



The Agorist Writers Workshop

seeks your **novella submission** for **SCIONS OF NAUTILUS**

Scions of Nautilus is an anthology of liberty-themed science fiction novellas. We encourage submissions from novice as well as professional writers. The best stories are selected for publication. Each Codex (book) now and in the future will be an open-call for science fiction stories with a libertarian/liberty message. The focus of the series is on the development of human potential and civilization in ways not yet accomplished or conceived.

The Kind of Stories We Are Looking For

We are seeking fictional novella-length stories containing libertarian/liberty concepts that are science fiction focused. Specifically, we are looking for advanced technology world-building with character-driven action and movement in the story. Any libertarian or liberty angle is encouraged. Core tenets may include: personal autonomy and responsibility, freedom from (or the fight against) tyranny, the non-aggression principle (NAP), voluntary association, agorism/anarcho-capitalism (free market exchange), and/or a setting lacking (or properly limiting) government or rulers, or the pursuit of any of the above.



Your story should offer a home to concepts of liberty, freedom, responsibility, and individualism (whether these are successfully achieved by the main characters or not). We want this collection of sci-fi stories to promote liberty through a montage of positive opportunities in the future.

Sci-Fi Theme Guidance

Stories must be science fiction. This can include space western/odyssey, speculative futurism, and retro-futuristic/steampunk as just a few examples. Fantasy, horror, etc. are allowed as long as sci-fi is the driving genre. Stories should be technologically-focused and forward-looking, with enough of a different world that it's significantly differentiated from our current one in the present day. Stories can be set in a real historical time period, but must be speculative, with significantly advanced technology. Stories encountering alien worlds, creatures, and peoples are very welcome. A story involving time travel to an ancient past or even the present should still originate from the future and involve elements of advanced technology or civilization. Stories are encouraged to have hopeful and liberty-affirming outcomes, even if the journey takes the reader to some dark, unexpected places along the way.

Content Guidelines

We are happy to review story concepts prior to submission. Please contact us at: **inquiries@agoristwritersworkshop.com**. Include a brief summary of the setting, plot concept, and characters. Indicate the story elements that cause you to question its suitability to the theme and anthology. We will reply as to the acceptability of the concept under our guidelines, but feedback should not be an assumption of story acceptance.

We ask that sexual content be avoided, but if necessary for the story, that it be suggestive rather than explicit (i.e. PG-13 at most; PG preferred). We prefer clean stories that are appropriate for teens and young adult audiences.

We understand that war and conflict are common themes in science fiction. Thus, violent content is not forbidden; however, we will not publish stories that advocate acts of preemptive, unjustified violence or abuse from the protagonist as a solution to problems. Violence as a plot device should further the goal of the story and should not be gory or overly horrific. Tread very carefully and lightly around depictions of violence towards animals and children.

As we seek to spread the underlying liberty message to a broad audience, we caution you to consider the use of profanity as well. Though again, not strictly forbidden, profanity and offensive language should be used to accentuate a character rather than as a writing crutch.



Please follow intellectual property guidelines by using your own original content and/or public domain characters and story elements. You may not submit fan fiction based on known IP such as Firefly, Battlestar Galactica, etc. You may incorporate real people (e.g. famous persons) into your story, but only in a non-libelous fashion. Your story should not be an attack or political commentary on any real person.

Stories must be written in English. Any English vernacular, real or fictitious, is welcome. Fictitious "alien" languages are welcome during character encounters provided the dialogue does not leave the reader behind.

Formatting

- Length: We seek novella-length stories to allow for world-building, complex plots, and reader immersion. Preferred 20,000-25,000 words, however, will allow as few as 15,000 and up to 30,000 if needed to round out your story.
- Please start a new line for every change in spoken dialogue.
- Indicate scene breaks, if desired, by inserting a blank line and centering a double hash sign (##) centered on the line.
- Please submit stories that are publication-ready. We strongly encourage you to find a talented writer friend (or hire an editor) to proof your story prior to submittal.
- Format must be in Word (.doc, .docx, etc.) or a similar open-code program such as Google docs that allows for redlining and comments.

Submission

- Send story submission as an attachment via emails to:
submissions@agoristwritersworkshop.com.
- Subject of the email should read "**Scions of Nautilus submission.**"
- In the body of the email include the following:
 - Full name
 - Pen name if different from real name
 - Bio that we may use in our "About the Author" section, should your story be accepted
Include links to your author website, blog, social media pages, etc.
 - Story Title
 - Word Count (sans title)
 - A brief 2-4 sentence cliffhanger-like synopsis/teaser that we can use for promotion later
 - A brief statement on how the story meets the liberty criteria
 - Best email address to reach you
 - Email address tied to your Paypal or Venmo account, should your story be accepted



- You may submit one story.
- Previously-written, unpublished stories may be submitted, but please be certain that the liberty/libertarian underpinning is represented in your story.

Judging

Writing a novella is a significant investment of time and passion. The Scions of Nautilus team will take a collaborative approach with authors during the editing phase if a story is accepted or tentatively accepted for publication. That said, a submission must meet minimum standards in writing skill, storytelling, and meeting the liberty sci-fi theme.

Stories will be ranked on four categories worth up to TEN points each:

- 1) Writing talent and skill
- 2) Originality, creativity, and world-building
- 3) Handling of the science fiction theme
- 4) Handling of the liberty message.

Comments and edits may be offered for accepted or tentatively accepted stories. Feedback may be offered on submissions that are not accepted. If feedback concerns are addressed, resubmittal is allowed and encouraged. The story may be staged for inclusion in the subsequent publication.

Rights and Permissions

- Submissions must be your original content to which you have rights of publication.
- Submission to the contest implies consent for publication in this anthology, reprints of this volume, and promotional use of your content.
- Stories cannot have been published elsewhere previously.
- You may submit your story to other competitions simultaneously, but if you are accepted for publication in another competition, please immediately withdraw from this one.
- Stories published with us may not be published elsewhere for 12 months after the first release of Scions of Nautilus, at which time publication rights revert to the author.
- Submission entails agreement and compliance with these terms and conditions.
- Due to the novella length, each publication is anticipated to feature 4-6 (max 8) stories.
- Compensation for Selected Authors
 - \$200 prize money to the author with the highest-scored story.
 - \$50 prize money for all other accepted stories.
 - Awards will be paid via PayPal or Venmo.



Submission Deadline and Publication Schedule

- There is no submission deadline. Stories will be accepted on a year-long, continuous basis.
- Once we have enough excellent stories to fill a book, we publish.
- Have patience, as it may take more than 6 months to see your story in print.
- Our goal is to publish 1 to 2 books per year.

What is Agorist Writers Workshop?

We're a fluid team of 10 editors and judges from several different libertarian stripes. We started Agorist Writers Workshop in 2014 as a small independent publishing company and have steadily grown from there. We chose the multi-author anthology as our literary medium in order to encourage community participation from the local to the global scale and to boost interest in and exposure to the message of liberty.

Our core goals are:

- 1) to provide an accessible means for people to explore and voice their perspective in liberty
- 2) to expose new people to liberty concepts and address common difficulties people have with these concepts and attendant issues
- 3) to grow the reach and impact of the anthology itself by hosting writing workshops and seeking ways to engage with writers
- 4) to collaborate with our current and past authors and see them succeed in their publishing endeavors.

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Website: www.agoristwritersworkshop.com