

The Beginnings of a Publishing Journey

by

AuthorsGetPublished.com

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You've written all or part of your manuscript....now what??

As a first-time or second-time author (regardless of the genre in which you are publishing), the journey can seem very daunting. How much to write? Is my page number accurate? Is it too long? Is it too short? Will there be enough of a market for this? How will I market this book? And the list of questions can keep going!

Not to worry. We've put this handy little guide together to help you out and to make things feel a little less daunting. Publishing is a very complicated industry but with Authors Get Published, it doesn't have to be so difficult and complicated because we give you the information you need to do this and do this right. After all, you are doing a great thing bringing your knowledge, guidance and input on this topic to the world. We really do feel that books can make the world a better place!

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So let's dive right in!

Manuscript all or partially written

You've written at least the first 3 chapters of your book. The next steps are:

1. Prepare a professionally-written email addressed to Christine@authorsgetpublished.com that includes all the items mentioned on the Submissions Guidelines page.
2. Send that in and we will get back to you within 2 weeks (not up to 8-12 months like some other publishers).

3. We read every submission that comes in and carefully consider all aspects
4. If your book is picked up (a.k.a. optioned), we will email you a contract to sign where you agree to finish the book and to market it properly and where we agree to publish it for you and make it available on the appropriate channels. (If your book is not picked up, we will thank you for your time and efforts and wish you luck in finding the right publisher for your book).
5. There is a small fee for publishing (that small fee exists with all publishers) to cover many of the costs associated with publishing.
6. You send in the payment via e-transfer or e-cheque or Paypal.
7. Your book will go through the editing, design and book layout processes and we will be staying in touch with you by email to make sure your vision for the book is maintained and comes alive. Of course, we will provide our professional opinions and input on what to include to make the book the best possible product but it is your book at the end of the day and so if you don't take our suggestions, we will understand.
8. We will always do everything we can to market your book in the best ways possible.

** One of the most important things to remember is that most publishers don't do much to promote their authors (sad but true). We do. We know that your book's success is also our success and so we will include various marketing tools that will appear on our website and on social media in order to promote your book and put it in the best light possible.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why is there a cost for using your publishing company?

In traditional publishing, there is always a cost. All of the following goes into the cost of publishing your book:

- Cost of setting the book up on the distribution platform
- Time it takes to set the book up on the distribution platform (this takes hours and hours and hours)
- Cost of the illustrator's work
- Cost of producing each book when someone decides to buy it
- Cost of running our website that will house your book and its information
- Cost of writing up the book jacket blurb and the publishing information
- Cost of evaluating the market to see at what price the book should be set

2. Will my name, picture and information be appearing in the book?

Yes. All the info you want to share with the world will be appearing in the book.

3. What sort of marketing efforts will I have to do for the book?

You can (and we strongly suggest you do all the following);

- Have your own author website
- Have your own social media handles and actually post regularly and authentically
- Talk about the book to family and friends
- Submit your book to free listing sites and follow up with the contact indicated to make sure they are in fact listing your book and that the listing appears with correct information. Once your book is listed with them, post a link for their site on your site and give the person running the listing site the professional courtesy of knowing that you are also linking to their site from yours. That's a win-win and they are quite likely to appreciate that.

- Include your website and a contact us form on the inside of the book
- Include videos and read-alouds on your website so people can get to know the real you (people buy from those they like)
- Be consistent with your efforts. We understand that people have busy lives and possibly day jobs. But marketing your book consistently is one of your jobs!

4. How long will it take for my book to really start selling?

That's a difficult question to answer because it all depends on your book's content, how much marketing you do for it, market interest in the genre you have written, social media following, etc. The good news is that with both your efforts and ours, your book has a great chance of breaking through and really generating sales if you are consistent with marketing your book and creating content for people to get to know you as an author.

5. Where is Authors Get Published located?

We are located in Thornhill, Ontario but we do not have a location where customers or authors can visit us. We are only online.

6. Does AGP put out book catalogs that customers can order from?

Yes, we do. They are sent out every now and then by email because we want to be eco-conscious and we know most people have their smartphones and their email on them and can open that up and read through our catalog very easily.

7. Are spelling and grammar important for my first, second, third, fourth, etc., submissions?

Proper spelling and grammar are of utmost importance for any draft you send us because that is being a professional that we can take seriously. A lack of proper spelling and grammar gives off the impression that your book has not been carefully and meticulously put together and that you have not taken the time to prepare all aspects of the submission carefully. In other words, when there are spelling and grammar errors in a book or even in a manuscript submission, it looks very unprofessional.

8. My book will have pictures or images. Where and how do I send those in for you to see them?

Please scan all the images you have so far and email them along with your manuscript to the Editor-in-Chief at Christine@authorsgetpublished.com. We will need those to consider with the rest of your submission. If they do not all fit in one email, you can include them in a second email to the same email and in the subject line include "Part 2 - my book's images are attached".

9. What if my manuscript requires images but I am not an illustrator so I have not included them with the manuscript submission?

Simple answer: no problem. We have in-house illustrators we contract who will create the illustrations and we will check with you to make sure that the images are the look and feel you want for your book. For example, if you are looking for whimsical character illustrations, our illustrators will send you a sample image or some sample images to make sure that we have the right tone and feel for your book and we are open to feedback and adjustments from you. However, please note that once you approve the style of images, that will be final and we will not be asking our illustrator to then change it because that will cause huge time and cost delays.

Also, when you submit your manuscript without illustrations, know that our publishing fee will be higher because we have to pay our illustrators to make the illustrations for you.

10. Do you only publish books in English?

We currently only publish books in English, and in French. We hope to expand into other languages in the near-future.

11. Can I submit my manuscript to you if I have submitted it to another publisher as well?

Because our response time (as stated on our website) is within 2 weeks (business days only), we ask that you wait for our reply before also sending your manuscript to other publishers. We have lots to read and many manuscripts to consider and if we liked yours and we offer you a publishing contract, we don't want to have to rescind our offer because you are publishing with another company. We respectfully ask that you give us the time to respond and if we feel your manuscript is not for us, then of course, feel free to send it off to another publisher for consideration.

We hope this booklet has been helpful in guiding you on your book publishing journey. Feel free to reach out anytime to ask more questions if needed and we look forward to receiving your manuscript submission.

All the Best!

Authors Get Published Team

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