



MYSTERIES TO DIE FOR

Season 10: Tales from the Bestiary

Call for Stories

Introduction

Mysteries to Die For (M2D4) is a story telling podcast with a companion anthology that structures mysteries to give the audience a chance to beat the detective to the solution. Reminiscent of the Ellery Queen radio show, whodunnit style mysteries are told up to the critical point, at which the hosts and audience enter into a deliberation to find the culprit. Then comes the big reveal. Each M2D4 season has a theme.

- Season 1: was TG Wolff's WIDOW'S RUN, told as one chapter each episode.
- Season 2: The Originators featured adaptations of stories from the 1800's predated Mystery being a genre including The Murders in the Rue Morgue.
- Season 3: Enter the Detective introduced adaptations of the first cases of serial detectives including Holmes and Poirot.
- Season 4: A Word Before Dying contained original stories around the theme of the murder victim's last spoken word.
- Season 5: Move It or Lose It featured the vehicles that propel mysteries forward.
- Season 6: Things that Go Jack in the Night was a salute to my co-creator Jack and of the many, many plays on the work Jack. Pepperjack cheese, jackass, lumberjack, jack be nimble, jack-in-the-box, jackalopes...the list just keeps going!
- Season 7: Games People Play explored the not so innocent side of diversions ranging from the ancient game of marbles to the modern Dungeons & Dragons.
- Season 8: Anything but Murder dug into the myriad of ways to create mayhem up to but *not* including murder.
- Season 9: Stuff That Can Kill You wrangled with some very nasty weapons and the way they can reap chaos.

Listen to our previous seasons at our website: <https://m2d4podcast.com/>



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Season 10 Theme: Tales from the Bestiary

Season 10 plays in the realm of mythical, supernatural, and legendary creatures. Fantastic creatures have long been the focal point for human storytelling. *Mysteries to Die For* continues that tradition by incorporating incredible creatures into the mystery genre. Creature can be one of lore or legend, Wikipedia is provided as a source for inspiration. Authors can create their own creatures in the style of classical beasts.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_legendary_creatures_by_type

The Creatures can be your hero, your detective, your victims, or your bad guy. They can be the reason good people go wrong or the backstory to a location. The important thing is they are **CRITICAL** to your story. We are looking for more than a cameo appearance.

Project Overview

M2D4 is soliciting original stories for Season 10 podcast and anthologies. The podcast stories will drop bi-weekly January – December 2027. All stories will be performed by TG and Jack Wolff. Prior to recording, the story will be edited for podcastability (focus on listener experience). Stories will be copyedited (focus on grammar) and published as an anthology released in late Fall 2027.

Story Requirements

Complete, drafted stories must be submitted in the provided format and meet the following requirements:

- Story length: 4,000-8,000 words
- Story style: Whodunnit mystery utilizing mythological creatures.
- Story structure: Chapter style, with each chapter having a title and the “big reveal” in the last chapter. While this is not traditional for short stories, it is our format for podcast and print.
- Story theme: The mythical creature needs to be integral to the story. If the creature is replaceable with another creature, animal, or character, then the theme of the podcast has been missed.

Stories that are not in the required format will be returned. Stories that are not whodunnits or fail to meet the structure requirements will be asked to make edits or be rejected. For an example of our whodunnit style, please reference one of our Season 9 episodes.



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Author Options

Authors have full artistic reign in the following areas:

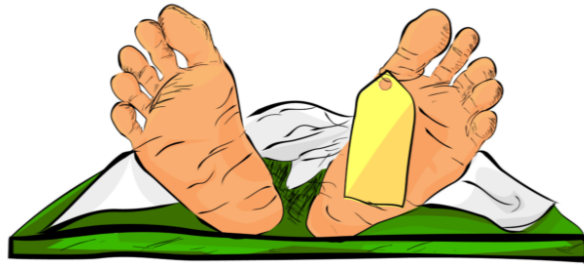
- Subgenre. While the story must be a mystery, it can be any subgenre. Procedurals, PI, cozies, sci-fi, romance, steam punk, paranormal, horror, whatever. It's all good.
- Setting. Here, there, anywhere. No limits. The more interesting the better.
- Time period. Past, present, future. No limits. Again, the more diverse, the better.
- Language. There is no restriction on language with podcasting. Explicit is fucking ok. Note: provide a phonetic key for non-standard words, especially if you use French. TG butchers French. Ça va?
- Use of characters from your other stories. As long as you own the rights, we're good. Play in your world.
- A note on storytelling for single-voice podcasts: it is critical that listeners know at all times which character is speaking. The visual cue of a new paragraph that indicates speaker changes in print is not available to the listener. Consequently, authors are challenged to use a mix of said tags, speaker emotions, speaker body movement, calling other characters by name, and other tools to indicate a change in speaker for listeners...in a way that is also engaging for readers. This is truly a writer's challenge. And a necessity.

Submittal Requirements

Submittal of the full first drafts are due by **September 1st, 2026** to Tina@tgwolff.com and Jckwlff@gmail.com

Subject line: M2D4 S10 YOUR TITLE. In the body of the email, provide the following:

- Title of the story
- Your legal name and pen name, if applicable
- Selected Mythical creature or creatures
- The role the creature plays in the story
- Means of murder
- Synopsis of the story
- Who did it and why



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Authors are encouraged to reach out with synopses, early drafts, or questions. Submittal prior to the deadline is appreciated 😊. Notification of acceptance will be delivered on or before October 1st. If accepted, the notification will include the targeted drop period and timetable for finalizing the story.

Authors new to *Mysteries to Die For* are encouraged to listen to an episode. Note the “Deliberation” section, which is present in both the podcast and anthology, summarizing the suspects and the clues.

Previously Published Stories

M2D4 is open to previously published stories. However, you must own the rights to the story and be adapted to our format, specifically subdividing into chapters and the sharing of clues prior to the deliberation. The previously published stories are expected to comply with the above requirements.

Artificial Intelligence

The Author must represent and warrant that the Work submitted is created solely by human personnel, without the use of generative artificial intelligence, machine learning models, or similar automated systems, and are original works. The use of artificial intelligence, if any, is limited to editing, polishing, refining, or similar, of the human created Work.

Story Editing and Finalization

The order of the stories is at the sole discretion of TG and Jack Wolff. Authors should expect two rounds of edits with an emphasis on:

- Use of selected Mythical Creature
- Sufficient suspects (3-5 suspects recommended)
- Presentation of clues prior to Deliberation
- Logic murder and the resolution

Fair Warning: Faulty logic is our pet peeve. TG will pick, whine, and bitch about it. Jack has been known to rant about it on the podcast. Writer be warned, lock your logic down.

One anthology will be published corresponding to the podcast season. One round of copy edits will be provided during the anthology development. The story order of the podcast and anthology will be the same.

To finalize the episode, authors are expected to provide

- Author bio (less than 100 words)
- Pre-roll advertisement (less than 80 words)
- Author website URL
- Social media handles for Facebook and Instagram



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Payment, Ownership & Rights

If accepted, the author will receive \$25 (US), e-book copy (.pub and .pdf) and one (1) print copy of the anthology in exchange for the exclusive rights to use the story until December 31, 2028. This is 1-year from end of Season 10 podcast. After that date, our rights to the story become non-exclusive and the author may seek publication elsewhere.

The author will be exclusively featured on one episode of *Mysteries to Die For*, which will include:

- Distribution of the episode to domestic and international markets via Apple Podcast, Spotify, YouTube, and other podcast platforms
- An 80 word pre-roll advertisement to promote your backlist, your next release, etc.
- Direction of the audience to the author's social media and/or websites.
- Episode promotion via Facebook, Instagram, YouTube
- Episode posting on m2d4podcast.com
- Author picture, bio, link to your website, and your episode on our author page

Jack Wolff will create a musical bassline based on the story and provided content. Jack Wolff and *Mysteries to Die For* retain sole rights to the music, with expiration per standard music industry standards. The author has no rights to the music.

The author will be named as the author of the story inside the anthology. The author's bio and website URL will be included in the book.

The author agrees to promote their M2D4 episode on their website and social media outlets. The author similarly agrees to promote the anthology on their websites and social media outlets on the release date.

We know you, the author, to be a professional and expect you to act like it. If you can't make a deadline, tell us. If you need to make changes, reach out to us. Expect that we will extend the same courtesy to you. We will provide timely feedback. We will set up a schedule and stick to it. If shit happens, we will adapt. Together. No matter how Mythical the situation.