

CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE SOUL – Story Callouts

Cats - The deadline date for submissions is AUGUST 31, 2021.

Our cat books are so popular that we do a new one every other year. Our feline friends make us smile every day with their crazy antics, loving companionship, and amazing intuition. Here is another chance for you to share your story about the member of your family who just happens to walk on four feet... your cat!

We want your true funny stories, your heartwarming stories, and your mindboggling stories about all the simply amazing things that your cat does. What have you learned from your cat? How does your cat improve your life? What crazy things does your cat do? Has your cat ever done anything heroic? How does your cat warm your heart and make you smile? We want to hear all about the absurd antics, funny habits and insightful behavior of your cat. Please do not submit a story about your cat if we have already published that story. We will not republish it.

Crazy Family - The deadline for submissions is AUGUST 31, 2021.

We all have that certain someone in our own family who, while lovable, sweet, and caring, is also nutty or weird. We love that person but, at the same time, that family member makes us crazy! A parent or grandparent, an in-law, a brother or sister, an aunt, uncle or cousin. We all have them and you know who they are! We are looking for true stories and poems about those family members. We would like your stories to be silly, outrageous, hilarious, and make us laugh, but they should also show the kindness and caring of your family member too.

We are not looking for stories about the normal trials and tribulations of raising children and teenagers. We already know your kids do weird things, since ours did too! We want these stories to be outrageous and about out-of-the-ordinary situations.

You must submit your story or poem using your real name, but if your work is selected to be published in the book, we expect many of you to use pen names and change the names of family members to protect the innocent (or guilty!).

Dogs - The deadline date for submissions is AUGUST 31, 2021.

Our dog books are so popular that we do a new one every other year. Our canine friends make us smile every day with their crazy antics, their loving companionship, and their amazing intuition. Here is another chance for you to share a story about the member of your family who just happens to walk on four feet... your dog!

We want your true funny stories, your heartwarming stories, and your mindboggling stories about all the simply amazing things that your dog does. What have you learned from your dog? How does your dog improve your life? What crazy things does your dog do? Has your dog ever done anything heroic? How does your dog warm your heart and make you smile? We want to hear all about the absurd antics, funny habits and insightful behavior of your dog. Stories can be serious or humorous.

Please do not submit a story about your dog if we have already published that story. We will not republish it.

Grieving, Loss and Recovery - The deadline for submissions is AUGUST 31, 2021.

Grieving is a personal process with different stages we go through on the way to recovery after we have suffered a loss. Each person grieves in his or her own way and in his or her own time. There is no right or

wrong way to grieve and no set time or path to recovery. It is a very personal journey.

Sometimes the loss feels overwhelming and like the pain will never end. While the hurt and sadness never completely fade, they will ease with time and recovery will happen.

This collection of emotional and inspirational stories will provide comfort, support, and peace to those who have lost someone close to them. What helped you the most when you were grieving? Who were the people who helped you and what did they do? When did you know that you had finally “turned the corner” and were on the road to recovery? When and how did you realize there was light at the end of the tunnel? What are you doing to support others?

Your stories will give our readers inspiration and insight into how others are coping and let them know that there is hope, and recovery will happen. We hope that the true stories in this book will offer comfort and guidance to our readers and help ease the journey to healing. Please do not send us a biography about someone who has died.

Humorous Stories - The deadline for submissions is AUGUST 31, 2021.

Laughter is the best medicine. And we love to publish your funny stories—in all our books. Our first ever book filled with nothing but funny stories was a bestseller, so we’re doing it again, for publication in 2022. We’re looking for those funny stories you tell again and again. The ones that make everyone laugh.

Share your funny stories about something that happened to you in your life – in your relationship with a partner or spouse, a parent or child, a family member or friend, at work or at home – that made you and the people around you laugh out loud. Did you mean for it to be funny? Did the other person mean to make you laugh? Did a situation just get out of control? Did a misunderstanding turn into a comedy of errors?

We can’t wait to hear your true stories. We want them to be silly, outrageous and hilarious, and they absolutely must brighten our day and make us laugh! Good clean fun—and sometimes a tiny bit risqué too.

Here are some suggested topics but we know you can think of many more:

- Slips of the tongue
- Misunderstandings that led to funny moments
- Weird habits
- Pranks
- Pet behavior
- Embarrassing moments
- COVID comedy/isolation incidents
- Wedding mishaps
- Funeral foul-ups
- Holiday meltdowns
- DIY projects
- Kitchen/dinner party disasters
- Sports catastrophes
- Family foibles
- Zany vacations
- Moving-day mayhem
- Travel turmoil
- Marriage
- Workplace mishaps
- And any other hilarious, funny stories that happened in your life

If we have already published this story in a Chicken Soup for the Soul title, please do not submit it again. Please submit your story using your real name; we will let you use a pen name if necessary to protect the innocent (or guilty!).

Kindness - The deadline for submissions is AUGUST 31, 2021.

Small gestures can make a big difference in someone’s day, even in someone’s life. In our fast-paced world many people tend to only pay attention to what is important to them.

It is so wonderful and heartwarming to hear stories about people who have gone out of their way to do something kind for someone without being asked. Just because it was the kind thing to do. Just because it was the right thing to do.

Many times the person who receives an act of kindness doesn't even know the person who is being kind to them. The kindness is from total stranger, someone who will not be able to be paid back. Or perhaps you are that person who does a kind thing for a stranger knowing you will not be acknowledged or paid back. You did it just because.

Has someone performed an act of kindness for you? How did it feel? Did you pay it forward and do something kind for someone else? Did that person know it was you doing that kind thing? Did you do something kind for a stranger knowing you would not be paid back? How did that feel?

We are looking for true stories about acts of kindness that have happened to you or stories about a kindness that you performed for someone else. Stories can be serious or funny but they should definitely inspire our readers to look for ways in which they can perform kind acts.

Messages from Heaven - The deadline for submissions is AUGUST 31, 2021.

When our loved ones leave this world, our connection with them does not end. Death takes away their physical presence, but not their spirits, and we often sense them after they have gone. Sometimes we see or hear from them after they've passed, and they give us signs and a spiritual link from beyond.

We want to hear from you if you have experienced communication from the other side or received a sign or signal from a loved one who has passed. Has someone who has died come to you in a dream? Given you counsel or comfort? Have you gone beyond, but returned to life with new knowledge, insight, or awareness? Have you intuitively known the moment someone died?

This book is for everyone who has a story, whether religious or secular. Share your true, touching, and astounding stories about messages from heaven or your own experiences with dying and coming back.

Miracles - The deadline for submissions is AUGUST 31, 2021.

Everyone has experienced events in their lives that cause wonder and astonishment. These miraculous happenings are completely and totally unexplainable. Why did these amazing things happen? How did these surprising and bewildering things occur?

We want your true stories, both religious and non-religious, that will awe us with examples of amazing events. Inspirational stories to remind us that each day stunning miracles do happen and that a miracle can happen at any time.

Give us your personal stories about feelings of expectation and hope and the extraordinary events that have happened to you without logic. Did an unexplainable strange premonition make you take a different route home causing you to miss an accident? Did you have an eerie feeling that you should call home... right now, saving someone's life? Did you find something you had lost long after you had given up hope of ever finding it and after having looked many times in the place it was eventually found? Did something good happen when only bad was predicted?

Thank you!