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Terms and Conditions

**We are delighted to announce the Case Closed First Chapter Competition.**   
Please read these terms and conditions before submitting your work.

You can view the **BSL video**, listen to the **audio** and **read .doc** versions of the Terms and Conditions on the Case Closed website: <https://www.spreadtheword.org.uk/projects/case-closed/>

**Competition Terms and Conditions**

1. The Case Closed First Chapter Competition is open to writers aged over 18 and resident in the UK who are emerging writers underrepresented in UK publishing, we define this as:
   1. By underrepresented we mean writers from one or more the following communities:
      1. Black, Asian, Global Majority
      2. Deaf and/ or Disabled
      3. LGBTQ
      4. Working Class
   2. By emerging we mean:
      1. Unagented
      2. Does not have a publishing contract for a full-length work at the time of entering (please let Spread the Word know if you sign a publishing deal for a full-length work after you have entered the Competition, as this would render you ineligible).
      3. Has not previously published in print a full-length work. We define a full-length work as:
         1. A complete work of fiction or non-fiction over 50,000 words;
         2. Ten or more short stories either in a collection or published individually;
         3. A professionally produced theatre script or screenplay, or radio play;
         4. Twenty or more poems either in a collection or published individually.
2. For the purposes of the competition, self-published authors of any of the definitions above are welcome to enter a submission that has not been published or self-published.
3. For the purposes of the Competition, please refer to the Case Closed Getting Started Guide for definitions of crime, thriller and mystery fiction. The document is available on this link: <https://www.spreadtheword.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Getting-Started-in-Crime-Thriller-and-Mystery-Fiction-2.pdf>
4. Applications will be accepted either online through our Submittable page: <https://spreadtheword.submittable.com/submit> Or using a paper entry form downloadable from <https://www.spreadtheword.org.uk/projects/case-closed/> and posted to: Case Closed First Chapter Competition, Spread the Word, The Albany, London SE8 4AG.
5. The writing sample when submitted online must be submitted as a text document [.doc, .docx, .pdf], typed in black, 12-point font, double spaced and paginated and submitted online via Submittable, or in the post with an entry form.
6. Unfortunately, we cannot return entries submitted by post, but we will acknowledge receipt of entry.
7. **Only one submission will be considered per author**. Multiple entries by the same author will result in only the first entry being considered for the Competition and any additional entries disqualified.
8. Entries must be the original, previously unpublished work of the entrant. Pieces of writing that have already secured a publishing deal but have not yet been published are ineligible.
9. All work submitted for consideration must be the entrant's own original writing and should not have been published online, in a physical format or have been broadcast on or before December 2023. Work found to published online, in a physical format or have been broadcast will be disqualified. This includes pieces that are self-published on a blog or in a self-published book.
10. Entries must be the first chapter from a new or existing crime, thriller or mystery fiction novel. The novel does not need to be completed.
11. The use of Generative AI is not allowed in the composing of submissions. Any entries found to have used Generative AI will be disqualified.
12. Entries must be the individual and original work of a sole author.
13. Entries must be in English.
14. Due to the volume of entries the Competition receives, Spread the Word is unable to provide feedback for any entries. We hope you understand and are sorry to not be able to provide this.
15. All entries will be judged anonymously. To that effect, please ensure that your entry does not contain your name on any of the pages. Any entries with names or identifying information will be disqualified.
16. If any of the reading and judging panels recognise an entry, they can participate in a discussion about the piece but will recuse themselves from casting a vote.
17. Entries can be submitted from **Wednesday 5 July 2023 at midday**. The closing date for entries is **10am on Tuesday 26 September 2023.**
18. Entries may be simultaneously submitted elsewhere, however, should an entry win another prize or set to be published elsewhere, it must be withdrawn from this Competition. It is the writer’s responsibility to inform Spread the Word of this.
19. The Prizes on offer will see one entry named the winner, which in the judges’ opinion, is the best piece of crime, thriller or mystery fiction writing and four writers named as highly commended. The winner will receive:
    1. A 60-minute 121 meeting with the author Tracey Lien,
    2. 121 development meetings with a staff member from Spread the Word and an agent from C&W Literary Agency.
    3. The four highly commended writers will receive 121 development meetings with a staff member from Spread the Word and an agent from C&W Literary Agency.
20. Reasonable adjustments will be made for deaf and/or disabled writers placed in the Competition.
21. There are no cash alternative to the prizes.
22. All entrants will know the outcome of their submission by Friday 17 November 2023.
23. The winner and highly commended writers will agree to any reasonable request by Spread the Word to fulfil press and marketing obligations relating to the competition and their own entry.
24. Copyright will remain with the author.
25. Employees or Trustees of Spread the Word and/or their close family members, employees of C&W Literary Agency and/or their close family members, and those contracted to work on the Case Closed project and/or their close family members are not permitted to enter.
26. The judges’ decision is final and no correspondence or discussion about the judging process will be entered into.
27. These terms and conditions are the Competition Rules. Submission of an entry will be taken to mean acceptance of these terms and conditions. Entries that fail to comply with these rules may be disqualified.
28. There may be extenuating circumstances that render the dates and timelines in this document flexible. Spread the Word reserve the right to alter these dates should it be necessary for any reason.

If you have any questions about entering the Case Closed First Chapter Competition please contact:

Bobby Nayyar at Spread the Word at: [Bobby@spreadtheword.org.uk](mailto:Bobby@spreadtheword.org.uk)

The Case Closed First Chapter Competition is managed by Spread the Word in partnership with C&W Literary Agency.