

The People's Friend

Pocket Novels

THE People's Friend Pocket Novels are a satellite publication of the popular weekly magazine. They offer, in one volume, the kind of story that would normally be serialised over several weeks in the "Friend".

Thus we are looking for stories with a strong emotional situation as their central theme, peopled by believable characters the reader cares about, sympathises and empathises with, and roots for in whatever crises they may face. The characters are almost more important than the plotline. As "The People's Friend" themselves say in their own guidelines, the reader will remember a good character long after she's forgotten other details.



The characters move the storyline forward to a satisfying conclusion, so that when the reader turns the last page she feels a sense of pleasure that things have turned out the way she had hoped, although it might have looked a little doubtful at times! It's fair to say that almost all of the stories are romances, although in a family saga the romance happens along the way rather than being the central action of the piece.

Dialogue is an important part of both the story's telling and in giving the reader an insight into each character. After all, we always get a different impression in a face-to-face meeting with someone as opposed to going by a third person's description. Dialogue also helps to keep a narrative lively.

Stories can be modern, wartime, even turn-of-the 19th/20th century, and they can be set in Britain or abroad. And in what way do they differ from a "People's Friend" serial? Only in the respect that because the story is available to the reader all at once, it doesn't require the same end-of-chapter tension that a weekly serial depends on to make the reader want to come back next week. ■

Stories are around 42,000 words, and a synopsis and the first couple of chapters are required in the first instance to assess both the storyline and the writer's style.

These should be sent to:
People's Friend Pocket Novels,
D.C. Thomson & Co., Ltd.,
80 Kingsway East, Dundee DD4 8SL.

We do prefer an electronic copy and
 this should be e-mailed to:
tsteel@dcthomson.co.uk

- * Don't use tabs, indents or any sort of formatting.
- * Double quotes for speech.
- * Our house style is Jim said, not said Jim after speech.