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Call for Submission: Queers in Quarantine

Tentative title: *Queers in Quarantine*

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Publishing partner: Mohini Books (Oslo, Norway)

Deadline for submissions: August 15th 2021.

Dear fellow queers, we want to hear from you! We are looking for submissions of poems, written or graphic short stories, erotica, articles, black and white photo-essays or personal narratives from people who identify as queer, reflecting your experiences with the Covid-19 pandemic, lockdowns and quarantine. If you wish, your work can be published under a pseudonym.

Concept note:

This collection envisages a set of speculations and conversations about what it means to be queer within the confinement of our quarantined spaces. On or around March 2020, the world as we knew it changed. With the breakout of the Covid-19 pandemic, we were all compelled to move inside the four walls of our current living spaces such as they were—many estranged from friends, family, lovers, acquaintances, kin or other relevant relationships. Extended lockdown periods and compulsory quarantine may have involved a sudden loss of income, a loss of nourishing human touch, or a loss of space to take distance from others in the same household. Some of us have been ill with Covid-19 ourselves, or nursed others through it.

The tangible public sphere of interaction, communication, and gathering disappeared overnight, and for many of us an overwhelming sense of alienation came to occupy our psychic spaces. For others, who have still had some form of financial security, quarantine may have been a welcome chance to retreat into self-reflection, explore new forms of gender expression or other facets of our queer experience, while still mourning the restrictions induced by the pandemic.

Queer lives in quarantine can have their own particular challenges. You may be separated from chosen family and isolated, or trapped in abusive households with little or no access to private spaces, and constantly immersed in enforced heteronormativity. You may have lost your housing due to losing your income. Old and ultimately self-destructive survival strategies may have resurfaced. Of course, you may also have discovered new sources of joy, support, solidarity and resilience!

Where and how do we find a creative energy and aesthetic that both represents the experience of quarantine and resists its unimaginative reality? Is it to be found in the moment of loss—of intimacy, employment, friendship, love, private space, important people in our lives—or in our imaginations and fantasies that infuse our losses with new meanings, images, and possibilities? We want to hear your diverse, beautiful voices!

Keywords: Queerness, Covid-19, quarantine, lockdown, loss, grief, joy, fantasy, love, longing, gender, sexuality, aesthetics, art, resilience, imagination, solidarity.

Submission Guidelines:

- Email your submissions to koyote@mohini.no and rahul@mohini.no by August 15th 2021. Please ensure that you send your submissions to both the email ids.
- The subject of your email should read: SUBMISSION_QiQ_<your full name>
- All written work should be in Times New Roman font, size 12.
- You can submit up to two works. These can be two poems or two stories, or a combination of different genres such as poems, articles, fiction, photo-essays etc.
- Submit your work in a .doc/.docx format. NO OTHER FILE TYPES WILL BE ACCEPTED.
- We prefer submissions in English that are original and previously unpublished.
- Let us know if you want your work to be published under your full name or a pseudonym.
- Please send us a bio-note (100 words) about yourself along with your submission, and a declaration that your work is original and not plagiarized.

Mohini Books is a micro-publisher with limited resources. This anthology is a labour of love, and our intention is to make it available digitally for free – and as a printed book at production cost. This means that neither we nor you can be financially compensated for the work. You agree to this when submitting your text.

If your text is selected for the anthology, we will give you feedback on it with an aim to support your creative process in producing the best possible version of your work for publication, within our collective constraints of time and available resources! If we decline your work this time, please don't let this discourage you – the world needs more shared queer experiences, perspectives and stories in art and writing!