is open to Australians and New Zealanders. In fact some of our writers have won top honours.)  
(close - dates vary)  
<https://www.chantireviews.com/contests/>

I sent emails to those that were ambiguous: Telegraph Harvill Secker (UK) – Aus not eligible; Writers' Digest (USA) – no response; Chanticleer Book Review (USA) – responded with a very encouraging email.

Good luck!

And if you're too late for this year's comps try for next year.