



BEAT THE DUST

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Beat the Dust is an online journal published every other month, for talented writers around the world to flex their literary muscle and showcase their latest work. In it you'll find the very best poetry, short stories, novel chapter ones, flash fiction and plays, reviews, essays and interviews. New editions of ***Beat the Dust*** are posted the third weekend in January, March, May, July, September and November each year.

Visitors to ***Beat the Dust*** can read the issue online, play videos or audio recordings posted with the pieces, and add comments. For those who prefer not to read off screen, a printable PDF chap-book version of the issue can be downloaded. Similarly, a podcast featuring a selection of pieces from the issue is also available for download.

Submissions to ***Beat the Dust*** are by invitation only, with the exception of the July edition, which is open to all writers to submit. For this issue we are keen to hear from writers with 'kiss my shades!' attitude who 'live life in the raw, grapple with it bravely and attack it with naked fists' when they put pen to paper (quote by John Fante in *Ask the Dust*).

Beat the Dust is about inventive, hard-hitting, intelligent, honest, emotive, thought-provoking writing. Of particular interest is writing that involves some kind of contradiction or breaks a rule or convention in some way... although not one of these:

- Your submission must not have been published in print or online anywhere else (your own website/blog being an exception); ***Beat the Dust*** is a space offering readers exclusive access to writers' latest work. Simultaneous submissions too are a definite no-no, okay, so no. If accepted, we would like the piece or pieces to remain exclusive to ***Beat the Dust*** for two months after the date it appears on the site, i.e. we don't want it to be published anywhere other than ***Beat the Dust*** for the next two months. Greedy maybe but it helps to keep the site fresh.
- Short stories should be no longer than 1500 words, flash fiction around 500. Submissions of up to five poems are invited.

- We are also interested in receiving submissions of the first chapter of your novel or novella, giving you the chance to road-test any unpublished book you have completed or are currently working on. The first chapter effectively 'sells' the book so it's gotta be good. Again, your first chapter should ideally be in the ballpark of 1500 words.
- ***Beat the Dust*** is keen to receive submissions in four other categories, flash plays, i.e. short, kick-ass scripts, as well as interviews, essays or opinion pieces and reviews. Again, no more than around 1500 words.
- Send your submission in the form of a Word Document or rtf attachment (not in the body of the email as this can do freaky things to the formatting). If you'd like your work to appear online as an audio recording instead of just plain text, then please send an mp3 audio file of you reading out your work. We still need your piece in text form too though, so we can feature it in the chap-book.
- Your submission should include a pic (JPEG), either a mug-shot of yourself or an image relevant to your writing. No need to send an author bio though. We don't really like 'em to be honest. If we accept your submission, we'll ask you to do something specific for the issue, like compile a Top 10 or write your own obit or interview yourself. Far more interesting for visitors to the site.
- Send your work via the 'send a submission' link on the ***Beat the Dust*** website or to beatthedust@melissamann.com with the word 'submission' in the subject heading.
- The deadline for submissions to the July open issue is the first Sunday of that month.

Beat the Dust aims to acknowledge receipt of your submission as soon as it hits the inbox. We will then get back to you with a yey or a nay shortly after the July submission deadline.

All material featured in ***Beat the Dust*** remains the exclusive property of the author and will not be used or reproduced in any form other than the three indicated above, i.e. online, podcast and PDF chap-book, without the author's consent. By submitting to ***Beat the Dust*** you are giving your consent:

- for your work to appear on the site, in the podcast and PDF chap-book;
- for ***Beat the Dust*** to make any minor editorial amends to your work deemed necessary for publication.

Beat the Dust is unable to pay writers for their work but hopefully the joy of getting your words out to the world will be more than enough recompense.