



SNAP JUDGMENT STUDIOS

SPOOKED: FREELANCE STORY SCOUT

[Snap Judgment](#), an award-winning radio show and podcast (heard on over 400 public radio stations across the US and downloaded over two million times every month) is hiring several Story Scouts for its spin-off podcast, [Spooked](#). Spooked is a production of Snap Judgment Studios and [Luminary](#).

Spooked features true-life supernatural stories, told firsthand by people who can barely believe it happened themselves. Be afraid! Spooked episodes garner over two million monthly podcast downloads and are broadcast on Snap Judgment during the Fall, as stations host Spooked Marathons across the nation. Spooked drops Apple Podcasts chart-topping releases that dominate the Arts category all of Fall, but fans listen all year long. The show has been featured in *Rolling Stone*, *Vulture*, *The Atlantic*, and was recognized as one Spotify's "Best Episodes of 2022."

Specifically, we are searching Story Scouts who have lived in, have extensive contacts in, and/or have deep cultural knowledge of one of the following:

- The American South
- Mexico and/or other Spanish-speaking countries
- The Caribbean
- Indigenous Communities
- Africa
- India
- Australia
- Europe

The Story Scout is in charge of finding and pitching original stories for the show in the realm of paranormal activity. The Story Scout reports to the Spooked Senior Editor. This is a remote, contract position. The Story Scout can be located anywhere in the world.

There are no minimum hours set for this position, though Story Scout will be expected to pitch stories twice a month. Story scouts will receive a monthly retainer (\$1500) as well as bonuses for successful pitches (\$300 per story) which make it into an episode. In addition, depending on

experience, interest, and availability, story scouts may also have the chance to produce individual Spooked stories, for which they will be paid separately (\$140/minute). The contract is expected to start in February and last through the end of October 2023.

RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE:

- Finding three to four pitches a month for Spooked that are viable and match the voice, personality, and content parameters of the show.
- Initial research and due diligence on story viability. Synthesis of the pitch in a way that identifies stakes, characters, and arc. The candidate should be a compelling writer.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Familiarity with pitching narrative stories
- Strong writing and research skills. Ability to track down unique first-person stories, from Reddit to self-published memoirs, to the far reaches of YouTube and elsewhere. Ability to grow a pitch from a kernel of an idea and draft a compelling story.
- Use personal and professional networks to find word-of-mouth Spooked stories.
- Ability to identify characters, stakes, and other story elements.
- Commitment to fair and respectful storytelling.
- Ability to act as a professional agent of the company, in approaching people for story details and developing their comfort with the idea of being show subjects.
- A good attitude and a willingness to work closely with teammates

EDUCATION:

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience
- One or more years of related work experience

PREFERRED SKILLS:

- Love of the paranormal, ghost stories, and horror in all media. Understanding of the Spooked voice and familiarity with the Spooked catalog. A voracious appetite for talking about paranormal activity with listeners, freelancers, and beyond.

- Ability to work well under pressure, within the framework of tight deadlines.
- Clear communication skills with the ability to be effective across the diverse team.
- While we like radio and podcast folks, we will happily consider applicants from outside of audio with strong narrative backgrounds. Filmmakers, writers, poets, storytellers, journalists, historians, and anyone with a highly tuned sense of story is strongly urged to apply!

To apply, please send a CV and cover letter to jobs@snapjudgment.org by 12:00 pm PST on January 8th, 2023. Please state in subject line — Spooked S8 Story Scout. In your cover letter, please share where you would scout for stories, as well as the stories you would pursue for Spooked.

Snap Judgment is an Equal Opportunity Employer actively seeking diversity in the workplace. We encourage people of color, people with disabilities, veterans, women, and gender-non-conforming candidates to apply.