Siouxland Libraries Adult Horror Writing Contest 2026

Siouxland Libraries invites adults to submit a short horror story for its Adult Horror Writing Contest. This year's contest theme is **Haunted Places**. Stories may be based on a real experience, fiction, or a blend of both.

Rules:
1. Open to adults 18 and older
2. Story content must be PG-13 or lower
3. 1000 words or fewer
4. Must be horror or horror-adjacent and fit the yearly theme
5. Stories must be original, without any form of plagiarism or use of A.I.

First-, second- and third-place winners will be selected based on the following criteria:
1. Plot
2. Characters
3. Use of language
4. Grammar/syntax
5. Adherence to rules

Submissions open October 1 and will be accepted through October 31. Submit stories using the link on our website.

Winners will be contacted in advance of a public announcement on Siouxland Libraries' website and social media pages on November 16.

Prizes will be awarded:
1st Place Prize – Book Why I Love Horror and Storymatic writing prompt cards
2nd Place Prize – Horror movie puzzle
3rd Place Prize - Horror/Fantasy/Sci-Fi magnetic poetry

Entries must include name and email. Phone number is optional.

Entries may have more than one author. Only one prize per entry will be awarded.

No more than one entry per person.

Stories by all winners will be posted on Siouxland Libraries' website and linked on social media pages.

By submitting your story, you agree to the following:

- You grant Siouxland Libraries the right to publish the story on its website and social media pages.
- Your submission is an original story, and any form of plagiarism or use of AI composition will result in immediate disqualification. If using direct quotes, please use proper citation.
- You have adhered to all other rules listed above.