The polls are closed and after tallying the votes, there is one tale from our Weird Words competition left standing. Jump past the jump to learn the winner!

The victor is "Let Love In," by Johnnie Alward. Alward's dark, lyrical horror story amassed more votes than any other Weird Words entry, and is richly deserving of the win. When contacted about his victory, Alward had this to say:

"If the local mom-and-pop video store was my church growing up, FANGORIA was my bible. For a monster-loving kid from a grimy motor city, Fango's hallowed pages served as a window into a culture that I never knew existed, one built on a bedrock of fear and foam latex. Here, I learned about the folks whose vocation it was to dream up nightmares, and decided that this was what I wanted to do. Having a short story published beneath this banner is a tremendous honor for me, especially considering the tales it was up against. Thank you so much for allowing 'Let Love In' into the annals of your haunted heritage—I couldn't ask for a better home."

"Let Love In" will be published this spring in the pages of FANGORIA. It has been removed from the site in anticipation of its print premiere, but its equally topnotch contemporaries in the Weird Words contest will remain on-line for all to read. And aspiring horror-fiction writers take note: There will be another Weird Words contest later in 2012. Sharpen whatever instrument you need…