

## KILLER WOMEN MENTORING SCHEME TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Please read eligibility, application deadlines, guidelines, how to apply and terms and conditions before completing the application form and attaching your sample and proposal. Submission of an entry is taken as acceptance of all the Terms and Conditions.

### Eligibility

- To be eligible you must be a woman over 18 years old from a BAME or working class background. The Scheme is only open to writers of colour and from working class backgrounds who are under-represented in mainstream publishing.
- You must be either a British citizen or resident in the UK
- You must be unpublished and unagented

If you have any questions about eligibility please email [info@killerwomen.org](mailto:info@killerwomen.org)

### Application deadlines

- Applications for the Killer Women will be accepted from **9am (GMT) on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2019 to 9am (GMT) on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019**. You are encouraged to apply as soon as you can after 31 March. Any applications received before 10<sup>th</sup> April or after 1st July 2019 will not be accepted.

### Guidelines

All applicants will need to fill out an application form (see how to apply below) and in addition submit a synopsis for a novel of between 1000 and 3000 words plus a 4000 to 5000 word writing sample.

There is no single formula for writing a synopsis . However, to be eligible for this scheme, your synopsis must be for a novel in the crime genre, which includes psychological thrillers and suspense fiction. You are encouraged to write the synopsis in third person, introduce your main characters and conflict at the beginning, summarize the main events of the plot and end with a resolution. A good synopsis includes only necessary information and demonstrates character development and emotion. You do not have to know absolutely everything that will happen in the finished novel but your synopsis does need to summarize the main narrative arc, to ensure character actions and motivations are realistic and make sense and to outline how the main character or characters change from beginning to end of the story needs. Clarity is more important than style in a synopsis.

Your writing sample must be between 4000 and 5000 words. Ideally it will form the opening of a piece of long form fiction in the crime, psychological thriller or suspense genres, but a short story or stories in those genres will also be accepted. There are no restrictions as to chapter or section numbers, number of characters or points of view and you may write in any tense and in the first, second or third person or any combination of these.

### How to apply

- Those eligible can apply free online at [www.killerwomen.org](http://www.killerwomen.org)
- Applications must be made by the writer only
- All applications must be made online using the application form available at [www.killerwomen.org](http://www.killerwomen.org) and including a synopsis of between 1000-3000 words along with a 4000 to 5000-word writing sample.

### *Instructions for Entering Online*

2. Write and format your writing sample as per the following instructions:

One entry per writer

- Written in English
- A maximum of 5,000 words
- Previously unpublished original crime, psychological thrillers or suspense fiction\* (\*see guidelines)
- Typed on a computer
- Any font, 12pt, black
- Double spaced
- No page numbers
- Include a front page which details the Title of Book and the Word Count

3. Save the story as a Microsoft Word document (.doc or .docx) preferably, or as an Adobe PDF, with the **working title** in the file name.

4. Complete the Entry Form online, including uploading your synopsis and submission.

### **Please note, in this Entry Form, you must:**

- Provide your name, age, date of birth, gender and nationality.
- Confirm you are 18 or over.

- You must complete the form asking how you define your gender, your ethnicity and what class you identify as.
- You must agree to the Award Terms and Conditions by way of a check-box and provide your email address, telephone number and postal address.
- The personal data provided will be used for the purposes of administering the Award and in accordance with the Killer Women Privacy Policy. Killer Women Ltd will use the contact details provided to send general updates as to the progress of the Scheme by email. Your personal data, including your contact details, will not be used for any other purpose(s)

### **Important information**

- Entries not submitted in accordance with the Entry Instructions and Entry Terms and Conditions will not be eligible for consideration.
- If you have any questions about entering the Scheme, please email [info@killerwomen.org](mailto:info@killerwomen.org) The Scheme administrators will respond as soon as possible. Please note that for any email correspondence to [mentorscheme@killerwomen.org](mailto:mentorscheme@killerwomen.org) an automated reply will only be in response to the first email sent.

### **Entry Terms and Conditions**

Please read this document in full to ensure that the writer whose work is due to be submitted and their story are eligible for the Scheme. Instructions on entering can be found in the Entry Instructions above.

## **1. THE SCHEME**

1.1. Mentees will be chosen by members of the Killer Women author group. The group are responsible for compiling a shortlist of submissions for the Killer Women Mentoring Scheme, from which the four Killer Women mentors will select their personal mentee. See section 4 for further information on the selection process.

1.2 There will be four mentorships for four writers. The selected writers will:

- Be mentored from synopsis to first draft manuscript by four traditionally published authors at the top of their game. Each mentor will read work in progress, and offer advice and support, including up to 12 hours of one-to-one contact time, face-to-face or by Skype, email or phone.
- A year's free mentoring by an experienced, published crime writer, taking the mentee from synopsis to first draft manuscript.
- Two tickets to the Killer Women Festival of Crime Writing in London in March 2020 (worth approx. £100); an opportunity to network with leading crime writers, publishers, editors and agents. UK travel and accommodation can be paid where appropriate.

- An established literary agent at The Good Literary Agency will read and comment on mentees' work and undertake an hour long introduction to the role of the agent, either in person or by Skype.
- A commissioning editor from HQ, an imprint of HarperCollins, will read and comment on mentees' work with a view to possible publication.

## **2. ELIGIBILITY**

2.1 The Award is open to female UK residents from BAME or working class backgrounds\* (\*see guidelines for further information on eligibility), including residents of the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands, aged 18 years-old or older on the submission deadline (9am GMT on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019) only. Proof of age, residence and nationality may be requested of selected writers.

2.2 The submission must not exceed five thousand (5,000) words or be less than four thousand (4,000) words. The synopsis must not exceed three thousand (3,000) words or be less than one thousand (1,000) words.

2.3 No more than one entry per writer may be submitted. If more than entry is submitted, only the first entry received will be considered.

2.4 Writers can only enter individually and not as part of a writing team.

2.6 The submission entered must be unpublished

2.7 The submission must be, and by submission of the Entry Form, is warranted to:

- (i) be an original piece of fiction.
- (ii) be entirely the writer's own work;
- (ii) not infringe the copyright or any other rights of any third party;
- (iii) not be defamatory of any living person or corporate body;
- (iv) not contain obscene, offensive, or any other unsuitable material.

2.7.1 Further, by submitting the Entry Form the entrant warrants that they or the sample submitted will not bring Killer Women Ltd into disrepute. Breach of any of these warranties will result in disqualification of the entry.

2.8 The Award is not open to employees of Killer Women Ltd, or anyone connected with the Scheme or their direct family members. Proof of identity and eligibility may be requested.

2.9 Writers who have previously taken part in other mentoring schemes and/or creative writing courses are ineligible.

2.10 Entries are limited to stories written in English.

### **3. COPYRIGHT AND TERMS OF USE**

3.1 Copyright remains solely with the author.

### **4. JUDGING**

4.1 Eligible submissions will be judged on the following criteria:

- Quality of writing
- Originality, imagination and creativity
- Sentence structure and language
- Writer's ability to tell a story, capture the reader and hold their attention
- Commercial viability

4.2 Selected writers will be contacted by email or telephone.

4.3 The judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

### **5. ADMINISTRATION AND COMMUNICATION**

5.1 Killer Women Ltd is responsible for administering the Award.

5.2 An Entry Form must be submitted online at <https://killerwomen.org> by 9am GMT on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019.

5.3 The writers selected for the mentoring scheme are likely to be announced on 1st August 2019. Killer Women reserve the right to change this date without notice.

5.4 Writers must provide their name, age and nationality. Killer Women Ltd will only ever use personal details for the purposes of administering this Scheme, and will not publish submissions or provide them without permission to anyone not involved in the administration of this Scheme. Personal details will be kept up for as long as necessary for the purposes of administering the Scheme, such as for example, to maintain an accurate record of the Scheme. We will securely destroy your personal information when it is no longer required to carry out this function. If you would like to know more about the Killer Women privacy policy, please see <http://killerwomen.org/privacypolicy>

5.5 Killer Women Ltd will not acknowledge receipt of entries and does not accept any responsibility for late or corrupted entries. Proof of sending is not proof of receipt. Entries submitted online will receive an automated acknowledgement.

5.6 Entrants must supply full details as required above, and comply with all rules to be eligible for the Scheme. Ineligible, obscene or fraudulent entries will be automatically disqualified.

5.7 Killer Women Ltd reserves the right to cancel this Scheme at any stage, if deemed necessary in its opinion, or if circumstances arise outside of its control.

5.9 Killer Women Ltd reserves the right to refuse entry to the Scheme for any reason at its absolute discretion.

5.11 By submitting for the Scheme the entrant agrees in the event of securing a place on the Scheme to make every attempt to participate in a personalised mentoring sessions at mutually agreed times. If sessions cannot take place in person, then they will take place via email/phone/Skype as mutually agreed.

5.12 The entrant agrees that they will contribute where possible to press and publicity activities for the Scheme. The entrant agrees to obtain prior written consent before taking on any of their own press or publicity activity relating to their involvement in the Scheme. In the event that the entrant is informed that they have been selected for the Scheme, the entrant must not publish or otherwise let it be publicly known of this fact (such as via online forums such as twitter, Facebook etc.) until such time as the official announcement is made, failing which the Award Committee may at its sole discretion disqualify the entry.

5.13 Entrants will be deemed to have accepted these rules and to have agreed to be bound by them when entering this Scheme. Killer Women Ltd may at its sole discretion disqualify the entry and/or end the mentorship, if it considers that the entrant has not complied with the terms and conditions contained herein (such as that the work is not original, fictional, and entirely the writers' own work).

5.14 The entrant acknowledges and agrees that to the extent permitted by law, Killer Women Ltd, its partners and any other person(s) in connection with the Scheme will not be liable for any loss or damage (whether such damage or losses were foreseen, foreseeable, known or otherwise) including financially and/or to reputation and/or disappointment, suffered by any entrant entering the Scheme or as a result of accepting mentorship under the Scheme.

5.16 These rules and the entry submitted in accordance with them shall constitute a contract governed by the exclusive laws and the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of England and Wales.