



Hillerman Prize

honoring the best debut mystery set in the Southwest



Contest Rules

Rules for the HILLERMAN PRIZE MYSTERY CONTEST Sponsored by the Tony Hillerman Writers Conference (THWC) and St. Martin's Press, LLC

The contest is open to any professional or non-professional writer, regardless of nationality, who has never been the author of a published mystery, as defined by the guidelines below, and is not under contract with a publisher for publication of a mystery. **Only one manuscript entry is permitted per writer.**

All manuscripts submitted: a) must be original works of book length (no less than 220 typewritten pages or approximately 60,000 words) written in the English language by the contestants; b) must not violate the rights of any third party, and c) must generally follow the guidelines below.

Guidelines

1. Murder or another serious crime or crimes is at the heart of the story, and emphasis is on the solution rather than the details of the crime.
2. The story's primary setting is the Southwestern United States, including at least one of the following states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, and Utah.

(The decision of the Competition's judges as to whether or not a manuscript qualifies will be final.)

Nominees will be selected by judges chosen by the organizers of the THWC, with the assistance of editorial staff of St. Martin's Press, and the winner will be chosen by St. Martin's editors. The decision of the editors as to the winner of the contest will be final. St. Martin's reserves the right not to select any winner if, in the sole opinion of the editors, none of the manuscripts submitted are of publishable quality.

An attempt will be made to notify the contest winner, if any, no later than October 1.

If a winner is selected, St. Martin's Press will publish the winning manuscript by offering to enter into its standard form author's agreement with the contestant. The winner will

receive an advance against future royalties of \$10,000. Those terms of the offer not specified in the printed text of the St. Martin's Press standard form author's agreement will be determined by St. Martin's Press at its sole discretion. The contestant may request reasonable changes in the offered terms, but St. Martin's shall not be obligated to agree to any such changes. St. Martin's may, but will not be required to, consider for publication manuscripts submitted by other contestants.

All entries must be received or postmarked no later than June 1 and must include:

- a) A double-spaced and neatly typed copy of the manuscript (photocopies are acceptable), with pages numbered consecutively from beginning to end. The author's name should appear only on the title page, and otherwise not appear anywhere on the manuscript pages. Do not bind your manuscript.
- b) A letter or cover sheet containing the name, address, email address and telephone number of the contestant and the contestant's previous writing credits, if any.
- c) The application form, duly completed and an SASE.

All entries must be mailed to **St. Martin's Press**. For additional copies of the rules and to request an entry form, please **send a stamped, self addressed envelope to:**

St. Martin's Minotaur/THWC Competition
St. Martin's Minotaur
175 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10010

***Each contestant must keep a copy of the manuscript for his or her own protection. St. Martin's Press will not be responsible for lost, stolen, or mislaid manuscripts. Because of the great volume of submissions we receive, the fact that judges are volunteers with full-time responsibilities elsewhere, and the fact that most writers now have the work in their computers, manuscripts will not be returned. Please do not send return postage or envelopes.**

No critical evaluation or commentary will be offered by the judges or the editorial staff of St. Martin's Press unless, in the sole opinion of the editorial staff evaluation or commentary is appropriate in the case of a manuscript being considered for publication.

This Competition is void where prohibited or restricted by law.

*It is important that you submit your manuscript as early as possible. Our judges are volunteers who are extremely busy with their primary concerns, and it is inevitable that your submission will get a more careful reading if the judge does not have to contend with a flood of last-minute entries. However, it is not necessary to send it the most expensive way. We judge on-time delivery by the post-mark or equivalent, not by the date the judge receives the manuscript.

Good luck!

Rules for the 2013 Hillerman Prize Mystery Contest

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I have read, understood and agree to the foregoing rules. I affirm that the enclosed manuscript is original and was written by me. I further affirm that I have never written a published mystery novel of the type described in the rules.

Signature of Contestant: _____

Name of Contestant: _____

Please print or type the following:

Manuscript Title: _____

Address of Contestant: _____
_____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Date: _____

Please send your manuscript to:

St. Martin's Press/ Hillerman Prize Mystery Contest
Thomas Dunne Books
St. Martin's Press
175 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10010

And mark the outside of the package HILLERMAN PRIZE MYSTERY CONTEST