

Novel Submission Guidelines for Nightshade Publishing®

Thank you for querying with Nightshade Publishing®, below are a set of rules and guidelines about the query letter, document formatting, and story content. If a query falls outside of these guidelines it may not be up for consideration with Nightshade Publishing®.

Query Letter:

Queries are to be emailed to Queries@NightshadePublishing.com

In your query please address the *Nightshade Publishing® Team*. Do not address *only one* member of the Nightshade staff. Doing so will result in an immediate rejection. This may change in the future when we have several different acquisitions editors, but for now, each member of the team reads each query.

In your query letter please give us a blurb about your novel, a general query letter, and a one page synopsis of the book (or as close to one page as possible) spoilers included. At the start of your query please note the genre, subgenre if applicable, word count, and age category. Please also include any links to author social media pages that you have. A high following count is not considered when looking for authors. The purpose of this is so the team can further investigate the authors we are looking to sign.

You can get a free query critique on <https://qtcritique.com/>. Nightshade is in no way affiliated with QTCritique. We share this link at no benefit to ourselves as a company, it is purely for the benefit of the authors or agents querying us.

The next point being, we do accept queries from agents and ask that they note in the email that they are representing an author, otherwise please be sure the submission follows all other guidelines set.

Document Formatting:

Query emails and attached documents should be titled as following **Query, Author Name, Story Name, Word Count, Genre, Date**.

All documents must be formatted with 11pt or 12pt with acceptable fonts of Times New Roman, Garamond, or Baskerville. Line spacing can be between 1.5 and 2 spaced. Indents are to be made using the rule bar and are to be set at .5 left. Pages are to be set to letter sizing, 8.5"x11". Please do not send any files with alternative page sizings.

Author name, story title, genre, category, word count, date, and email address should be included in the header of the document in 10pt or 11pt font, with a running page number at the bottom of the document. An example will be provided at the end of the guideline document.

Please submit the first ten pages, or your first chapter, whichever is shorter. If you need to go over the ten page limit to finish a sentence/paragraph that is perfectly acceptable, but please do be reasonable.

Story Content:

Nightshade Publishing® is looking for fantasy novels in the New Adult/Adult category. Novels in this category are completed at a minimum of 75,000 words. We are accepting queries for novels that go up to 110,000. Again, if your word count is slightly above that number, we will accept your query. We may consider YA novels, but we are not actively looking for YA novels. Standalones are what we are focusing on right now, but we are open to queries for standalones with series potential. Series of companion standalones are accepted as well.

If this work has been published before, do note that in your query letter, followed with who it was published by, when and for how long it was published, and the reasoning it was pulled from publication with that specific publishing house.

Nightshade Publishing® is currently looking for fantasy novels that include elements of gothic literature, folklore, and mythology. Your story does not have to follow all of these elements, these are just additional things Nightshade is in search of. We also appreciate disability representation, but that is not required.

We are ***not*** looking for open door romance, erotica, vore, gore, intense use of swearing, fairytale retellings (unless the fairytale inspiration is vague or an uncommon fairytale), urban [fantasy] or historical retellings (research heavy or factual historical fantasy). Stories like *Emily Wilde's Encyclopedia of Fairies*, which is a slightly historical leaning fantasy novel in its setting, is not dependent on historical research. This is the level that is acceptable for querying historical

leaning fiction. Nightshade is not accepting queries for Middle Grade or Children's book stories in any capacity.

Closed door romance is acceptable. Light swearing is acceptable.

The following is a list of stories the Nightshade team enjoys and thinks are good comps for querying authors to base their stories around. Some of these titles are listed as Middle Grade and Young Adult. They are included on this list as they provide a good grasp of the setting and style we are looking for. Updated for the March of 2024 open call.

Book Title - Author's Name

Where the Dark Stands Still - A. B. Poranek

The Weight of Feathers - Anna-Marie McLemore

Howl's Moving Castle - Diana Wynne Jones

The Air Awakens Series - Elise Kova

The Wilderwood Duology - Hannah Whitten

Emily Wildes Encyclopedia of Fairies - Heather Fawcett

An Enchantment of Ravens - Margaret Rogerson

Sorcery of Thorns - Margaret Rogerson

Poison Study - Maria V. Snyder

Wild is the Witch - Rachel Griffin

Letters of Enchantment Series - Rebecca Ross

Down with the Prince - Xanna Renae

Query Header Example:

Xanna Renae - Book Title that's Totally Real

High Fantasy - Adult - 110,000 Words

March 31st 2024 - Editor@NightshadePublishing.com

This heading can be located in the top right or left of the first page in 10pt or 11pt font. And a running page number is to be located at the same location, or central, on the bottom of the page.

We look forward to reading your queries. Please do not email us for an update on your query position. We will respond to authors in due time (aiming for a two week span between receiving a query and sending a response, but that is not guaranteed). If you are offered representation for your story at another publishing house, do let us know so we can respond appropriately.

Thanks,

The Nightshade Publishing® Team