

As writers, we spend most of our time in the background, watching and writing about everyone else's experiences and exploits. But all that is about to change. In season eleven, Havok wants to hear about you! A full year—winter, spring, summer, and fall—celebrating all of your autobiographical adventures and misadventures through all the seasons. Well... *mostly* autobiographical, that is. We are Havok, after all. So feel free to embellish the truth a little, or a lot (or flat-out make it up), as you craft your personal tales of winter wonder, spring storms, summer staycations, and fall frights. And, strictly speaking, it doesn't have to be an *auto*-biographical account, as long as you narrate the story with a strong personal voice. So, feel free to share your grandpa's claims about the time aliens abducted him from Mardi Gras. No judgment here.

2024 MONTHLY THEMES, make your story reflect something about *that month of the year*. January winter storms and resolutions, February Valentine's day thrills (or disappointments), March sporting madness or springtime floods, April Easter celebrations or wildflower tours. You get the idea. For reference, here's a [list of holidays on timeanddate.com](https://timeanddate.com). Just remember that we still need all five genres: mystery, science fiction, humor, thriller, and fantasy.

Note: This is a reference sheet for inspiration only; deadlines may change; check the Season Themes page on GoHavok.com to verify which months are open for submissions and which are closed.

REMEMBER JANUARY (DEADLINE: October 6, 2023)

REMEMBER FEBRUARY (DEADLINE: November 3, 2023)

REMEMBER MARCH (DEADLINE: December 29, 2023)

REMEMBER APRIL (DEADLINE: February 2, 2024)

REMEMBER MAY (DEADLINE: March 1, 2024)

REMEMBER JUNE (DEADLINE: April 5, 2024)

REMEMBER JULY (DEADLINE: May 3, 2024)

REMEMBER AUGUST (DEADLINE: May 31, 2024)

REMEMBER SEPTEMBER (DEADLINE: June 28, 2024)

REMEMBER OCTOBER (DEADLINE: August 2, 2024)

REMEMBER NOVEMBER (DEADLINE: August 30, 2024)

REMEMBER DECEMBER (DEADLINE: September 27, 2024)

Stories accepted for the "Remember January" theme will publish in January 2024 (and so on). During the 2024 publishing season, Havok is awarding five winners each month – one winner in each genre (Mystery Monday, Techno Tuesday, etc). These winning stories will be collected in the "Remember When" anthology, releasing in early 2025.

WE NEED ALL FIVE MAJOR GENRES

The Legendary season lends itself to all our genres, but you may wonder how to combine *your* favored genre with these themes. The tips below should help. Also, we generally receive fewer submissions for the mystery, thriller, and humor categories, so your story may have a better chance at publication if it fits those genres.

Here are some genre-specific ideas to spark your imagination:

- *Mystery*: When we say “mystery”, it doesn’t have to be a forensic crime or classic Sherlockian one. It can be “who ate the last cookie?” It can also be *mysterious*, as in “Why is she acting that way?” or “What’s in the dark forest where nobody wants to explore?”
- *Science Fiction*: It’s all about setting. Put your “autobiographical” story in the future, in a time travel loop, from the perspective of an android or alien, or add technology that doesn’t exist yet.
- *Humor*: Absurd situations, characters who don’t get along forced into situations together, these can make great comedic stories. Read through our archives for inspiration about what we find funny.
- *Thriller*: Give us a countdown to doom, a thrilling chase, a suspenseful situation. Tell us about the time your worst story villain escaped off the page and stalked you. If you combine danger with a speculative twist, your story has a better chance of selection by more than one of our genre teams.
- *Fantasy*: Tell us about your secret fairy genetics, or about the summer when Grandma’s broom closet became a portal, go for an adventure in the fantasy world you, as the author, created.

TIP #1: Sometimes we get questions about our submission process. Here’s a behind-the-scenes peek. Our submissions team routes your story to the genre team indicated on your submission form most of the time (Mystery Monday, Techno Tuesday, etc). If one genre team is low on submissions, stories that fit multiple genres may be shifted to fill that gap. Our teams coordinate together when needed to share stellar stories when one genre day is full and a story fits more than one genre. Bottom line: If your story can combine two genres, it may get an extra boost.

TIP #2: Sign up for our [author newsletter](#) to stay in the loop about opportunities for authors. We usually send a newsletter once a month, but there may be occasional announcements in addition to that schedule.

TIP #3: Follow [@havokauthornews](#) on Instagram for story prompts to spark ideas for our themes. We also post open and closed submission announcements and other author-centric news. On Facebook, follow the [Havok Publishing page](#) and join the [Flash Fiction Writers Guild](#) for the same info. Disclaimer: No guarantee of what info we’ll post, or whether you’ll see the posts when we do. Checking the Season Themes page on our website is the most reliable source for this info.

TIP #4: How to write a fantasy or science fiction story while targeting mystery, thriller, or humor: Take your fantasy (or futuristic) character and setting and center your story around a mystery, a question, an unknown. Or make the situation life-threatening and thrilling. Or give your characters a humorous personality or put them in a hilarious situation.

Using the season themes to inspire you, send us a story that fits any of the following daily flash genres:

MYSTERY MONDAY: From cozy to crime scene, start your week off with a bit of mystery. Creep through downtown foggy London Town, spy on secret agents at a midnight meeting, catch up with an old friend who may or may not be a cat burglar, or just figure out who stole your homework before the last bell rings. It doesn't have to be a classic mystery with detectives, clues, murder, or theft. If it's mysterious, uncertain, or unknown, take us on a journey through the dark and shine a bit of light on the hidden—and maybe even startling—truth.

Sub-genres: Amateur sleuth (*The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*), cozy/whodunit (Agatha Christie), crime (*The Departed*), legal/medical (*A Few Good Men*), noir (*Blade Runner*), police procedural (*Silence of the Lambs*), professional sleuth (Sherlock Holmes), supernatural (*The Woman in Black*), psychological horror (*Sphere*)

TECHNO TUESDAY: As your week hits its stride, don't be afraid to ask, "What if..." What if NASA really is covering for the aliens? What if your new cell phone comes with a free brain implant? What if a radioactive spider gives you superpowers? What if time travel vacations are a thing of the past? With Havok, even the mysteries of the universe aren't too great to explore over your morning cup of coffee.

Sub-genres: Hard sci-fi (*The Martian*), soft sci-fi (*Spider-Man*), military (*Starship Troopers*), space opera (*Star Wars*, *Dune*), steampunk (*The Time Machine*), cyber/bio/nanopunk (*The Matrix*), voyages extraordinaire (Jules Verne), gothic (*Frankenstein's Monster*), dystopian (*The Hunger Games*)

WACKY WEDNESDAY: Halfway done, and who couldn't use a little humor over their lunch break? Well, embrace the lighter side of Havok as you laugh your stress away, 1,000 words at a time. Whether you're running alongside a hilariously unfortunate private eye, hitching a ride across the galaxy, helping a kid defend his home from Christmas burglars, enjoying a "sick day" with a high school adventurer, or going on an epic quest to find a holy grail, you can rest assured that your adventure will be anything but serious.

Sub-genres: Forget 'em! What would Wacky Wednesday be with a bunch of rules? If it's funny, lighthearted, and downright entertaining, you're hitting the mark.

THRILLER THURSDAY: As your week races to a close, get caught up in some heart-pumping excitement. Run down a terrorist before time runs out. Infiltrate a secret society before they collect the last relic. Untangle a sociopath's plot before he pins the whole thing on you. Take down a crime boss before he takes you down. And do it all before your kids wake up from their afternoon nap.

Sub-genres: Action (*James Bond*), adventure (*Indiana Jones*), conspiracy (*The Da Vinci Code*), crime (*Die Hard*), medical (*Outbreak*), man vs. nature (*Jaws*, *Twister*)

FANTASY FRIDAY: TGI fantasy! Now, sit back and drift into another world filled with high elves, amateur wizards, magic wardrobes, suave vampires, and gun-slinging monster hunters. With Havok, there's no limit to how far the story will take you as you kick your feet up and usher in another fantastic weekend.

Sub-genres: Fairy tales (*Cinderella*), horror (*Dracula*), high fantasy (*The Lord of the Rings*), low fantasy (*Harry Potter*), magical realism (*Midnight in Paris*), medieval (*A Game of Thrones*), portal (*The Chronicles of Narnia*), urban/paranormal (*The Dresden Files*)