

Core Passion Consulting and The Cinnamon Cinephile Presents

Moonlight and Mawazo

A science fiction and fantasy short story contest lighting a path for diverse authors and characters to create universes of imagination.

Curated by:
Shawyonia Pettigrew
Subrina Woods

Moonlight and Mawazo

About Us



A SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY SHORT STORY
COMPETITION CURATED BY CORE PASSION
CONSULTING and THE CINNAMON CINEPHILE

We are excited and beyond thrilled to bring you Moonlight and Mawazo, a science fiction and fantasy short story competition to culminate in an anthology bearing the same name. We have always loved the written word and especially its ability to transform dreams and build worlds. The title of this short story contest and the final anthology is very special to us.

Curators' Note

Moonlight is a place in between, a place of light and dark (shadow), a place of contrast, a place of beauty and fear. As women, we are often through necessity, forced to embrace duality to survive. We feel this duality sharpens us and makes us "survivors." As lovers of the realms of science fiction and fantasy, where our imagination can soar, very few characters who are "the heroes and even villains" have been described in their appearance as Black, Person of Color, Disabled, or otherwise overlooked communities. We feel strongly that these artists and illustrators be given space and freedom to celebrate the moonlight which fuels and feeds our imagination to survive.

We chose the Swahili word 'mawazo' meaning "imagination" to honor our African ancestry. Imagination has always been the most powerful tool of oppressed people and the most feared tool by their oppressors. Imagination inspires survival, dreams, hopes, in other words -- the future. We are grateful and honored to be the product of moonlight and imagination (mawazo) which allows us to not only be artists but also allows us to bring great art and artists into the light with this endeavor.



Moonlight
and Mawazo

Bright Blessings,
Shawyonia Pettigrew, Core Passion Consulting
Subrina Wood, The Cinnamon Cinephile.



Meet our Curator Subrina Wood



Hometown: Boston, MA

Current residence: Bethesda, MD

Career: Screenwriter, Author, Film Reviewer, Host of the Five by Five Podcast, Co-Host of online SyFy Sistas Podcast, Director of the Light Reel Film Festival Screenwriting Competition and and Inverse Online Magazine.

What fostered your love of reading and science fiction and fantasy in particular?

I've been a fan of science fiction and fantasy since I first read, A Wrinkle in Time as a kid. As a film critic, screenwriter, and podcaster, I always watch films and TV shows. I realize that no matter what I watch, the story is everything. One of the first ways to become a good writer is to learn how to write a good short story

“The Cinnamon Cinephile”



cinnamoncinephile.com





Meet our Curator Shawyonia Pettigrew

Hometown: Meridian, MS

Current residence: New York, NY

Astrological Sign: Capricorn

Career: Arts and Entertainment
Publicist and Event Planner for
over 20 years

**What fostered your love of reading
and science fiction and fantasy in
particular?**

My family fostered my love of learning and dreaming at an early age. I could read by the time I was three and I was drawn to tales that let me be transformed and opened my eyes to possibilities. Some of my favorite stories are fairy and folk tales. As I became older, I delved into Robert Heinlein, Anne McCaffrey, and Stephen King.

Core Passion Consulting



shawyonia.com



Meet our Designer

Meilani (Mei) Wilder

Hometown: Detroit

Current residence: Detroit

Astrological Sign: Leo

Career: Web Developer, Graphic Design and Social Media Director

What fostered your love of reading and science fiction and fantasy in particular?

Thanks to my family, especially my mother and grandfather, I was exposed to various genres of media. My grandfather, in particular, is a HUGE science fiction and fantasy fan; so oftentimes growing up, I sat next to him as he watched the SciFi channel, and used those ideas and concepts in my own writings and poetry. It's always a peaceful escape.

The Wilder Shoppe



thewildershoppe.com

Core Passion Consulting

Shawyonia Pettigrew

646.399.7236

corpassion@gmail.com



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Core Passion Consulting and Cinnamon Cinephile launch a new science fiction and fantasy short story competition.

Moonlight and Mawazo -starts February 10th.

New York, NY

Core Passion Consulting and Cinnamon Cinephile are thrilled to launch *Moonlight and Mawazo*, a new science fiction and fantasy short story competition.

Moonlight and Mawazo strives to give authors of underserved communities, such as people of color, women, and the LGBTQ+ community, a chance to tell uniquely different stories with characters who look, sound, and otherwise reflect them. While the genre has blossomed in recent years, there is always room for “your story.”

The contest welcomes new talent and appreciates submissions from already published writers. Entries will be accepted from February 10th to May 10th. All contestants must be over 18, with submissions in English and less than 7500 words. There is also a \$10 entry fee. Submissions can be uploaded at www.moonlightandmawazo.com. Winners will be announced at the end of July. The 3 finalists and other winners will be published in an anthology with the same name as the contest in late Fall 2024. Winners will also receive various other prizes.

Subrina Wood, one of the curators of *Moonlight and Mawazo*, says, “I am here to help produce new storytellers. I've been a fan of science fiction and fantasy since I first read *A Wrinkle in Time* as a kid. As a film critic, screenwriter, and podcaster, I always watch films and TV shows. I realize that no matter what I watch, the story is everything. One of the first ways to become a good writer is to learn how to write a good short story. With *Moonlight and Mawazo*, I hope to give new writers a platform to share their stories with the world.”

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Moonlight and Mawazo

Mission:

A science fiction and fantasy short story contest lighting a path for diverse authors and characters to create universes of imagination

Dates: February 10-May 10

Entry fee: \$10

Important Dates:

February 10th – Submissions Open

May- 10th – Submissions Close

July 31st – Winners Announced

Fall 2024 – Moonlight And Mawazo Anthology Published

Rules & Eligibility

All participants must be 18 years of age or older.

All submissions must be in English.

Contest entries are accepted from anywhere in the world.

Submissions must be original science fiction or fantasy. No fanfiction will be accepted. No submissions featuring explicit sex or violence will be accepted. No poetry will be accepted. This work must never have been published in any format.

All submitted material must be owned by and submitted by the writer.

Co-authors are accepted, but only one prize will be awarded.

Prizes

All winners which we refer to as "*the lunar cohort*" will receive.

The three winners designated new moons will receive the following, in addition to *the lunar cohort* prizes:

- Publication in the mm anthology
- Refunded \$10 entry fee.
- \$25 payment for publication of short story
- One literary review
- Feature on social media and mm website
- A color illustration with their short story in the anthology
- A poster-size color copy of their story's illustration
- Two half-hour marketing and public relations consultations
- One dedicated press release

Want to know more?

Visit moonlightandmawazo.com



Moonlight and Mawazo



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