

Indie Bloggers. Write Well. Write Now.

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSIONS.

All media and/or sponsorship inquires should contact me directly.

WHERE TO SUBMIT: Submissions must be made via e-mail to submissions@indiebloggers.org.

YOUR SUBMISSION IN GENERAL: Please paste the entire document into the e-mail message. Do not send attachments – incoming mail with attachments will NOT be opened, so please ensure that your e-mail signature does not contain an image. If you have any particular tags in mind that should be associated with your entry, please note as such in the area of your byline. I will not fix anything once it is sent; so please proofread a few times before you send it off. Make sure it is in pristine condition before you send it, as this represents you and nothing but the text of your submission matters. The site is simple and stark for a reason - the writing should speak for itself with nothing else vying for your attention. This means there is little to no leeway to let some things slide. Make sure it is exactly how you want it before sending. Reminder: anonymous submissions are welcome so long as they come with a valid e-mail address. You'll remain anonymous forever, but I must have a way to contact you should it be necessary. Every submission - anonymous or not - must provide a valid e-mail address. I will repeat this several times during our Journey Through IB Guidelines. (Journey rocks.)

YOUR E-SUBMISSION SUBJECT LINE IS YOUR TITLE: Your subject line should be your submission title. Period. Whatever you put in this line – no matter if it matches the title in the author block – will be used as the title for your piece. I need to be able to cut and paste.

AUTHOR BLOCK / YOUR BYLINE: Should be included in your submission BEFORE the body of same. Put your name and website, if any, under the title of your piece. Absolutely all submissions must look like this:

My Post Kicks Your Post's Ass [story title]
By Joey Bagadonuts [author's name]
www.joeybags.com [website]
joeybags@website.com [e-mail address]

The body of your submission should then follow. The e-mail address listed should be the one you would like to appear linked to your byline should your submission be published. If you do not want your e-mail address linked to your byline, please indicate as such after entering it in that line of the author block. You must always include a valid e-mail address regardless of whether you want it published, as I need to have a way to contact you should it be necessary.

ANONYMOUS SUBMISSIONS: Anonymous submissions are now being accepted and are welcomed - whatever gets you to write something well. For anonymous submissions, please indicate "Anonymous" and leave out the other personal information requested. No one sees the submission e-mail except for me and I will keep your information private should you choose this option. Please note that anonymous submitters are still required to include a valid e-mail address regardless of whether he or she wants it published, as, again, I must have a way to contact you. Your information will never be shared or sold or disseminated in any way - ever. You will always remain anonymous.

On that note, no information about anyone will be revealed at any time (unless due to subpoena and/or force majeure or any other thing where I'm going to have to save my own ass first).

FORMATTING: Please do not format your piece in an unusual way. Do not submit your piece with HTML coding; this includes linking to other sites. Please do not link to other blogs. Do not link to Wiki in an attempt to explain what something is. Do not use colors or special fonts. Do not describe how your piece would best be formatted, because I'm not that smart and I probably wouldn't do it anyway (don't tell me what to do, mom!). This means, unfortunately, that there is no room for bold, italics and underline. Let your writing speak for itself. Your audience will figure it out.

HOW TO PREPARE YOUR SUBMISSION: Your submissions will ideally be in rich text format (RTF), but at the very least you will remember that the body of your post is to be put directly into the e-mail message. This means no Word documents, PDFs or attachments of any kind. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** Anything with an attachment will automatically, by rule, be routed to trash. Please make certain that you turn off any e-mail signatures, as they will show up as an attachment. The rule is set up so that I won't

see submissions with attachments when they come in, so please double and triple check.

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSIONS: THIS SITE IS ABOUT WRITING WELL.

Indie Bloggers ("IB") is only about writing well and reading others who write well. IB is solely for those who write, write well and/or want to write well and want to learn to improve one's writing skills. This is not a site for digest-style writing. NO MEMES. All submissions should have a clear progression from beginning to end.

IB is NOT about: getting linked, getting traffic, comments, popularity, who is posted, how many times a person is posted or anything else that sucks. IB is and will always be a corner of the internets where we can get away from all the bullshit and fluff and write our asses off without worrying about popularity or who links to whom or gets more comments. (There is no longer a comment feature on IB for this reason.) Absolutely ANYONE can submit - bloggers, writers, non-bloggers, non-writers, anonymous submitters and stick figures - but we are working together to raise the bar substantially. It is your responsibility to read these guidelines before submitting as I retain the right to change them at any time.

I am one person doing this. I'm not making it this way because I'm a jerk; I just don't have the time to fix them on my end. Do not be offended if something you write isn't posted - there is no timeline. Submit something else. You can submit as many things as you like, but if you flood my e-mail inbox, I will be pissed and probably ban you.

EXPECTATIONS AND/OR THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND: Submissions can be about anything, but please keep the following in mind:

Your submission and every submission represents you. Take it very seriously. You wouldn't be submitting if you didn't want to be read and enjoyed, so take care in the words you chose to make your point. A trip to the ATM can be written beautifully, so revise your piece before sending. Proofread.

Please do not submit reviews of any kind, be they book, music or movie reviews. Please do not submit lists unless they are funny (or intended to be). Please do not submit political statements meant to persuade or belittle. There are sites that exist for those purposes and they present them far better than I could, so please send those type of things to them. Lists are fine if they make us laugh. A note: You are not e.e. cummings. Use of proper capitalizations is required right along with spelling and grammar.

DO NOT TALK TO YOUR AUDIENCE. DO NOT ASK YOUR AUDIENCE QUESTIONS. (Open ended life questions are no problem. There is a difference.) Oh, also: DO NOT TALK TO YOUR AUDIENCE.

Offensive language is welcome in the cursing variety if it fits the tone of your submission. Looking at this another way, if offensive language offends you, you probably will not be comfortable here. Derogatory language pertaining to race, sexual orientation, gender or any other ignorant statements are NOT welcome and will be deleted immediately. If you have any question about what is appropriate, contact me. Don't just send it because if you submit something of this nature, you will be banned and submissions from you will be routed directly to trash. If you don't know, ASK.

Please do not submit something intended for a specific holiday unless you are reflecting or projecting. I schedule posts in the queue several weeks ahead at times and it isn't fair to the other submitters for yours to be moved up just to fit a certain day. If you are writing about a holiday, please keep in mind that your piece probably will not be posted anytime near that day, if at all. Project, reflect, do whatever you have to do, but as much as I may enjoy your piece, if it's written for a certain day and that day has passed I can't publish it. (And I want to publish you.)

Submissions about sex are fine if they're not so pornographic they make my skin crawl (and trust me, it takes a lot). This isn't a porn site. Again, there are sites that do this far better than IB, so please direct your porno submissions there, where they will appreciate it. That written, I have no problem with sexuality in general if it's not over the top and inappropriate. (NO ANIMALS.) It's your writing and prose that count, not the subject matter. If you can tell a delightfully well-written and lyrical story about a Dirty Sanchez, have at it. The writing is what matters.

Submissions should be proofread, words should be chosen carefully. Submissions do not have to be in the same form as you posted it to your blog, if you have one at all and you posted it. If there is anything that can be revised, revise it however you can. Aim for superb. Have confidence in your work. There is no reason for intimidation. We're all here to learn from each other. If you're that scared, submit anonymously. We are your peers, however, so fear is unnecessary. Do not be concerned that your writing is not "good enough." Just do the best you have in you. Trying and putting effort in is what matters (as well as following these guidelines on all points). I want you published. Just do your best.

DONATIONS: I have no problem panhandling. Because there are no ads, nor will there ever be ads, there are no profits or revenue of any kind. I do not make a dime from this site. If you like IB and want to keep it rolling, please make a donation through paypal to stacy AT jurgennation DOT com. All donations are put right back into the site and are essential to keeping the site ad-free. Service donations (i.e., website maintenance and tweaks, etc.) are also gratefully accepted. If you have a small business and want to sponsor something, contact me. I do not want your money, so if there is no benefit to the writers and readers of IB, I can't really help you. I appreciate the gesture, however.

SUPPORTING IB: Please consider adding an IB button found below to display on your website so we can reach a wider audience and so that the site can continue to offer superb content on a larger scale. I won't put ads on the site, but I would appreciate any marketing of IB on your own part, even if it's just a button or a mention on your site. You are still members of IB, there's just not a complicated sign up process. No ads, links or comments means that IB can't be promoted and expanded without your help. Let's work together to get a great site up here that's consistently fantastic. Let's create an open community through this site. Tell your friends who write well, or tell someone you read regularly.

IMPORTANT: Again: Attachments of any kind will not be accepted; nay, opened at all. No exceptions to this, ever. This means submissions should not include "Insert attachment here" at a point in the submission. It will not be read.

HOW WE ROLL: Your submissions are not judged based on what I think is "good." They are not judged based on who you are or how big your site is, how wide your readership and/or how many visitors will come to our site. I do not care who you are; everyone is held to the same standards and everyone is on equal footing. Your work is not judged by subject matter, although I'm not going to post anything deliberately controversial because I don't have time for that shit. Your work is not judged based on whether I know you. Submissions are only judged on whether significant effort was made and that anything you submit is solid. That's all. Nothing passes the threshold if it isn't. Make it interesting. That being written, I am not a writer any more than you or him or her over there, so if I have any question of whether something should be published, I will ask for help and opinions from a group of people who have been long supporters of IB and who have consistently written fantastic pieces.

SUBMISSION CYCLE: Unfortunately, I do not have time to let you know if your submission is not going to be posted. Please do not e-mail me to inquire whether it will be, if it already has or when. All submissions are held indefinitely and may be posted immediately, within a day, a week, a month or several months. Please be patient. Make

IB yours and visit often. Learn from others and, again, be patient. If you don't think something is going to be published, submit something else. This isn't the fucking New Yorker.

COMPLAINTS: Complaints and hate mail should be directed to me, the one person responsible for maintaining this free (and ad-free) site for the benefit of people I don't know, who pays for this site out of her own pocket and who just wants to provide a place where regular people can write and learn from others. The highest level of vitriol should be used, for I am obviously a horrible person who should rot in hell.

GENERAL FEEDBACK, SUGGESTIONS, QUESTIONS, FAN MAIL AND QUERIES AS TO WHERE TO SEND GIFTS: E-mail me.

THE ULTIMATE IB GOAL:

IB standards are incredibly high for many reasons: in order to grow as writers, to learn from each other, to have pride in our work, we need to try hard and challenge ourselves. You cannot have pride in something if you didn't put in a ton of effort. Did you just submit something just to submit something? It will be obvious. If we are a site that consistently and only features the absolute best a person can give, we will grow. And if we grow, our exposure will reach far and wide. For those of you who want to keep writing and build a reputation for yourself, you know this is a good thing. Not everything is published for a reason - it should mean something. It should make you feel proud. That's my hope, anyway.

THE IB GUIDELINES IN TWO SENTENCES BECAUSE I VALUE YOUR TIME ONLY ENOUGH TO WHERE YOU MUST READ IN ENTIRETY THAT WHICH ALLOWS ME TO ENJOY MY OWN VALUABLE TIME WITHOUT BEING PISSED OFF AND SHOUTING AT PEOPLE TO DIE IN A FIRE:

1. Make it good.
2. Paste it into a plain text e-mail and send it to submissions@indiebloggers.org.

BUTTONS: Help IB reach a wider audience. Add a button to your blog!

Choose from the buttons below. Please right click and save to your computer. If you use the code here it won't show up. Right click, save, upload, link back to us. Thanks!

<button image 1> <button image 2>

<button image 3> <button image 4>

Now that you've read this whole thing, SUBMIT. Have fun and don't be afraid. Tell a friend. Have confidence in your work. The site and process is ridiculously simple and I know you are far more than capable - I've seen it. Now go submit. Pretty please with a fucking cherry on top.