



Attention, artists and writers--Chromatic Press is looking for talented creators to be part of our monthly online magazine *Sparkler Monthly*! We're looking for comics, prose, illustration, and writing staff for an audio drama, for stories that will be serialized monthly online. See more details (and any announced creators and titles) at chromaticpress.com.

We are, first and foremost, looking for strong, entertaining stories. We're a predominantly Female Gaze publication, looking for works that will appeal mainly to girls and women aged 15-30 who already have an interest in geek media--manga, webcomics, fanfiction, video games. We're primarily interested in works in the romance, fantasy, urban fantasy, and science fiction genres, although we're flexible if you have an interesting proposal in another genre.

We're also dedicated to promoting works with diverse casts of characters, and being a platform for stories that aren't heard often enough in mainstream media. We want characters of different races, religions, and cultures; gay and straight love stories; complex and sympathetic portrayals of people with disabilities or mental illnesses. And we want compelling, complicated female characters who don't fall into the same old boring stereotypes.

We pay all of our creators up-front for their time. The majority of our creators will receive an advance against royalties off sales of the completed books/ebooks/audio dramas. For writers or artists with smaller contributions to particular titles or the magazine in general, payment will be under Work For Hire agreements with no royalties. Contracts are somewhat flexible, but in general, Chromatic Press leaves copyright in the name of the original creator of the work, and advances/royalties are offered as payment to lease certain rights of that copyright for a set number of years.

Chromatic Press is a new publishing company run by comics industry and fandom veterans: Lillian Diaz-Przybyl (HarperCollins, TOKYOPOP, J-Manga), Lianne Sentar (TOKYOPOP, Seven Seas, *Tokyo Demons*), Rebecca Scoble (The Beguiling, Seven Seas, *Tokyo Demons*), and Jill Astley (*Lijakaca's Otome Blog*).

Details and deadlines

All submissions should be sent to: submissions@chromaticpress.com

Please send all files and information as attachments to an email. Any information in the body of your email will be lost. If the attachments are too large, a link to a dropbox or something is fine, but please do **not** just link to a website where you uploaded your pitch. For written documents, try to use near-universal document types, such as Microsoft Word, Open Office, rtf, or pdf. Artists, you can send low-res versions of high-res illustrations for the purposes of your pitch. Try to stick to jpg, gif, and pdf. Please include your resumé--with your name, email address, and links to your online portfolio or backlist--**as its own text document**. We're happy to consider fanwork as part of your creative resume.

If you want to pitch more than one idea, please send **no more than one pitch per person per format** (in other words, you may submit a pitch for a prose serial and an audio drama, but not for two prose serials). And of course, please make sure your pitch is comprehensive, polished, and edited, because your chances are better with one excellent idea than several weaker ideas.

Our open submission seasons are offered as blocks of time. See the table below and *do not submit earlier than the first date or later than the last date*, or your submission will be lost.

<i>Type of pitch</i>	<i>First date submissions will be accepted</i>	<i>Last date submissions will be accepted</i>
Prose (with or without illustrator)	June 1, 2013	June 30, 2013
Audio drama scriptwriters	July 1, 2013	July 31, 2013
Comics (a single creator or full creative team only)	August 1, 2013	August 31, 2013
Illustrators for prose/audio dramas	August 1, 2013	August 31, 2013

Our call for **voice actors** is sporadic and limited by geography. If you would like to audition as a voice actor and you are located in the *Toronto, Ontario area only*, please e-mail audio@chromaticpress.com for more information.

We can't guarantee a detailed response to every applicant, but we'll e-mail confirmation that we received your pitch within 3 days, and we'll send you our decision within a few months. For future open submission seasons, please check www.chromaticpress.com/magazine or follow our Twitter, Facebook, or Tumblr (www.chromaticpress.com/contact/).

Note: At this time, we aren't interested in re-releasing stories that have been available online for free in any format (including AU fanfics with the names changed). If you've already posted small excerpts or single chapters, or if the work was locked to a small audience--such as in a small, self-published print run or a friends-locked livejournal--we're willing to consider it. Contact submissions@chromaticpress.com with any questions.

General guidelines

Audience: Since *Sparkler Monthly* is primarily catering to the under-served demographic of women aged 15-30, we won't be publishing work specifically for children, and we're trying to avoid most Young Adult. We're willing to consider Young Adult that contains more mature themes (we would prefer *Hunger Games* over *Twilight*). That's not to say that a *Sparkler* series needs to include sex or violence or anything, but the work must appeal to an older audience-- complicated characters, difficult issues of morality, and sometimes, older protagonists. Our first two launch titles, *Off*Beat* and *Tokyo Demons*, both star high school students, but their main characters are complicated people in an adult world who deal with more than the usual teenage hijinks, thus the series are appropriate for *Sparkler*.

Focus on characters: We're using Japanese Female Gaze (shoujo and josei) as our general model for serial storytelling, so whatever your pitch or setting, we want characters, emotional development, and relationships to be a strong focus in your story, no matter the genre. Romance is not required (although certainly encouraged), but we want to see complicated character relationships of all types and personal development for your characters over the course of your plot. In other words, Bring the Feelings. Even if you have the coolest science fiction plot in the world, if your characters are flat, we may have to turn you down. On the flipside, you can write a modern-day drama with no supernatural element about a college love triangle with exciting characters and hijinks, and we'll be absolutely thrilled. **Make your characters and their issues/relationships/growth the strongest aspect of your story, no matter what type of story it is.**

Accessibility: In the spirit of manga, light novels, and Drama CDs, we'd like stories to be accessible, both from a story standpoint and a writing standpoint. We want easy reads. We're not a good match for very densely written high fantasy, for example, but if you want to introduce a complicated sci-fi/fantasy society through easy-to-read prose/comics/audio script and gentle exposition that's secondary to character interactions? Go for it.

Setting/genre: As mentioned above, we're happy to consider any genre, but we're mostly interested in urban fantasy, drama, romance, and mild to medium science fiction or fantasy. We prefer modern settings or supernatural settings that feel modern or futuristic; we're willing to consider period pieces and medieval fantasy, but they *must* be accessible to a modern audience who wouldn't normally read those. (In other words, you can send something with a Jane Austen-esque setting, but avoid a Jane Austen-esque writing style.) If you're working in a complicated setting (like a fantasy world or just an elaborate industry/government program/city on Earth), don't let your world-building bog down your story and distract from your characters.

If you want more information on what kind of stories we like to publish, just look to our existing titles! New series will be announced at chromaticpress.com, but as of the time of this writing:

<i>Off*Beat</i> (comic): http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Off_Beat_(comics)
<i>Tokyo Demons</i> (illustrated prose and dramatized audio book): www.tokyodemons.com

What to avoid

We're seeing a lot of pitches that use the same basic setups, and although it's possible to tell some great stories using those premises, we're getting overloaded with them and we're unlikely to publish much else that falls into these categories. Unless you're positive that your story does something completely original with the premise, you should avoid:

Anything primarily set in a high school. You can absolutely focus on teenage characters, but we'd prefer to see them dealing with the rest of the world (they can be working, fighting crime, homeless, etc.).

Portal stories; in other words, stories where an ordinary girl (or boy, or group) gets sucked into another world. These have been done to death and tend to all feel the same for the first few chapters. If you want to put a cool twist on it, *Red River* style (summoned to the chopping block of another world to be a blood sacrifice for an evil queen), we'd be more open to that.

Stories about The Chosen One(s). This includes long-lost princesses, anything prophesized, or The Child Who Lived. If you want your characters to be the reincarnation of someone else, we want more *Please Save My Earth*, less *Sailor Moon*. (Apologies to the awesomeness that is *Sailor Moon*.) It's absolutely fine to have a character with a unique power or secret backstory, but we want something with less gravitas so it doesn't come across as cliché. Who saw *Princess Tutu*? You know the guy who found himself trapped in a storybook, playing the role of the Character Who Dies to Show The Situation is Serious? We would be so down with that.

What to aim for

We're happy to look at pitches that don't fit into any of these suggestions, but these are the things that get us excited:

Romance! We've seen surprisingly little romance so far in pitches, and although there are obviously other ways to make relationships complicated, romance is by far the easiest. We'd especially love to see romances that mix up the genders and sexualities--instead of keeping straight and gay love stories separate, feature characters of all sexualities, and see how difficult you can make their love lives.

People with complicated personal problems that aren't (necessarily) supernatural. Family problems, health problems, addictions, unrequited love.

Drama and/or comedy. Don't be afraid to go a little melodramatic or over-the-top; it's much easier to scale back and add some subtlety later on than to try to add in emotion later. We want stories that are interesting, involving, and fun to read, that bring people back for the next chapter.

Comic artists

We are currently looking for either comics creators who can write and draw their own stories, or established teams of writers and artists who can take care of the entire comic-making process among themselves. We will serialize your story monthly in our online magazine and collect it in ebook and possibly paperback form.

-We're interested in sequential black and white comics that can be published in manga-style volumes. We need one 20- to 30-page chapter per month, plus additional material such as character designs, color promotional art, 4-panel gag comics, covers for collected volumes, etc. Based on the buffer built in, an artist can potentially drop to **as few as 10 pages per month + several extra illustrations**, but no less than that once serialization begins.

-We need **long stories** that can be completed in 6 to 24 chapters (1-3 standard manga-style volumes), ideally with the option to continue beyond that, and **one-shot stories of up to 50 pgs.**

To apply as a comic artist/comic team, please provide:

- at least 5 complete pages (or up to one full chapter) of the comic. Format is flexible for submissions, but stick to something that would translate well to a paperback format; vertical page, approx 800 x 1132 pixels, 300-600 dpi, for example.
- a detailed outline of your first story arc (by the chapter), and a bare-bones outline of your future plans for the story. Please keep this under 5 pages.
- your resumé, including links to any webcomics, online portfolios, original works, or fanworks that you've worked on.

Writers (prose)

We're looking for writers to serialize novel-length prose stories in our online magazine, to be collected in ebook and possibly paperback form. Each project will have an illustrator attached to it, for chapter illustrations, cover art, character designs, etc. Prose pitches do **not** need to come with an illustrator, since editorial will usually hire a separate illustrator, but feel free to submit an illustrator/illustrations along with your project.

We need **novel-length stories**, to be released by chapter every month (5,000-10,000 words per chapter), with 6 to 12 chapters per book. Your novel should be fairly self-contained, ideally with the option to continue beyond that point if the novel is successful. We're also interested in **shorter works** and one-shots, 1 to 4 chapters (5K to 40K words) total.

To apply as a prose writer, please provide:

- a 5,000 word (approximate) sample of your story.
- a detailed outline of the first novel by the chapter, and a bare-bones outline of future plans (if your story is part of a longer series). Please keep this under 5 pages.
- your resumé, including links to stories (in print or online) that you've written, including fanworks.
- If you think your novel could be adapted into an audio play and you're willing to adapt it into that format in the future, please let us know in your outline.

Writers (audio drama scripts)

We're looking for a scriptwriter for an original audio play--the final version of which will have a full voice cast, original music, and sound effects. Each project will have an illustrator attached to it. Audio drama pitches do **not** need to come with an illustrator, but feel free to submit an illustrator/illustrations along with your project.

We need **short serials**, 20 to 30 pages per episode (which should translate to approx 20 to 30 minutes of audio) per month, 3 to 8 episodes total. The scriptwriter will have the option of getting involved in casting and directing, depending on her interest level and location.

Note: We understand that "audio play" is a medium most writers don't have experience working in, and we're willing to work with creators who are writing in this format for the first time and need some help. A basic script should look something like this:

[Scene: Office building, late at night. The building is silent.]

Jen: [frustrated sigh] I don't know why you let him get to you like that!

Bilal: [defeated] I know, I know I shouldn't, but he's just so...[whispered - panicked]
Wait, did you hear something?

Jen: Stop being so paranoid! I'm sure no one knows we're--

[A door creaks open in the distance. Muffled sound of footsteps approaching]

Bilal: [whispered - upset] Shit, shit, shit! I don't know why I let you convince me this would work! I'm leaving *right now!*

We prefer projects with a **limited cast of characters**, for ease of casting and recording. Try to keep the main cast at 5 people or fewer, and limit the number of side characters.

We also want something **reasonably low-powered**. Anything visual is hard to get across in an audio drama unless it can be implied with dialogue, sound effects, and occasionally inner monologue. Because of this, a heated argument will have more impact on the listener than a fistfight, and a quick, dirty scuffle will come across better than a massive magic battle. We love anything **emotionally intense**, and use tone of voice and non-verbal communication--crying, screaming, laughing, sarcasm, meaningful pauses.

To apply as an audio drama scriptwriter, please provide:

- a 10- to 20-page script excerpt in the general format outlined above.
- a detailed outline of your story, broken up into approx chapters of 20-30 pages each, 3-8 chapters in total. You may also include a bare-bones outline of future plans, if your story lends itself to a sequel. Please keep your outline under 5 pages.
- your resumé, including links to any novels, scripts, comics, or stories (in print or online) that you've written, including fanworks.

Illustrators

Each of our **prose serials** will need an illustrator. This will be a large, ongoing job that will include one highly detailed black and white illustration per chapter (8 to 12 illustrations per book), a color cover image for the completed novel, and color character designs. It may also involve color illustrations/splash pages for the magazine cover and website, mini comics, and additional art for promotional purposes. We'll also need **illustrators for audio dramas**, which will be a smaller-scale job that is exclusively full-color but is otherwise similar to what's listed above. Illustrators will be working closely with the writer and editorial team.

Each illustrator will be assigned to **one full series**. We'll need at least one chapter illustration and 1 to 2 additional illustrations or character designs per month for the entire run of the story. If you have ideas for visuals beyond that, we'd love to hear about them!

You can see *Tokyo Demons* for examples:

Chapter illustration: http://www.tokyodemons.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/chap3_for_web.jpg
Character designs (these are mostly black and white): http://www.tokyodemons.com/characters/
Cover: http://www.storenvy.com/products/656782-tokyo-demons-book-1-paperback
Splash page: http://www.storenvy.com/products/855665-poster

To apply as an illustrator, please provide:

- four** sample illustrations: two black and white, two color. We prefer black and white pieces with **tones**, although just strong inked shading can also work--please don't send flat lineart or pencil sketches. The illustrations should focus on characters (rather than landscapes). Format is flexible for submissions, but stick to something that would translate well to a paperback format; vertical page, approx 800 x 1132 pixels, 300-600 dpi, for example.
- At least two of the four illustrations should be complete scenes with backgrounds.
- At least two illustrations should be of original characters that you designed (it's fine if someone else invented the character, as long as the visual design is yours).
- Your resumé in its own text document (not the body of an email), with your name, email address, and a link to your online portfolio, including fanwork. An online portfolio can include a deviantART page or a Tumblr with proper tags.

Feel free to share this document with your creative community.

Thank you for your time, and good luck!