

TLC Pen Factor 2026

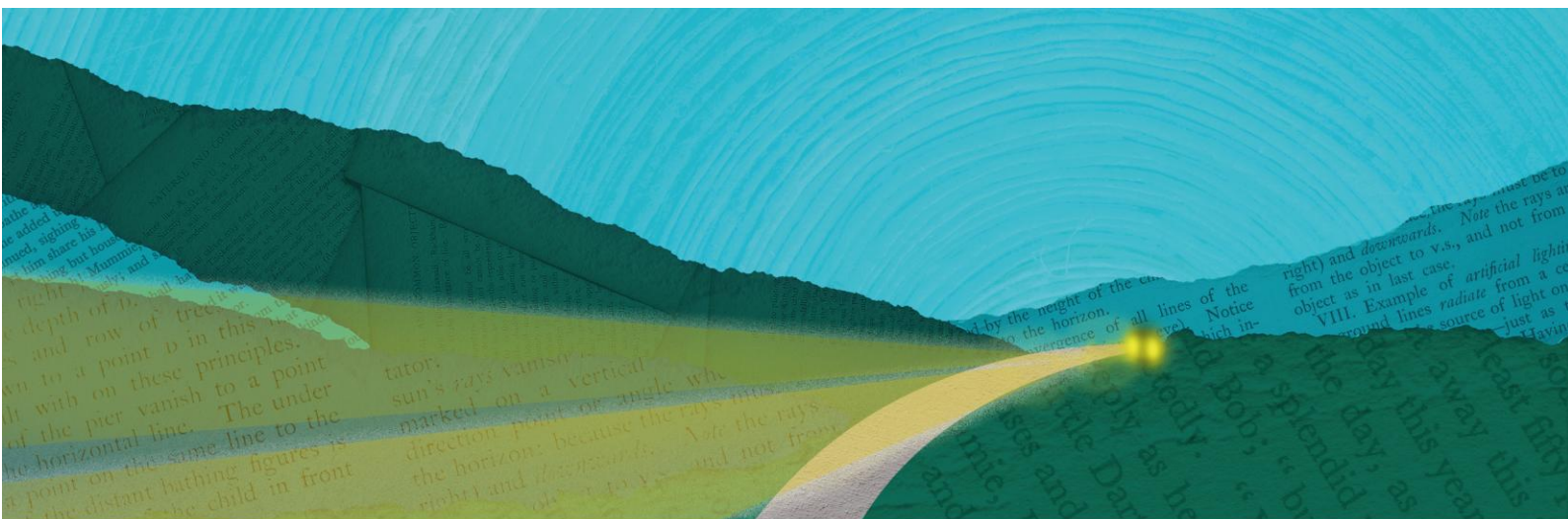
Entry Guidelines and T's and C's

We very much look forward to welcoming you at **Conscious Writing Month 2026**, which will be taking place **20th Oct – 27th Nov 2026** online.

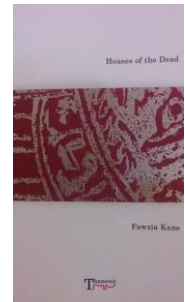
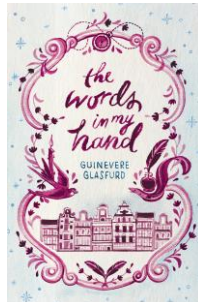
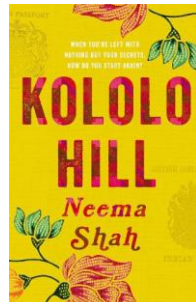
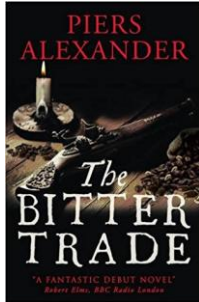
As a ticketholder, you are eligible to enter the **TLC Pen Factor Writing Competition**. The TLC Pen Factor live pitch and prizegiving will take place as part of the series **7-8.30pm BST Friday 27th November 2026**. Five finalists will be selected to pitch their work to a panel of industry judges, with live feedback, before a winner is announced. To enter, you will need the first 1,000 words and a synopsis.

About the TLC Pen Factor

The TLC Pen Factor Writing Competition is a competition for new, unpublished writing across fiction and non-fiction. The competition started as an adjunct to TLC's Writing in a Digital Age Conference in 2012, later becoming part of our popular Writers' Day, held at the Free Word Centre in London. We have since gone fully virtual, and are reviving this popular competition after a short hiatus.



As a competition, TLC Pen Factor has an impressive track record for finding talent, with many of our previous finalists going on to be published - including as a direct result of meeting their agent at the event! You can read about how entering (and subsequently winning) resulted in Lizzie Damilola Blackburn landing a two-book deal with Viking [here](#).



Previous winners and finalists include Neema Shah, Guinevere Glasfurd, Adam Sharp, Abi Dare, and Fawzia Kane. Our last winner, Johnny Gaunt, recently announced a two-book deal with Transworld.

The TLC Pen Factor has been generously sponsored in previous years by Kobo Writing Life, IngramSpark, and Byte the Book. Prizes have included editorial feedback from The Literary Consultancy, digital marketing consultancy, web presence consultations, free one-day writing retreats, membership to various writing organisations, and free e-reading devices. This year's prize will be announced ahead of the start of Conscious Writing Month.

TLC Pen Factor Key Details

The deadline for submission is **9am (UK) Monday 16th November 2026**.

How to Enter

To enter, please email info@literaryconsultancy.co.uk with the subject header 'TLC Pen Factor 2026' including, **in the body of the email**:

- Your full name, email address, and telephone number
- A third-person biography (up to 150 words max)

And the following **as attachments**:

- Up to 1,000 words max from the opening of your manuscript
- A one-page synopsis
- A one-page covering letter addressed 'Dear Publisher/Agent'

Terms and Conditions

- The work entered must be an original, unpublished work of full-length fiction or narrative non-fiction. It does not have to be complete at the time of entering the competition.

- Your work must not be on submission to literary agents or publishers at the point of entry. If the work is on historic submission and you receive an offer of representation, you must immediately inform us and withdraw your submission from the competition.
- Unfortunately we are unable to accept short stories, poetry, picture books, or scripts.
- The work entered cannot have been previously published by a publisher with a curated list (i.e., where the work has been through an editorial selection process). Previously self-published work will be accepted.
- You must be a Conscious Writing Month ticketholder and able to attend the TLC Pen Factor Live Pitch on **Friday 27th November 2026** in order to enter the TLC Pen Factor Writing Competition. This event will be free to attend for all holders of any ticket type.
- You must enter the competition using the same name and email you used to purchase your ticket, so that we can verify your eligibility to enter.
- **We do not accept AI-generated prose.** Please find our AI FAQs [here](#).
- The judges' decision re: longlist, shortlist and the overall winner is final and unfortunately we are not able to enter into discussion or give feedback.
- Submissions not complying with the submission guidelines and/or sent after the deadline will not be considered.

The Literary Consultancy