

# My Weekly POCKET NOVEL GUIDELINES



## ◆ DRAMA ◆ MYSTERY ◆ THRILLS ◆ ADVENTURE

Would you like to see your novel published?  
We're looking for dramatic and absorbing stories to add to the Pocket Novel collection!

**P**ocket Novels are exciting, thrilling romances that sweep the reader away for adventures and intrigue, drama and romance! The focus is on the developing relationship between our two main characters, which of course will end in love – but how will they get there? That's where the adventures and intrigue come in – we want you to excite and thrill, charm and alarm the reader, and have her (or him) gripped, unable to stop reading until the very last page.

**DO:** Create real characters the reader can believe in – they can have flaws.

**DO:** Have a plot – it can be thrilling or chilling, puzzling or alarming – that brings our heroine and hero together. They must have a murder or a mystery to solve, or something precious to save (a child, an inheritance – even their pride and independence) that keeps them communicating, and builds a relationship.

**DO:** Keep the tension building, paying particular attention to drama in every chapter ending. Let's make the story a real page-turner for the reader.

**DO:** Set our pulses racing, BUT remember we want passion not pornography (so no explicit descriptions of either physical details or intimate action).

### KEY POINTS FOR WRITERS

**PLOTTING:** Keep the pace building and compel the reader to turn the page with cliff-hanging chapter endings.

**PEOPLE:** Characters are real people with real characteristics, dreams and hopes, virtues and failings. Make sure the villains get their come-uppance!

**HOW:** Get over the action and explain the plot through your characters talking to each other, and via action which takes place, rather than telling the reader. Don't tell the readers what to think, let them make up their own minds!

**WHO:** Our heroines vary in age from their late teens to middle-age, and are compassionate and morally sound. They are modern in their relationships, thoughts, feelings and experiences. The story is usually told from the woman's point of view, although occasionally it is from the man's.

**THE GENRES:** We like modern romances, stories with a medical theme and cosy crime including murder – but with any violence happening off-stage, please. We don't want our readers to wake up scared in the night.

**WHERE AND WHEN:** Your novel can take place in interesting, exotic or dangerous locations around the world, and in any historical era.

### THE GENRES

- ◆ MODERN
- ◆ MYSTERY
- ◆ THRILLER

**LENGTH**  
50,000  
words  
**RATE**  
£300

### PRESENTATION

**SYNOPSIS:** Please send a synopsis and the first three chapters via email. We will ask to see the rest of the novel if we are interested.

**WORD COUNT:** 50,000 words, approx

**PLEASE NOTE:** Double quotes, single space only between full stop and next sentence.

Please email to [myweekly@dctmedia.co.uk](mailto:myweekly@dctmedia.co.uk)