



FUN IN THE DARK

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

#4 – ANTIQUITIES

Stories selected by the K&R editorial team, including special guest reader Margo Pecha.

Edited by Alex J. Gardner.

DEADLINE: Midnight, 31 October 2026.

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

How to submit:

Email a DOC/DOCX or PDF of your story and a cover letter to **kilterandrammel@hotmail.com** with "Fun in the Dark Submission: Antiquities" as the subject.

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/>

Your cover letter should include the following:

- The title and word count of your story.
- Whether this is a simultaneous submission.
- A short author bio of 50–100 words about your writing background and any previous publication credits if you have any.
- Links to your author website/social media accounts (if available).

Further particulars:

One entry per author only.

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Submissions should be **previously unpublished**.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 AI submissions, i.e. stories that have been created with generative AI technology. We don't want to read what a machine has come up with, we want to see your fabulous, human-made work!

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 November 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.

What are we looking for?

General requirements

We're open to seeing work across various genres: submissions of horror, science fiction, fantasy, weird or bizarro fiction, crime/mystery etc. are all welcome. As long as your story fits the "antiquities" theme and the overall tone of the anthology — **fun yet dark** — we'd like to see it.

Theme specific requirements

We're looking for your creepy, weird, fun stories about old objects and curios. This could be an artifact dug up from ancient archaeological sites, a haunted artwork or cursed book, a sinister-looking old doll Grandma left in her will (thank a lot, Nana) or a rusted old key for which you can't find the lock. The antiquity you choose could be from this world or another (don't rule out what the aliens might have buried on earth eons ago), we just ask that the object is antique and the creepy/odd things that happen around it are the focal point of your story.

What aren't we looking for?

We're not looking for stories featuring modern objects or media. So, for example, no cursed video tapes or electronic equipment please. But if you want to send us a story about a cursed film reel from the days of silent film, or a haunted wax cylinder recording from the Victorian era, we definitely want to see those sorts of stories!

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, i.e. 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.