



“It’s Complicated...” – More Details

Broad Outline

The title refers to the optional relationship status that used to be an option on Facebook. We are looking for “alternative” stories about Valentines Day –they should not be romantic, sappy or erotic. Your story can be set in any time and in any place (on Earth – no sci-fi or fantasy for this this one.)

Remember “Sonder”

“Sonder” is the recognition that everyone you see or meet has their own story in which they play the central role. Therefore, your story should have one central character. You can have as many other characters as you like, but just one lead character – it is their story that you are telling.

Ideas to Fuel Your Imagination

The plot must centre around Valentines Day – it could be a dark story about someone who is lonely, or it could be a farce about someone’s attempt to get to their date is thwarted by fate. You may have seen the “Three Valentines” episode of “Frasier” which is split into three stories – the first is pure slapstick – Frasier’s brother Niles’s attempts to iron his trousers ahead of a date result in setting the apartment on fire. In the second, Frasier is out for dinner with a colleague but cannot work out whether it is a romantic date or a business meeting. The third involves Martin and Daphne – who spend the evening together reflecting on their singledom. This is what we are looking for – alternative takes on valentines. Your story could be a horror or a historical, a tragedy or a comedy, as long as it centres on valentines, whether your story is about a date gone wrong, or a shop worker selling cards.

Story Specifics

- You should use the template provided and follow the style shown. If you cannot use Microsoft Word you can use other software but please try to lay the text out as it will appear on the page of the book.
- Do not use double spacing
- The story should be 3000 – 6000 words
- Your story must be entirely fictional

Deadline

The deadline for this book is 9th January 2026. Release date is February 1st 2026. Please contact us if this is an issue for you.

Submission

Please send your story as a Word document (unless otherwise agreed) to Ruth and Tim on hello@sonderbooks.co.uk along with your author submission form.