



FUN IN THE DARK

A mini anthology series of fabulously fun, deliciously dark short fiction.

#3 – SMALL TOWN WEIRDNESS

Stories selected by the K&R editorial team, including special guest reader Troy Tradup.

Edited by Alex J. Gardner.

How to Submit:

Email a DOC/DOCX or PDF of your story to kilterandrammel@hotmail.com with “Fun in the Dark Submission: Small Town Weirdness” as the subject.

DEADLINE: Midnight, 30 June 2026.

N.B. “Midnight” applies to your own specific time zone, rather than GMT.

Please include the following information on the manuscript itself.

Author name and pseudonym (if applicable); email address; word count (to the nearest 100 words).

One entry per author.

Submissions should be between **2000 and 5000 words**.

Submissions under 2K and over 5K words will not be accepted.

Submissions should be **previously unpublished**.

N.B. We define “published” works as any work available publicly, including stories posted on personal blogs or sites/apps like Substack or Wattpad.

No resubmissions (i.e. nothing you’ve previously submitted to Kilter & Rammel that was unsuccessful).

No submissions that have used generative AI in their creation.

Stories should be submitted in standard manuscript format: 1-inch margins, 12-point Times New Roman, double-spaced.

If you’re unsure of how to format your manuscript for submission, check out William Shunn’s excellent guide here: <https://www.shunn.net/format/story/>

Simultaneous submissions are allowed, but please tell us immediately if your work is accepted elsewhere during the submission window.

Authors will be notified of whether their story will be included by the end of July 2026.

Selected authors will receive a one-time payment of £20 (paid via PayPal or suitable equivalent) and one copy of both print and e-book editions.

A note on what we mean by “fun yet dark” ...

Fun — this can, of course, mean funny or humorous, and we certainly enjoy work that has a good sense of humour, especially a dark one! But it doesn't *have to* mean funny — there's as much fun in being given the creeps, or in being a little grossed out, or in having to solve a mystery as a reader.

Nor does "fun" have to mean "light-hearted", although again, we enjoy warm, cosy writing as long as there's enough "darkness" in there to create a good balance. What we mainly mean by "fun" is work that isn't too serious, or too gritty. We love thought-provoking/bleak/sombre writing ourselves, but *Fun in the Dark* isn't the publication for that.

Dark — We're up for some peril, some gore, some grossness and some nasty characters! Chill us, thrill us, make us squirm a bit! But we do have limits to the darkness for this series; we're not looking for any extreme horror, ie. stories featuring ultra-graphic violence, sexual assault or abuse etc. There's absolutely a place for that sort of work, but again, *Fun in the Dark* isn't that place.

Do dive into the darkness in your story, just make sure you bring the fun as well! What we're ultimately looking for in submissions is a good balance of both elements.