

mlrpress *manloveromance – gay erotic fiction at its best*

MLR Press offers the highest quality stories to readers of our genre — mainly gay fiction and gay erotic romance, what we call *manlove*. Manlove includes the fine art of gay erotic stories written for the romantic-minded reader, for both men and women who find the fantasy of two — or more — gorgeous, intriguing men in love — or lust — thrilling and captivating. We believe in delivering every steamy moment of it.

Founded with a goal of bringing the finest to its discriminating readers, MLR Press publishes books that span the range of human experience and imagination, in past, present and future. We have new worlds, mysteries, vampires, ghosts and aliens that entertain and delight. We take readers on amazing adventures through the creative minds and skills of a small, select group of bright, uniquely talented authors and artists. We're opening doors for readers and writers of gay erotic fiction.

Join us. Sample our stories. We have something for everyone. From lust-filled, stolen moments to long, lazy afternoons of lovemaking, we have the man-on-man romance you want, wrapped up in solid plots with heroes you can love with a passion — maybe even hate with a passion, but passion will always be a part of it.

Our authors are skilled, award-winning and –nominated storytellers who weave tales of mayhem, lust and love that set your heart pounding and your temperature rising. Erotic, explicit and enticing novels filled with suggestive, seductive and downright sultry action.

Manlove. Read us. You know you want to. Go ahead. Reading is man's second favorite activity in bed.

Feedback from readers is always welcome. Let us know what you want to see between our pages. Comments and suggestions are always welcome. Readers can contact us at mlrpress.customerservice@gmail.com.

ABOUT SUBMISSIONS

MLR Press is currently an invitation-only publisher. All our authors are selected from the very best in the genre. Our books have a high level of sensuality and raw passion, and it's a form in which not all authors work comfortably. We invite only proven authors who can maintain our chosen standard where plot is balanced with intimacy.

That said, we will not reject submissions from other authors purely as a matter of course. Writers submitting to MLR Press should, however, be aware that we are comfortable with our small roster of authors, and we will consider only writers and works that fit comfortably into the group. Query letters are accepted at mlrpress.subsandqueries@gmail.com.

Reading and following these guidelines can't guarantee acceptance for your story, but it will go a long way toward having your submission taken seriously.

GUIDELINES

ManLoveRomance Press specializes in publishing male/male gay romance stories, most often in the erotic sub-genre. We make occasional exceptions for other types of extraordinary male/male storytelling — but those exceptions are rare.

Our readers enjoy a variety of genres in the male/male gay category: mysteries and suspense; paranormal and science fiction; historical, contemporary and futuristic; ghost or vampire; cowboy and urban; comedic or BDSM.

But, the genre isn't really an issue. What we want is what the readers want: a ripping good read, or a quiet moment to watch a new love blossom. If your story fills those bills, we want to see it.

Our preference is for stories that are both erotic and romantic. The stories will have strong characterization with believable motivations. There will be a clear and involving love story, not merely a litany of sexual encounters. However, a significant portion of the story will be devoted to graphic and explicit sex scenes that further the plot, the romance and the character development.

Very important to readers of romance is an emotionally satisfying ending that is, if not Happily Ever After, at least Happily for Now.

After you've taken these elements into consideration, show us what you can do. Shibari and Kinbaku-bi? Go for it. Leather? De-lish. Loving BDSM? A favorite among readers. And, what about wax play? Light it up!

PROHIBITIVE GUIDELINES

We're not alone among publishers of erotic romance in saying that there's some story-telling that we just don't want to see. Check with other publishers' guidelines if you must, but among reputable presses there are prohibitions against these elements in a story:

- rape or incest presented to titillate the reader — although both are a fact of life and shouldn't be rejected as a plot element if they add to motivation and character development;



- underage sex presented in a positive light or on the page, 'though it may figure in plot;
- content that demeans identifiable groups, 'though hate is also a part of life and overcoming it can be a strong motivator;
- bodily functions in the nature of — but not limited to — golden showers or scat;
- necrophilia ('though the very frisky undead don't count);
- bestiality (off-worldly and were-creatures have their attractions in shifted form, but the poodle and the Clydesdale are off limits).

SUBMISSIONS

Your submission will have three parts: a cover letter, a synopsis, and a partial or full manuscript.

Each and every one of these items should be proofread and spellchecked. If you haven't shown

that much respect for your presentation, you can't expect us to take it seriously either.

The letter: In your cover letter, include your real name, your pen name (if any), your contact information, and a summary of your writing or publishing experience. (If you're a first-time author, say so. We won't hold it against you. All our authors had a first time.) Point us to your promotional website, if you have one. Tell us, for instance, to which writers' organizations you belong or in which writing contests you earned a prize or mention. Describe why you think your story should interest ManLoveRomance Press and its readers.

The synopsis: Give us a synopsis of your story. You might open it with brief descriptions of the major characters. Then, in one to three pages, detail the *significant* action in the story. A synopsis is not a blurb. Don't end the synopsis with a blurb-style teaser. *Can Jack save Ben from the forces that threaten to tear their world apart?* Word of advice: a coy conclusion to the synopsis is a guaranteed way to create a cranky editor. We need to know the story. **All** of it. Including the ending.

The partial or the full manuscript: The final component is the story itself. We'd prefer to see the first three chapters plus the final one. Prologue and epilogue do not count as chapters. If the first sexual encounter doesn't happen within the first three chapters, please forward the chapters up to and including the first sexual episode.

While ManLoveRomance is first a publisher of gay erotic romance, we do consider other stories of gay love. We even consider well researched and supported gay-themed nonfiction. But, our criteria for acceptance remain high.

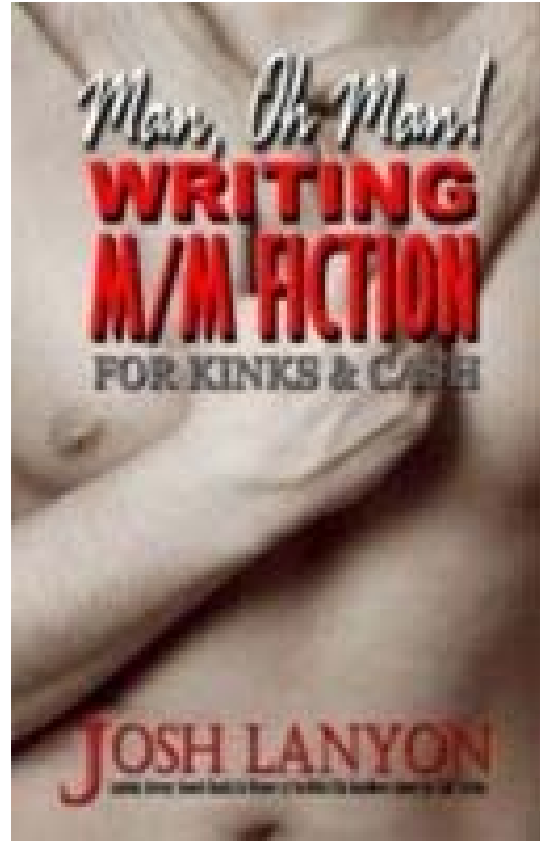
Send the cover letter, synopsis and manuscript to mlrpress.subsandqueries@gmail.com.

FORMATTING

Frankly, we don't much care about formatting, except that we can accept only Word .doc, .docx or .rtf files, or Open Office files. Also, don't use orange six-point sans serif text on yellow

background. Still, we've been reading most of our lives; we can adjust to exotic fonts and formats — but we'd rather not.

Remember, though, that the easier the reading is, the better the editor's frame of mind. Also? Make very, very sure that you have proofread and spell-checked your text. We take it as an indicator of your seriousness as an author if you haven't had sufficient respect for your own work to do at least that much to help it reach an audience.



Josh Lanyon is a veteran writer, creator of the Adrian English mystery series. *Man, Oh Man! Writing M/M Fiction for Kinks & Cash* is his first nonfiction title. Published by ManLoveRomance Press.

MULTIPLE SUBMISSIONS

Please don't submit your manuscript to ManLoveRomance Press if you're offering the same file to another publisher at the same time.

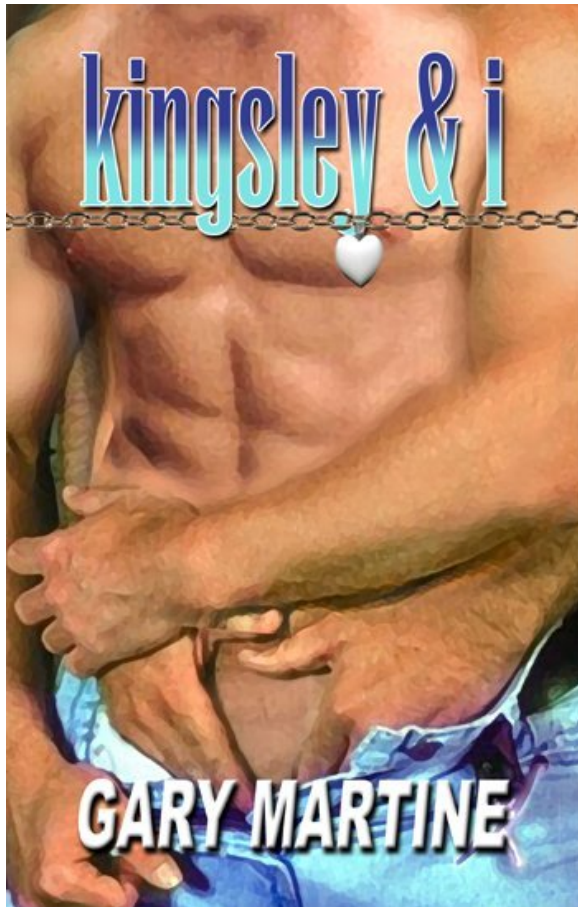
We try to answer within three weeks of your submission. If you haven't heard from us by then, send a polite note to inquire about the status of

your manuscript. We will return without comment the manuscript of an author who withdraws a manuscript that has been submitted elsewhere at the same time.

RESPONSE TIME AND RESULTS

If you submitted a partial manuscript, the editor might request the full manuscript before making a final decision.

ManLoveRomance Press tries to respond to every author within three weeks of the date of submission. We do not use form letters to reply. Each submission gets a thorough reading and the senior editor writes an individual evaluation. That kind of attention takes time. Even if your



Gary Martine is a first-time author who submitted his manuscript for *Kingsley and I* to MLR Press on spec. It released in 2008.

manuscript isn't suitable for MLR Press, you'll have a professional evaluation in hand to help you improve your story.

If ManLoveRomance Press declines your manuscript, don't take it personally. We might think your story is very good. But, if we don't have readers who buy your kind of story, it's not fair to you or MLR Press to go to publication. Seek the best market and publisher for your story.

ACCEPTANCE

If your story is accepted for publication with ManLoveRomance Press, the publisher will contact you with details of MLR's offer, including information about rights and royalties. MLR Press does not charge authors to publish their works. Quite the opposite, MLR Press is a royalty-paying publishing house. MLR Press is a print publisher, not an e-publisher. Our titles are carried in such outlets as Barnes & Noble, Amazon.com and independent bookstores in North America, Europe and South Africa.

MLR Press offers an optional cooperative scheme for promotions and advertising that can extend your reach into the market. Each year, the publisher and other staff select a strategic handful of publishing and GLBT events at which they host booths. Authors are welcome to join them at these events. Additionally, the publisher tries to alert authors to online events and forums in which they may participate to promote their work.

EDITING

Having your story accepted doesn't mean that it goes to the printer with every precious word appearing just as you wrote it. We have a staff of story editors, line editors, proofreaders and artists who will all take a crack at helping you tell an even better story. If it's your first experience with publishing, you should know that the story editor has the final say about whether or not your book is ready to go to press. Work with your editors. They probably have a lot more publishing (and even writing) experience than you do. We really do want you to succeed.