

# The Author's ADVOCATE



**Special Newsletter**

September 2008

Published for the authors and associates of Infinity Publishing

## Short Story and Essay Contest

### AuthorNation.com Announces Quarterly Competition Perfect Showcase for Exposure with Reader Feedback

If you needed another reason to join Infinity's produced and sponsored website for authors and aspiring authors, this new quarterly contest for short stories and essays is an excellent reason. In keeping with Infinity's unequalled reputation for innovation, this writers' contest is different from all other contests.

For starters, there is no entry fee – just like there is no registration fee to join [www.authornation.com](http://www.authornation.com). There is no panel of judges assembled to read and evaluate with individual scores hundreds of entries – your fellow members of AuthorNation will be voting on the wordsmithing merits of the entries. There are no restrictions or limitations on the topic or subject of your entry, however, nothing slanderous, no personal attacks, and no hardcore or nasty stuff. Remember, some topics will generate more interest than other topics.

The quarterly contest is open to all members of AuthorNation.com. Submitted short stories must be between 2,500 and 3,000 words, and essays must be between 1,000 and 1,500 words. Only one entry per member is allowed in each quarterly contest. The author retains all rights; however, the author of each contest submission grants Infinity Publishing non-rescindable permission to copyedit, publish, and distribute royalty-free the top 25 winning entries in a quarterly anthology – each of the 25 top authors will receive 2 complimentary copies of the anthology. The top scorer will have the option of having their book published and distributed by Infinity with the setup fee waived. The 24 runner-ups will receive a certificate valid for \$100 off Infinity's one-time setup fee to publish their book.

There is also a contest to design a cover for the short stories and essays anthology. The cover measurement is 5.5" x 8.5", created in full color using any style or technique, as long as the cover includes the text: "Fall

of 2008: Short Stories and Essays Anthology by 25 Members of AuthorNation.com" – remember, the first essential quality of good cover design is that the title is legible. Top cover-design scorer receives 2 free copies with their cover art gracing the cover of the anthology for that quarter along with a credit line as the cover artist – complete with an optional photo and 100-word bio. All submissions will be made as a .jpg file. Infinity reserves the right to modify the winning cover art as needed for a wrap-around cover. The anthology will be available as a free PDF e-book for all members.

The judges will be all members of AN voting on the storytelling qualities of your submissions. Once your work has been posted by our masterful webmistress in the AN Fall 2008 Short Stories and Essays Contest portfolio page, members of AuthorNation will be able to vote by scoring your expressive efforts: 0 – so-so; 1 – good; 2 – very good; 3 – excellent. The zero indicates the piece was read, but no score was given – this way the focus of the vote is on the degree of positive merits and not on how badly – in the scorers' opinions – a piece sucked!!!

After the winners are announced, every author will receive an email with the statistics associated with their entry indicating number of reads and a ranking within the number of all reads, and their total vote score and a ranking within all vote scores. The total number of reads will provide an indication of reader interest in your topic, and the ranking of vote score will show the perceived wordsmithing skill level. This is valuable statistical feedback that is totally free of bias. Members who have read your entry will be able to leave you a PM (private message) with their comments.

Entries will be accepted starting on September 10<sup>th</sup> at [www.authornation.com](http://www.authornation.com).

## Widespread Display of Excerpts from Your Book

Infinity authors have a special opportunity to get widespread exposure of their book excerpts to millions of book buyers, book dealers, librarians, and library patrons, for a one-time fee of only \$30 per book, through a special arrangement with PUBLISHERS PORTAL™, a new Dial-A-Book Inc. electronic distribution service.

Excerpts distributed by PUBLISHERS PORTAL™ will be mounted by Baker & Taylor Title Source, Barnes & Noble.com, Ingram iPage, R.R. Bowker's Books-in-Print Online, Buy.com, EBSCO, On-line Computer Center WorldCat/FirstSearch, and Diesel-ebooks.com. Please note that the excerpts will be mounted *only* if the above systems have the book. Many of these systems already have the basic information about Infinity titles; this program enhances your listing with actual content from your book.

They will also be displayed in the on-line public access catalogs (OPACs) of more than twelve hundred public and academic libraries across the nation, as long as they have the books in their collections (e.g., San Francisco, Cleveland, Seattle Public, Philadelphia Free Library).

The excerpts will also be made available to participating authors for use on their own websites and for use on promotional and advertising material. The cost per book is \$30, one time, all inclusive – the price is usually \$35 per book. However, this special rate of \$30 for Infinity authors is valid only until October 31, 2008.

How does it work??? Simple!!! To participate, go to: [www.publishersportal.com/default.php?from=infin](http://www.publishersportal.com/default.php?from=infin)

- Sign the participation form
- Enter your book's ISBN
- Upload the requested PDF files
- Make the payment on-line by credit card

Excerpts will be promptly added to the comprehensive Dial-A-Book Inc. Chapter One database of more than 115,000 book excerpts, created with the permission of more than 1,200 publishers and imprints. Please visit [www.dialabook.net](http://www.dialabook.net), so you can see for yourself what this portal can do to help to promote your book.

Each book excerpt will include complete bibliographic data (ISBN, title, subtitle, author, publisher, copyright holder/year); a table of contents; and about ten pages of initial content. Several Infinity authors have utilized this service with positive results. For more information and for answers to your specific questions, please email [info@PublishersPortal.com](mailto:info@PublishersPortal.com) directly.

## Jumping on the Green Train

We are rapidly making progress in our leap from paper royalty statements to a more environmentally friendly paperless/electronic statement.

It is Infinity Publishing's pleasure to provide the best possible service to our authors and that includes keeping costs reasonable while keeping authors well informed on the progress of their marketing efforts.

We hope to make our goal of going green a reality within the next couple of months, but to do so we need your assistance. After reading this newsletter please run - don't walk - to your computer and send us an email verifying your email address. Please address your email to [Emily@InfinityPublishing.com](mailto:Emily@InfinityPublishing.com). In the subject field, please put your vendor ID number (which is located on your royalty statement) title of your book. The email is for record keeping purposes only and will not be responded to.

## Join Other Authors at Infinity's Authors' Retreat

As you know from the August *Author's Advocate*, Infinity's 9th annual "Express Yourself..." Authors' Conference is now transformed into an enticing and interactive **Authors' Retreat**. This high caliber, quality event will be held the last weekend in September at the Sheraton Park Ridge Hotel and Conference Center in Valley Forge, PA. You still have time to register. Infinity authors registered by September 10<sup>th</sup> will receive 10 free copies of their book when they arrive at the retreat. After the 10<sup>th</sup>, Infinity authors will receive only 5 copies of their book. No retreat registrations will be accepted after Thursday, September 25<sup>th</sup>.

A tentative schedule is posted on our retreat website at [www.authorsconference.com](http://www.authorsconference.com). We have a complete lineup of publishing professionals ready to meet with retreat participants and take part in the dynamic discussion circles. This is an excellent opportunity to learn from leading industry experts more successful ways to promote your book – and authors who have attended our previous events sell more books. We looking forward to seeing you in Valley Forge.

*Have a sensational September, and enjoy often... John*