



21st Century Intolerant – More Details

Broad Outline

The title is a comment on the general “intolerance” in modern society, as well as the increased awareness of food intolerances - these stories should be about people who are “21st Century intolerant” to a greater or lesser degree. We are looking for stories about characters who find the modern world challenging - whether it's a light-hearted tale of "first-world problems" or a darker look at some of the less savoury aspects of life in the 21st century - specifically, in 2025.

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 a character who struggles with an aspect - or aspects - of modern life, whether it's a young person struggling with dating and house buying, a middle-aged person who can't cope with modern culture, or an older person who feels isolated by technology. You choose the frustration(s), the story and the tone. Maybe it's a feelgood story about a 50-something who gave up on music in 1995, who finds themselves introduced to modern music by a young friend. Maybe the whole story is someone on hold to a call centre. Maybe it's a dark tale about the last straw – someone goes on a rampage after being unable to make their parking app work. Or you could share some social messages with a story about an older person left behind and isolated by technology, or the effects of growing political extremism. Maybe your character appears on a TV talent show and is suddenly rocketed to fame... or worse. The only limit is your imagination... **(You don't have to choose one of these ideas but if you do, please let us know so we can remove it from the list.)**

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 28th February 2026. Release date is April 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.