

3-day novel contest

The world's most notorious literary marathon

**Labour Day
Weekend**
Sept. 1–3, 2012

The challenge:

Produce a masterwork of fiction in 72 short hours.

The warning:

You'll sweat,
you'll struggle,
your fingers
will cramp...
you may even
go mad.

The reward:

Bragging rights, a killer
creative kick-start,
and a tear-soaked,
coffee-stained first draft.



**"A coffee-fuelled,
plot-weaving literary
juggernaut"**
—*Playboy* magazine

**"The deformed left foot
of the literary world."**
—*The Times*

Every Labour Day weekend, hundreds of writers from all over the world grit their teeth, lock their doors, and try to finish a novel by midnight on Monday—each fuelled by nothing but caffeine, adrenaline and the promise of literary nirvana. Though only one novel is selected by the judges to be published, every entrant who puts their heart into the International 3-Day Novel Contest comes out of the experience with something unique.

How It Works

Pre-register by mail or online before the Labour Day weekend and begin writing after midnight on Friday night. You may draft an outline ahead of time, but all writing must be done during the contest timeframe. Submit your novel for judging immediately following the contest (if you wish). A panel of experienced writers and publishers spends the fall and winter reading and deliberating, and their top picks are announced in January. The winning author works with our editors, and 3-Day Books releases the published novel the following fall. The second-prize winner receives \$500 and third prize is \$100.

How to Register

Submit your paid registration by the Friday before the Labour Day long weekend (registration opens in spring). Full rules, advice and FAQs are available at www.3daynovel.com.

Good Reasons to Enter

- » For the experience (just to see what will happen)
- » To kill writers' block and force out a rough draft
- » To tell people you did it
- » Sheer, masochistic bloody-mindedness
- » To be a part of a brief international nexus of creative fury

Bad Reason to Enter

- » To write The Most Polished, Amazing Sweeping Epic Novel Anyone Has Ever Read

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Frequently Asked Questions

"It seems to me that the three-day gauntlet forces instinct to the fore; in the absence of conceptual and rewrite time, the writerly subconscious drives things on."
—The Globe and Mail

Can I write my novel anywhere I want?

Yes. You can write from your home, your local cafe, behind the counter at your workplace, in a yurt, wherever you feel comfortable. Manuscripts are submitted online or by mail after the contest.

Is this contest open to everybody?

Yes! This is an international competition, open to all writers, everywhere in the world.

Are there length, style or genre restrictions?

No. The intensity of the contest seems to naturally shake things up, and most (but not all) past winners are eclectic, genre-busting books. Length is a factor in judging, but only one of many. Plan to write whatever novel you wish, and then see what happens.

How do you know that everyone wrote their entries in three days?

Most of the judges have been reading 3-day novels for many years, and, well, we can just tell. Plus, there's no reason for somebody to cheat; the whole purpose of entering the marathon is to see what creative weirdness happens when you try to WRITE A NOVEL IN THREE DAYS! If this isn't your motivation, this isn't the contest for you.

Why is there an entry fee?

To pay for web hosting, printing, postage, office overhead and generally keep the contest running (we are a shoestring operation and labour is largely volunteer). As with any marathon, the fee is non-refundable, even if you do not complete or submit your novel.

Where can I find past winning novels?

Order them at 3daybooks.com, or ask for them at your favourite bookstore or library!

How do I get through this alive?

Read the Survival Guide at 3daynovel.com. Control your expectations. Remember to breathe. Eat occasionally. Beyond that, we can't help you.

More information and FAQs
at www.3daynovel.com.

Contact

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