

A space-themed background featuring a large, reddish-brown planet on the right side, a smaller greyish planet in the upper center, and a crescent moon on the left. The background is filled with numerous blue and white stars and nebulae.

# Break into Publishing the Ezine way

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# Outline

- Introduction
- The Benefits of Short Stories & Publishing Online
- Example good stories
- Short Fiction Markets
- Electric Spec
- Lessons Learned
- Questions

# The Benefits

## The benefits of short stories

- Proves you know craft of writing
- Fits tight schedules
- Quicker rewards
- Confidence boost
- Recognition/street cred

# The Benefits

The benefits of publishing on-line

- World-wide audience
- Ease of email submission
- Can read any time
- Many on-line pubs inexpensive
- Recognition/street cred

# Short Fiction Markets

- Professional Markets
- Semi-Pro Markets
- '4-the-luv' Markets
- Literary Short Story Markets

# Short Fiction Markets

## Finding and Evaluating your Market

- Commercial Markets

- – [www.ralan.com](http://www.ralan.com)

- – [www.duotrope.com](http://www.duotrope.com)

- – [www.critters.critique.org/blackhole](http://www.critters.critique.org/blackhole)

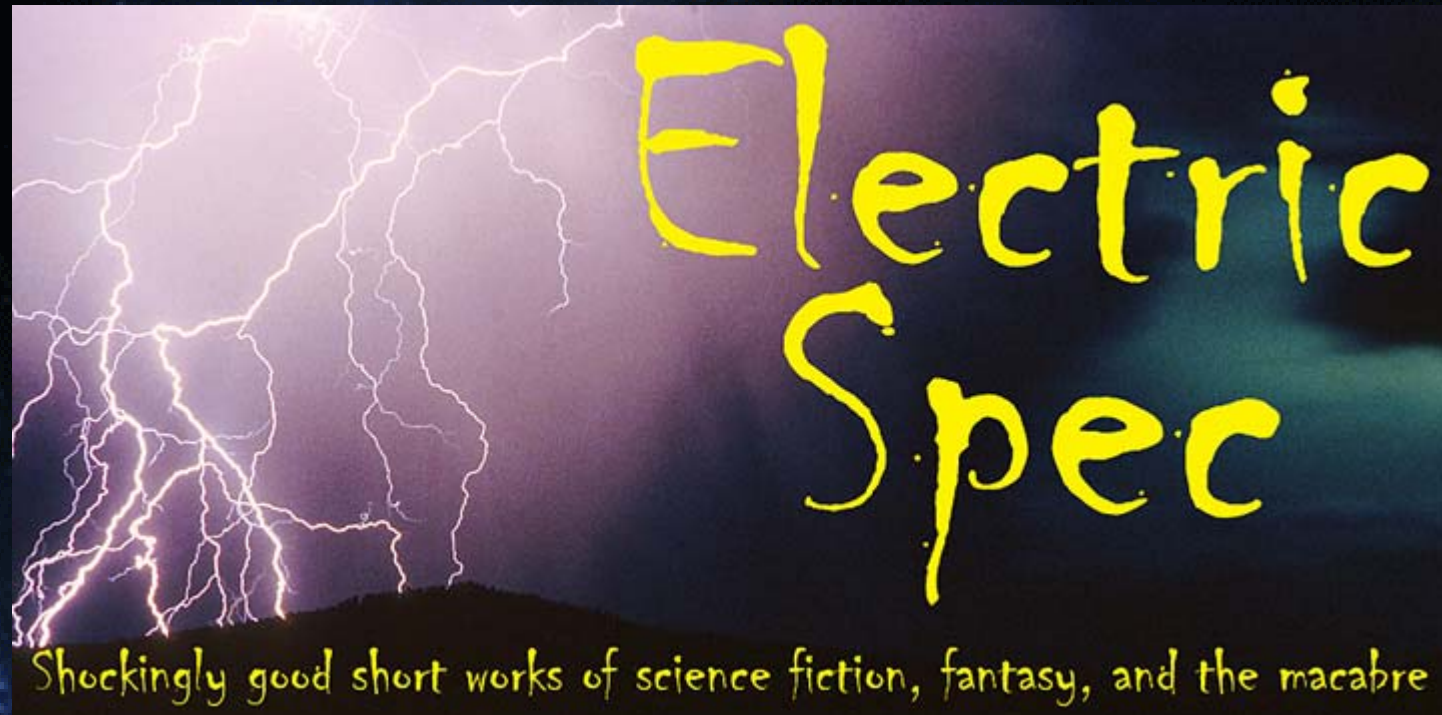
- Literay and Pro Markets

Writer's Market

[www.writersmarket.com](http://www.writersmarket.com)

Electric Spec

[www.electricspec.com](http://www.electricspec.com)



# Electric Spec

Things you need for a webpage

- Domain name, e.g.

[www.electricspec.com](http://www.electricspec.com)

- Domain server
- html files

# Electric Spec

## Our publication

- 3 issues per year
- 6 stories per issue
- Hits: over 400,000
- Publishing formats: prc & pdf
- Rights we purchase, archiving

# Electric Spec

## Artwork



# Electric Spec

## Artwork



# Electric Spec

## Submission Guidelines

- Speculative Fiction

- Fantasy

- Science fiction

- Macabre

- 250-7000 words

- No poetry, over-the-top violence, serials, novels, fan fic, or reprints

- Simultaneous subs okay

# Electric Spec

## Selection Process

- About 100 subs per issue
- Randomly assign 1<sup>st</sup> reads
- Hold about 20 for voting
- Numerically rank each story
- Fight it out at the production meeting

# Lessons Learned

What not to do:

see examples

# Lessons Learned

- Cover letters
  - Title
  - Genre
  - Word count
- Differences: short stories vs. novels

# Lessons Learned

## Rules to write by:

- 3-legged stool

- plot
- characterization
- setting

- details, voice, POV, active,  
the ‘big-bang theory of writing’

- Trust your reader

- Show, don’t tell
- Delete key
- theme

# Lessons Learned

Make your submission perfect

- Error forgiveness
- Read guidelines
- Proofread
- Proofread
- Proofread

# Example good stories from Electric Spec

- *Raising Archie*

by Michael Stone

Vol. 1, Issue 1

- *The Comfort of Mirrors*

by Thomas Braun

Vol. 2, Issue 1

- *The Second Queen*

by Yvonne Eve Walus

Vol. 1, Issue 3

A space-themed background featuring a large, reddish-orange planet (Mars) on the right side, a smaller grey planet (Moon) in the upper center, and a blue nebula or star cluster on the left. The text "Questions?" is overlaid in white.

# Questions?