



DARKNESS
WARMTH
— P R E S S —

Founding Patronage Proposal

One-page summary | Stories from the warm edge of the dark

Important note: This private summary is for patronage discussion only. It is not an investment prospectus, share offer, public financial promotion, loan request, or invitation to buy ownership. Patronage offers no equity, repayment, profit share, voting rights, interest, or guaranteed financial return.

The ask

Darkness Warmth Press is seeking founding patrons for a focused Phase One: **£6,000** to take one named flagship title, *Of Blood and Moor*, from final editing to a professionally prepared publication.

One book becomes demonstrably real first. The wider catalogue then becomes the next stage, not a competing demand.

Why this press

An independent UK imprint in development for dark fiction, poetry, folklore, speculative worlds, and strange literary work: stories shaped by shadow, memory, dread, beauty, survival, and the stubborn human need to make meaning in difficult places.

Founder-led by design, with creative strands for Harlow Black, Phen Weston, and T. C. Beardmore. The press is built around creative independence, disability inclusion, neurodivergent experience, LGBTQ+ dignity, ethical seriousness, emotional honesty, and dark stories with a human centre.

What patrons make possible

- A clean, professionally prepared print and eBook edition of *Of Blood and Moor*.
- A clear proof point for the press before the wider catalogue is staged.
- A trustworthy book page, sample material, metadata, review-copy plan, and reader route.
- Careful growth without rushing, lowering standards, or promising commercial returns.

Phase One budget at a glance

Area	Amount
Editing and proofreading	£1,800
Book design and formatting	£1,000
Cover refinement and visual identity	£800
ISBNs, metadata, proofs, corrections	£650
Launch, outreach, fulfilment reserve	£1,000
Digital infrastructure, admin, compliance, tools	£750
Total Phase One target	£6,000

Patronage routes

Route	Level	Thank-you by agreement
Friend	£50+	Updates, thanks, sampler
Founding Supporter	£250+	Website thanks, notes, briefing
Book Patron	£1,000+	Title thanks, signed copy
Lead Title Patron	£2,500+	Prominent thanks, private briefing
Founding Circle	£5,000+	First-slate bundle, annual update
Principal Patron	£10,000+	Bespoke thanks, briefing, launch invite

Recognition can be public, private, or anonymous. Rewards and fulfilment are agreed in writing before funds are accepted.

Timeline and next step

Working aim: *Of Blood and Moor* delivered within roughly 9-12 months of securing Phase One funding, moving through editorial completion, proofs, final-file approval, launch page, review-copy outreach, and publication route.

Interested patrons, sponsors, or collaborators can request a private conversation, the full reading pack, or a written support route. Amount, payment method, acknowledgement, reward, recognition preference, fulfilment assumptions, and update points will be recorded before money is accepted.

Accessibility note: As a neurodivergent founder, Phen generally prefers email correspondence so that details can be considered and recorded clearly. Calls or other forms of conversation can be arranged where useful.

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