

WEIRD TALES (R)  
Terminus Publishing Co., Inc.  
123 Crooked Lane  
King of Prussia PA 19406-2570

2002 March 27

Jonathan Ball  
1302 - 40 Dalhousie Drive  
Winnipeg MB R3T 2Y7  
Canada

Dear Jonathan:

Just lately, we've been innundated with submissionns for a contest. We finally reached your Weird Tales submission, "Dial Tone." Alas -- not for us. Most stories need to establish the time and place -- the setting of the story -- as soon as possible. In a few stories (but not this one), this uncertainty is deliberate, as when the viewpoint character wakes with amnesia. In almost every story, establish the gender of the viewpoint character as quickly as possible. We did like the throwaway details. And you told the reader far too little about the protagonist's personality or motives. In our Guidelines, please note the discussion of stapling and italics/underlining.

We invite your comments on the enclosed Guidelines, so that their next edition can be more helpful to the whole range of Weird Tales writers.

Sincerely,

for the Editorial Horde:

George H Scithers, Darrell Schweitzer, Carol Adams  
Diane Weinstein, Robert Waters, Tim Burke, et alii  
owlswick@netaxs.com

enc: Guidelines