



Authors Publish

The 2015 Guide to Manuscript Publishers

81 Traditional Book Publishers
That Don't Require Agents

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Manuscript Publishers

81 Traditional Book Publishers
That Don't Require Agents

Emily Harstone

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Introduction

Over the past few years, I have reviewed a publisher almost every week for *Authors Publish Magazine*. Some of these publishers are nearly household names like Chronicle Books and Bloomsbury, others are new, fledgling companies still trying to figure out their identity. Many of the publishers fall between these two extremes.

All of the publisher reviews contained in this guide have been published before on *Authors Publish*, however the reviews have never before been organized in this manner or gathered in one easy-to-search place before.

All of the reviews in this book are updated to reflect any changes that have occurred within the company since the original review took place. Since *Authors Publish* is over two years old, this was an important and time-consuming project. Sometimes, the changes that occurred within a publisher were minor; others were not. Many print companies who we reviewed early on have since started new digital first imprints.

The other more unfortunate trend that we have seen increase is that established traditional companies have started vanity-publishing imprints. We must emphasize that we are only reviewing the traditional publishing arm of any company and not the vanity-publishing arm. We do not recommend working with a vanity publisher.

If a traditional publisher tries to redirect you to the vanity arm of the same company, please do not be redirected, and also report it to us (support@authorspublish.com), and we will update their review to include an explicit warning about the practice.

All the information in this book is as up to date as possible at the time of publication, but details can change at any time, so verify specific information on the company's website, if you are serious about submitting to them. Not all of the publishers reviewed within are currently open to submissions, but the majority of them are.

If you want to know additional information about a publisher, there are a number of watchdog sites that are extremely helpful to know about. We always refer to these sites before reviewing a company, but things can change over time. Also, these websites are a great place to visit if you are considering going with a manuscript publisher not reviewed in this book.

[Preditors & Editors](#) is a website devoted to listing publishers, agents, and book distributors. They are established and reputable, and they receive many tips about publishers that are not. If they have a legitimate and verified tip about a publisher, they put the words "Not Recommended" next to the publisher's name on the listing. Unfortunately, they do have issues with updates, and a lot of their listings are out of date.

[The index of agents, publishers, and others](#) at Absolute Writes is another great source of information. However, a lot of speculation occurs in the forum, so take unverified information with a grain of salt. There is also the site [Writer Beware](#), which contains a lot of information. They have a lot of detailed information as well as [this helpful list](#).

This book was a challenge to organize because so many publishers publish more than one genre. Some publishers might belong firmly to more than one category. If that is the case, the other genre chapters will be mentioned in the introduction to the chapter they were not placed in, so you can still look them up. Also, all the publishers are listed by name in the table of contents.

The book is divided into the following categories: non-fiction publishers, literary fiction publishers, multi-genre publishers, science fiction and fantasy publishers, mystery publishers, children and young-adult book publishers, Christian publishers, and romance publishers.

When reading this guide, it is important to know that every publisher that we review must meet a number of standards.

All of the publishers must be open to any author regardless of their nationality and country of residence. Unfortunately, this eliminates a number of quality Canadian publishers.

All of the publishers must be traditional publishers, which means that they must pay their writers for their work. It also means that they must never charge their writers anything to publish their books. This eliminates all vanity publishers including companies that claim to be traditional publishers but charge their writers extra for cover design, editing, or other services. If a publisher tries to make you pay them, they are a vanity publisher.

As I mentioned earlier, all of the publishers must check out as legitimate on watchdog sites such as Predators & Editors, Writers Beware, and forums like the Absolute Write's water cooler.

This does not just eliminate vanity publishers, it also helps to keep track of companies that have done unethical things in the past or are late paying their

authors. We never review companies that have a serious mark against them. If the issue is minor, we will review them, but we include the incident in the review, so that readers can take that into consideration.

All of the publishers we review must be open to submissions without an agent at some point in the year. It is not that we don't like agents, some are great, some are not. There are definitely pros and cons to having an agent, and we leave that decision up to you. Most of the publishing companies we review are open to agented submissions as well; a few are not. Also, a number of publishers—particularly in the science fiction genre—prefer that you do not have one.

We also try and wait at least a year before reviewing a company, so that they can publish a few books and have a track record. So, even if we list a publisher as new, they are at least a year old.

We compiled the reviews into this guide in the hopes that it would keep our archives up to date, and also that it would be helpful to readers who miss issues, or subscribed later on. Back issues are always available on our website, but never before has the information been so easy to access or so well organized. Our plan is to release an updated version of this book every year, containing new and updated reviews.

I truly hope this book gives you a more grounded view of the traditional publishing industry, but even more than that, I hope this book helps you find the right publisher for your manuscript.

Nonfiction Publishers

The following section collects all of the publishers that we have reviewed that accept primarily nonfiction work. The type of nonfiction work they are interested in publishing varies wildly. Some are only interested in academic work, others prefer scandalous personal memoirs, and others are more interested in cookbooks. So, make sure that the nonfiction publisher that you are submitting to is open to the kind of nonfiction work you are submitting to them.

All of the following publishers specialize in nonfiction books. That does not mean that they are not open to certain kinds of fiction, but what they are willing to accept in terms of fiction will be made very clear in the review.

Chronicle Books, one of the best nonfiction publishers in the food and gift market is reviewed in the Children's section of this book. If you are looking for nonfiction publishers of Christian books, those publishers can be found in the Christian chapter of this book. Some of the publishers in the multi-genre section of the book also publish nonfiction books.

Adams Media

Adams Media is open to proposal submissions. They will consider any proposal, even ones by first-time authors and authors who do not have an agent. They publish a wide variety of books including cookbooks, self-help books, young-adult fiction, and the well-known “everything” series.

Adams is a larger press, and they publish mostly print books, although they also have some e-books. They are one of the largest presses that is interested in authors who do not have an agent.

Adams Media has many publishing imprints that specialize in different genres and subject matters. You submit to all imprints the same way, by sending your proposal to their central mailing address or their central email address.

Your book proposal should include a description of the book’s intended market, an explanation regarding why someone would want to purchase the book, a short personal biography that includes any relevant information, a table of contents, and a sample chapter.

Do not email or mail them your manuscript, they only consider manuscripts after accepting proposals. They do not respond to queries about the status of a proposal. If you have not heard back after six months, you should assume they were not interested in seeing the manuscript.

Even though Adams Media does not personally respond to all proposals, they are still a good place to submit work to. They are an established and respected company that publishes a lot of good work. They have a bigger budget and more experienced editors than most small presses.

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If your book is accepted for publication by them, you will still have to help with the finishing touches as well as the marketing, but not to the degree that you would have to at a smaller press. If you want to learn more about Adams Media, visit their website [here](#). Learn more about their submission process [here](#).

Andrews McMeel Publishing

Andrews McMeel is a large publishing house that publishes up to 300 books a year. They are one of the largest publishers that will read proposals by authors that have not been previously published and do not have an agent.

Andrews McMeel Publishing is a leading publisher of general nonfiction trade books, gift books, and humor books. Their company's core publication categories are: cookbooks, comics & humor, and puzzles & games. They are open to some other categories as well; looking through their web catalog is the best way to get a feel for what kinds of books they publish.

They only accept submissions that are mailed in. The book proposal you submit must have a cover letter that describes the work as a whole. Make sure to include who your target audience is, and also explain why Andrews McMeel Publishing is a good fit for your work.

You must also include an outline of your entire work and an estimate of the length of your prospective manuscript. In addition, include one or two sample chapters, a brief bio, and your schedule to complete the manuscript.

Make sure your name, address, telephone number, and email address are on the manuscript, and any art that you include has your name on the back of it. Include a self-addressed and stamped envelope.

Andrews McMeel can take up to a year to respond to manuscripts, but their usual response time is less than that. If you are interested in learning more or submitting your proposal, please visit their website [here](#).

Arcadia Publishing

Arcadia Publishing is an unusual kind of publishing company. In fact, the first thing that flashed through my mind when looking at their web page for potential authors was "scam." However, that is not the case. In fact, I realized within a few minutes that I had read several books by Arcadia Publishing already. They are a legitimate, unique company focused on a niche market. They have already been around for twenty years.

Arcadia only publishes books about America, and they publish photo books, local history books, books about crime, books about sports, and lots of local history books about specific locations. On their website, you can search their back list by state, theme, or title. Their books are sold in museums, gift stores, and local bookstores, among other places. They have a focused promotion team that works on getting their books into the right hands.

The best way to get a feeling for what they publish is to visit their website and browse their bookstore. It can also be helpful to look at the names of the series they publish. Titles in each series are written by different authors, and the title of the series can be very broad so that it actually manages to cover a variety of books. The series they publish include: Images of America, Images of Aviation, Postcard History, Images of Modern America, Campus History, Legendary Locals, and Then and Now. Most of their books are rather short, around 100 pages in length.

All the authors I have spoken to or read about that work with Arcadia Publishing seem to be happy with the company. Many have even published multiple titles with them. Because Arcadia has a promotion strategy, the author has more opportunities to focus on writing.

Arcadia is a traditional publishing company, which means that they will professionally edit your manuscript, promote the work once it is published, and pay you in royalties. Unfortunately, the details of what they require from an author making a proposal is not on their website. You have to call or email them for further details. However, from what I have heard, they want to hear proposals before work is completed, so contact them first, unless you already have a completed local history manuscript.

To learn more, please visit their website [here](#).

Barricade Books

Barricade Books is an independent print publisher of nonfiction manuscripts. They are based out of New Jersey. They state explicitly on their site that they prefer books with a controversial element. Although that is not always the case, two of the recent books they published were *Conversations with A Pedophile* and *I'll Do My Own Damn Killin'*. However, they also published a number of books about the history of America and memoirs by holocaust survivors.

Their focus seems to be on nonfiction books that focus on crime and specific portions of history. However, their backlist is eclectic, and many of the books they have published do not easily fall into any particular category. You should review their backlist before submitting.

Authors that are considering submitting should know right away that they call themselves a publicity-driven publisher and only accept books with authors committed to promoting their titles.

That doesn't mean that the company does not provide any help with publicity, but it does make it clear that they expect their writers to do a lot of the work. In fact, they explicitly state that "We look for authors who can talk, articulately, about their books on radio, television, and to the press."

If you are not comfortable with promoting or with public speaking, they are probably not the right fit for you. It is not for everyone. Although it does seem pretty clear from the titles they have previously published that some of their authors are expected to pull more weight than others, as some books veer into personal territory and others focus more on researched events.

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For example, they published *The Mob Doctor*, by Ron Felber, which was turned into a TV show by Fox. A memoir like that relies a lot more on its author than *Battle of the Two Talmuds: Judaism's Struggle with Power, Glory, and Guilt*, which is more about research and interpretation.

One of the warning signs on the site for me is that they seem a little technologically behind. Their recent book list is just a list of all the books they have published, and not just recent ones. They make a reference on their website to the fact that no one should submit by disk. They also do not seem to publish e-book versions of their books. In fact, they appear to publish exclusively hardback editions. I do think these are considerations that you should keep in mind if you are considering using them.

Barricade books only accept submissions via the mail. If you are submitting to them, make sure to send an outline, one or two chapters, and a self-addressed and stamped envelope. Make it clear in the letter itself if you want the material returned.

To learn more, visit their website [here](#). To read their submission guidelines go [here](#).

Benbella

BenBella is a niche publishing company run by Glen Yeffeth. Yeffeth has a marketing background, and he is also a lover of books. They have a good distributor and are a marketing oriented company. The editors receive high praise for their ability to edit books. They only publish works of nonfiction. They publish between 30-40 books a year. Fourteen of their books have been number one on the New York Times Best Sellers list. The books they publish cover a range of topics, including cookbooks for herbivores, self-help books, and books about pop culture. By focusing on niche topics, they are able to successfully market books to the right audiences.

If your nonfiction topic appeals to a wide audience and covers a broad topic, it is most likely not for BenBella. They are interested in books by entrepreneurs, celebrities, and by individuals that are knowledgeable about specific events or ideas.

They are interested in books focused on pop culture, not in a general way, but on a specific show, movie, or book that already has an established fan base. For example, their Smart Pop line has had a lot of success by publishing books like *The Psychology of Harry Potter*, and the *Unofficial Mad Men Cookbook*. For more ideas of what kinds of authors and works they are looking for, visit their submission page and also browse through their catalog.

As a marketing-focused house, they have a team of seven full-time marketers, and they also work with a range of outside publicists. They work with each author to create an individual marketing plan.

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They offer advances between \$4,000 and \$10,000 dollars. But their focus is on paying high royalties either in the form of royalty escalators or profit sharing. For all books, they pay standard big-house royalties (10%) or better.

It is not that difficult to pitch a book to BenBella. In the pitch, you have to convey that you have a clear understanding about what your book is about and how it distinguishes itself from other books. You should also include a statement about why you are qualified to write this book. Make it clear why you think this book would sell.

To learn more visit their submission page [here](#).

Cengage Learning

Cengage Learning is a huge publishing company with a number of divisions and imprints; however, the main branch, Cengage Learning, focuses on publishing work aimed at community college and university students. They have published textbooks on a vast number of subjects from automotive technology to family law. They publish both academic books and books aimed at specific trades.

They are currently looking for new textbooks, media projects, or fully online learning materials. So, you could end up writing in any of those categories. They are very professional and most authors that publish with them have very positive things to say.

In order to be considered by them, you must submit a prospectus. According to their guidelines "a well-developed prospectus articulates how well you understand the market needs, market opportunity, and how your project can offer a better solution for that market. The prospectus also clarifies your project's purpose and scope for us and for our reviewers."

Your prospectus should first focus on the market, then on key competitors, your products vision, a timeline, and a submission that includes a sample chapter. Their guidelines break down the details of each of these categories, so it is easy to know exactly what they want to see in order to consider your work.

Keep in mind, that Cengage Learning, like most academic publishers, does not expect the work you are submitting for consideration to be completed (or even really started) at the time of submission. However, they do expect you to understand, have experience, and expertise about the topic you are proposing

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to write about. All submissions should be made through the mail to the correct
department.

You can visit their [main page](#) for a better understanding of their company and
their projects. To learn more about submitting your work, [go here](#).

Duke University Press

Duke University Press is a respected academic press. Like most academic presses, they publish well-researched books on a wide variety of subjects.

The list of subjects they publish books on include: Latin American studies, social movements, gender environmental studies, anthropology, postcolonial theory, lesbian and gay studies, construction of race, gender and national identity, social studies of science, new media, literary criticism, film and television, popular music, visual studies political theory, sociology and social theory, geography, cultural studies, gender studies, American studies, literary theory and criticism, Asian American studies, science and technology studies, food studies, religion, women's studies, world history, and humanities.

Each editor has a different specialized area of study. There is some overlap between editors. For example, two of the four editors focus on anthropology. When you submit, you submit to a specific editor via post.

They try to respond to all submissions within two months. If you have not heard from them after three months, please query.

All submissions must be submissions of book proposals, not manuscript proposals. Your manuscript need not be completed before submitting your proposal. Your proposal should include a cover letter that describes the project and notes the anticipated length of the manuscript as well as the anticipated date of completion.

Your proposal should also include a prospectus with detailed chapter outlines, a CV, and up to two sample chapters.

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Keep in mind that this is a serious academic press, and you should be an expert in the field you are planning to write about.

To learn more about their submission process, visit their website [here](#). To get a better feeling for the press as a whole, visit their main page [here](#).

Measure Press

Measure Press is a small press that publishes poetry, criticisms, and poetry instruction as well as a semi-annual literary journal that focuses exclusively on publishing formal poetry. Their poetry journal, *Measure*, has been around since 2005. It has become an established and respected publisher of formal poetry. Measure Press is run by editors Rob Griffith and Paul Bone.

Measure Press is a newer venture and, as such, there is not that much information available on them. There are certain risks attached to submitting to an unproven press like Measure, however these risks are mitigated in part by the fact that the literary journal is established and respected. However, at the time of publication of this article, they have yet to publish any books.

Measure Press requires that all poetry manuscripts be between 50 and 100 pages of poetry in length. They have no fixed page limit rules for textbooks or books of criticism.

Poems should be single-spaced and prose should be double-spaced. They do not charge submitters any fees and, if your book is accepted, you will be issued a standard royalty contract. What they mean by standard royalty contract is up for debate. However, it is usually in the neighborhood of 10%. Because poetry books do not tend to make a lot of money, this is not generally seen as a point of contention. However, in terms of textbooks, it may be a bigger issue.

They permit simultaneous submissions, but you must notify them if your manuscript is accepted elsewhere. Manuscripts should be submitted in one file. That file should be formatted to be a .doc, a PDF, or an RTF. Include a

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cover letter, an acknowledgments page, and your contact information in this file. Submit your manuscript electronically through their website. Make sure you mark the genre as "Book Submission."

To learn more or to submit work, please visit their website [here](#).

Melville House

Melville House is a Brooklyn based publisher of literary fiction and nonfiction books. They are a respected and established independent press. They were founded in 2001 by sculptor Valerie Merians and fiction writer/journalist Dennis Johnson, in order to publish an anthology titled [*Poetry After 9/11*](#).

They are currently open to unsolicited submissions of nonfiction manuscripts. Although they may at some future point be open to unsolicited fiction manuscripts, they currently are not.

They publish a wide variety of books including works by indie favorite Tao Lin, The Nobel award winners Imre Kertesz and Heinrich Boll, reprints of books by F. Scott Fitzgerald and Thomas Hardy, and a series of books called *The Last Interview* which each focus on a different author.

If you have a nonfiction manuscript or proposal, send them a query email with no attachments to their nonfiction editor. The email address is submissions [at] mhpbooks [dot] com.

The nonfiction books they tend to publish lean towards political or current events. The following titles should give you a better idea of the range of work that they publish, *Is Journalism Worth Dying For?*, *The People Reloaded*, *Havana Real*, *Wild Food From Land And Sea*, and *The Silence Delusion*.

To learn more about the publisher and to get a better idea for the work that they publish, you can visit their website [here](#).

Skyhorse Publishing

Skyhorse Publishing is one of the largest small presses in the United States. They were founded in 2006. Over the past couple of years, they have started to acquire other small presses. Skyhorse started out focused on publishing nonfiction and that is still their primary interest. However, they have imprints that are interested in publishing work in other genres that you can see on their site. This review is only focused on Skyhorse.

Skyhorse has published a number of well-known best-selling books within the nonfiction genre. They have wide distribution and you often see Skyhorse books on the shelves of Barnes & Noble. The books range from serious research-based nonfiction books, to diet books, to books written by celebrities.

It is easy to sift through their back catalog to see if your book might fit. They do not require agents or previous publication experience in order to submit a proposal.

They are currently looking for proposals in the following categories: sports, history, humor, adventure and travel, health and fitness, house and home, business, food and wine, pets, and current events. They are also interested in a number of sub categories so make sure to check their website.

They recently tried a new strategy of charging authors \$100 in order to get feedback within a few days. This strategy received a fair amount of negative attention for obvious reasons. They do not seem to be pursuing this strategy anymore, which is why we are willing to recommend them. They take around a month and a half to respond to proposals.

When you send them a proposal, it should consist of the following: a brief query letter, a one-to-two-page synopsis, an annotated chapter outline, rudimentary market analysis (focusing on what might be your literary competition), a sample chapter or two, as well as a bio containing all previous publishing credits. That last portion is why you should submit to literary journals and magazines. Even if you are not being published in the same genre at all, any publishing experience really makes a difference.

They accept all submissions through email. If you are interested in learning more or submitting, please visit their website [here](#).

The New Press

The New Press published its first book in 1992. Since then, it has published many more books by authors such as Alice Walker, Bill Moyers, and Noam Chomsky. They are a nonprofit independent publisher. They have published books that have become bestsellers and won many awards, including the Pulitzer Prize. They publish about fifty books per year.

According to The New Press's website, they focus on the following areas when editing and publishing books that mean the following criteria:

The New Press focuses on a number of key program areas including: contemporary social issues (with an emphasis on race relations, women's issues, immigration, human rights, labor and popular economics, and the media); education reform and alternative teaching materials; cultural criticisms; art and art education; international literature; and law and legal studies. Across these disciplines, The Press has also taken a leading role in publishing a wide range of new work in African American, Asian American, Latino, gay and lesbian, and Native American studies, as well as work by and about other minority groups.

The New Press accepts very few unsolicited manuscripts but they do read everything that is submitted to them. They generally do not publish American fiction or poetry. You can submit to them electronically through a form on their website or via the post.

When you submit, send a proposal, an outline or table of contents, and no more than the first two chapters of your manuscript. If you submit through the mail, please include a self-addressed and stamped envelope.

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To learn more about The New Press, visit their website [here](#). To learn more about their submission guidelines visit [this page](#).

Literary Fiction Publishers

The following publishers all focus on publishing literary fiction. Some of them are also open to poetry and short story collections. These are mostly publishers that are only interested in publishing literary fiction, and not multi-genre publishers (but there are some exceptions of course). In the multi-genre publishers chapter and in the nonfiction publishers chapter, you can find additional publishers of literary fiction.

Most of these publishers have an established style or stylistic preference, so it is good to keep that in mind when submitting to them, particularly with the smaller publishers. If you are really serious about publishing a work of literary fiction, it almost always helps to buy a book from the publisher first before submitting, as this will give you a lot more insight into how the publisher functions and what preferences they have.

8th House Publishing

8th House Publishing is a newer publisher based out of Montreal and New York. They publish poetry, novels with a literary bent, and nonfiction. They have published over ten books at this point in time, and seem to put a fair amount of effort into promoting their author's work through launches, readings, and links to additional publications. They also seem to be very good at getting prestigious authors to provide blurbs for their books. Their covers tend to be well designed and aesthetically pleasing.

They sell most of their books directly which means they do not work with a distributor. So, you have to depend on 8th House directly to sell your book on their website or to independent bookstores or Barnes and Nobles (for example).

Because they are a newer publisher, there is not much information available on them. I found their site difficult to navigate and also discovered that it does not always appear the way it was intended. If you are seeing the website with a blue background that is the correct version of the site, the one with the white background is the incomplete version, but it is also the version that loads more often.

Submitting your work to them is relatively easy. Submit a sample of your work, ideally with a query letter to their email address: submissions@8thHousePublishing.com. Make sure to review the books they have previously published to make sure your work fits within their catalog. When you submit a sample, make sure you include no more than three chapters of a novel or nonfiction book and no more than twenty-five pages of poetry. You should also include the complete table of contents.

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To learn more please visit their website [here](#).

Algonquin Books

Algonquin Books is a publisher of literary fiction and nonfiction. They are an established and respected press. They are not interested in genre books or self-help nonfiction. They just started a line of young-adult books, but if you are submitting a young-adult book, you should make it clear on your submissions envelope.

Algonquin Books started out as an independent Chapel Hill based publisher. In 1989, they were purchased by Workman Publishing (a large independent publishing company) and continued to grow as part of Workman Publishing. They now have offices in New York and Chapel Hill.

Algonquin Books has published some very famous books and many literary bestsellers, including *Water for Elephants* by Sara Gruen, *Gap Creek* by Robert Morgan and *In the Time of Butterflies* by Julia Alvarez.

Algonquin Books only considers proposals submitted by mail. They generally respond in around six months. They do not respond to phone calls about the status of a submission, so prepare to be patient.

When you submit a query, include a short (less than fifteen double-spaced pages) sample of your manuscript, a cover letter, and a self-addressed and stamped envelope.

Algonquin Books is a well-respected company that has the marketing budget that comes with being a more established company. If you are interested in submitting work, please visit [their website](#).

Atticus Books

Atticus Books is a small publisher based out of New Jersey. Atticus Books was founded and is still run by Dan Cafaro, who is interested in publishing unusual literary fiction. They publish books that are concerned with language and ones that are playful, but they are aware of the rich history that dwells in literature. They have one open reading period every year. So, make sure to check the website to see when that is.

Atticus Books only publishes three to seven books a year. Each book they publish has a wonderful cover, professionally designed. They are all well bound and printed. Atticus Books also publishes an online literary journal called *The Atticus Review* that contains poetry and fiction. Many of their authors were previously published in the review. They encourage potential authors to like them on Facebook and submit to the *Review* as well.

Atticus Books has a great reputation among the literary community for producing wonderful books and for treating their authors well. Authors praise them for the way Atticus treats their books, and Atticus Books frequently publish the same author more than once.

They are not a large press, so they do not have an official publicity department, but they do a lot to promote their authors. They go to the largest writing conference (AWP), release review copies, and other important steps.

They publish unusual and ambitious works filled with ideas. They like novels that are unconventional and play with readers' expectations. They are not interested in genre or non-literary work. Do not submit a query for work that falls into either of those categories.

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They only accept submissions through their email address. If you want to submit work, include a cover letter with an author bio and a manuscript attached as a .doc or .docx file.

To learn more and to submit work, please visit their website [here](#).

They also run a very popular blog in the book community called the Airship that draws a fair amount of readers in.

Black Balloon Publishing

Black Balloon Publishing is an imprint of Catapult Books. They have online and print distribution. Their books tend to be well reviewed and many have been blurbed by famous established authors. They publish literary fiction, nonfiction, and memoirs. They try to focus on publishing things that are odd or quirky. It would be appropriate to use the term "hipster" to describe most of their books.

Black Balloon Publishing only has ten books out right now. Because of that small number of books, it is easy to see they are rejecting a fair number of manuscripts. The books that they have published include an illustrated novel, a novel in translation, a collection of short fiction, and an anthology of writers writing about their favorite bars. It is good to look over what they have previously published to see if your work would fit in there.

To submit your work to them you use Submittable, the submission manager used mostly by literary journals and a few small presses. Their Submittable has a separate category for the submission of illustrated novels, so clearly that is a subgenre they are particularly interested in. You should include a cover letter with your manuscript submissions. They have no specific guidelines for what the cover letter should contain.

To learn more about Black Balloon Publishing you can visit their website [here](#). They usually only read manuscripts during April and October. They also host contests (but fees are involved).

Casperian Books

Casperian Books is a small independent publisher of fiction. They are a fairly small company, but they seem to be doing something right because they have been around for five years. They have an easy-to-navigate website, and they publish books primarily in print.

Whenever you choose to go with a small publisher like Casperian Books, you are not going to have the same kind of name recognition a bigger company will offer. However, having one's first book of fiction published by a smaller publisher can be a good step in the right direction. I know of several successful authors who have taken this route. In one case, an author friend had a well-reviewed first novel published by a small publisher and her second novel was picked up by Random House.

Casperian Books never tries to hide the fact that they are a small book publisher, and they seem to be upfront about what they want from their authors. They have a very detailed *questions and answers* page as well as a fairly thorough *about* page.

Casperian Books only accepts manuscript queries regarding completed manuscripts. They do not accept simultaneous submissions or submissions of unsolicited manuscripts. You must first query, and if they approve your query, you can submit your manuscript. What this means is that they expect you to email a cover letter and the first five thousand words of your manuscript. They don't open attachments, so all this must be pasted into the body of an email.

The cover letter should include a clear 2-3 paragraph summary of your story, your ideas for marketing the book as well as the target audience of the book,

your publishing history (this is where publication in literary journals can really help you), and your contact information.

Even if they are not interested in your manuscript, they will respond to this email. They will request more information about your book or tell you that this is not the type of book that they publish. They may also include additional hints for what makes a compelling cover letter. Some are general common-sense hints, others are much more publisher specific.

They pay two-thirds of net receipts as author royalties. This is high, although it would be higher if they were not a print publisher, because they still have to pay for publishing costs and distribution.

Casperian Books is a small press worth looking into. I like how upfront they are with all their information; they do not pretend to be bigger than they are. If you write fiction, consider submitting to them. To learn more, please visit their website [here](#).

Dzanc Books

Dzanc Books is a respected independent publisher that also owns and operates a wide variety of imprints and literary journals, including the highly respected electronic journal *The Collagist*.

Dzanc Books is based out of New York and publishes works of literary nonfiction. They have published short stories and novels by the following authors: Roy Kesey, Yannick Murphy, Peter Markus, Hesh Kestin, Kyle Minor, Michael Czyzniejewski, Suzanne Burns, Peter Selgin, Laura van den Berg, Robert Lopez, Dawn Raffel, Jeff Parker, Terese Svoboda, and Henning Koch.

If you are considering submitting work, it is helpful to browse their book selection and focus on the books they have published in the last year or so. It might also be helpful to read an issue or two of [The Collagist](#), as it reflects the tastes of the publisher.

They accept submissions from anyone through their Submittable account. They do not need writers to have an agent or any previous publication experience, although it helps if your work has been published by literary journals.

Because they receive so many submissions, it takes them around six months to respond to most submissions. If you are submitting a collection of short stories, an excerpt will suffice. If you are submitting a novel, please submit the entire manuscript.

To learn more, visit their website [here](#). To submit work, you can visit their submission manager [here](#).

Gemma Media

Gemma Media is an independent publisher that has managed to get a fair amount of distribution, which means that if you live in the US you might encounter their books on the shelves of libraries and bookstores. Gemma Media focuses on niche markets. They publish cultural memoirs, current affairs, fiction, travel, and young-adult books. They are not interested in books outside of these genres.

Because they are a relatively new publisher, there is not that much information about how they treat their authors. They appear to operate on a very traditional contract-based system; however, how much they would offer a writer in terms of royalties is unknown.

The covers are well done and many of the books are burbled by established writers and academics, which is a very good sign. Most books they publish appear to be between 150-250 pages in length. They seem to publish around eight or so books a year, which means that they only accept a very limited amount of manuscripts.

They do not accept full manuscript submissions. When you submit work to them, include the working title of the manuscript as well as an alternative title, a one paragraph synopsis of your work, the estimated length of your book, a sample chapter, a brief biography, and a table of contents with a maximum of two sentences describing each chapter. Also include a potential completion time, information about the intended audience and competing or related books, as well any marketing opportunities you might have in relation to the book.

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They accept submissions of query letters through email only; they are not interested in submissions by post. They try to respond to most queries within a month, and if you have not heard back from them in two months, you should email them again to inquire about the status of your submission.

To learn more or to submit work, visit their website [here](#). Because of the specificity of their niche markets, it is very helpful to browse the books listed in their shop before submitting.

Oneworld Publishing

Oneworld Publishing is an independent print publisher. They were founded in 1986 by husband and wife team Juliet Mabey and Novin Doostdar. At the time, they only published nonfiction. Now they publish over one hundred books a year. They still publish nonfiction, but they also publish literary fiction. Their books are widely available online, in bookstore chains, and independent bookstores. They try to have an international approach in terms of authors and book distributors.

They publish a lot of literary fiction. They are not interested in genre work, so don't try to submit a romance novel to them. When you submit a synopsis of your novel, make sure you include information about the primary themes contained in your work.

When it comes to nonfiction, make it clear why you are qualified to write the book you are proposing. This does not mean you have to be an academic. Just demonstrate that you are an expert in that field, or uniquely qualified to write the book. Their nonfiction books cover a large range of topics, including self-help, anthropology, science, and religion.

They are open to submissions from authors directly, as well as from agents. They publish work by authors with a backlist and those that have never been published before.

Because they have a curated feel to their publications, I highly encourage you to browse through their catalog and look into the different series they publish before submitting. They have very strict submission guidelines, and they imply that they will not respond to queries unless those guidelines are met.

Authors Publish | The 2015 Guide to Manuscript Publishers

When you submit work to them, you have to fill out a form that helps guide you through the process, and includes all the information about what you need to submit work.

To learn more about Oneworld Publishing and what they are looking for, please visit their website [here](#).

Persea Books

Persea Books is an independent book publisher based out of New York that was established in the 1970s. Since then, they have gained a reputation for publishing thoughtful books in a variety of literary genres.

They have an extensive catalog and a fairly good distribution network. You can often find their books in bookstores, libraries, schools, and universities. They are not interested in popular fiction, children's books, textbooks, self-help books, genre work, social science, or psychology books.

They are open to receiving fiction and nonfiction submissions via the post or email from authors directly. This includes queries regarding novels, novellas, short story collections, biographies, essays, literary criticisms, literature in translations, memoirs, neglected works that merit rediscovery, and anthologies that would interest the general reader of literary books, as well as anthologies that could be assigned in secondary and university classrooms.

At this time, they are particularly encouraging submissions to their growing young-adult list in nonfiction, fiction, and poetry. These books are aimed at the educational market as well as literary readers.

Queries must include a cover letter, author background and publication history, as well as a synopsis of the proposed work, and a sample chapter. You can simultaneously submit to Persea, but please indicate it in your submission to them. They try to respond to proposals within eight weeks and, if your manuscript is requested, they try to respond to that within twelve weeks, although it sometimes takes them longer.

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You should make sure to study their booklist before submitting, to get a better understanding of what they are specifically looking for.

Submissions of poetry queries should be made only via email, and they are generally interested only in poets with a publication history in terms of either literary journals or previously published books or chapbooks. Submit no more than twelve pages for their consideration. They will only contact poets if they are interested in seeing more of the work.

To learn more about Persea or to submit work, visit their submission guidelines [here](#).

Seven Stories Press

Seven Stories Press is an independent publisher that has been around for twenty years. They have published a number of highly respected books. Their books are distributed by Random House. They take their name from the seven authors whose work has influenced and affected Seven Stories Press the most.

Those authors are Octavia Butler, Nelson Algren, Annie Ernaux, Gary Null, Charley Rosen, Vassilis Vassilikos, and Project Censored. Based on that list, you should have a good idea about what kind of work they are looking to publish.

Seven Stories Press primarily publishes fiction and nonfiction as well as the occasional book of poetry. They are interested in journalism and social justice. The books they publish tend to be either literary or academic in nature.

Seven Stories Press is a well-respected publisher in both academic and literary circles. They publish over twenty books a year, on average, so they have a hefty back catalog as well as a number of new releases at all times.

Seven Stories Press also publishes books aimed at children and young-adult readers, something they have started to focus on in recent years. They call this imprint of their publishing company Triangle Square.

They accept manuscript submissions only through the mail. They expect a query letter as well as two chapters of the work. They will not read complete manuscripts. Make sure to include a self-addressed and stamped envelope, so they can reply to you. They try to respond to most submissions within a few months. They will not consider email submissions. To learn more about their submission process visit [the contact section of the site.](#)

SOLID OBJECTS

SOLID OBJECTS is a publisher of fiction, poetry, drama, and nonfiction based out of New York. They were founded in 2010. Since then, they have published nine books. Many are full-length poetry publications, but there are also three novellas and a play among the works that they have published. They are definitely a press interested in publishing literary works.

The books have compelling covers and the website aesthetic in general is good. They seem to be a small press that is working on becoming more established. It is nice to see a press publishing full-length poetry manuscripts and not charging a reading or contest fee.

If you think your work might be a good fit for SOLID OBJECTS I would suggest buying a book first, the one that most intrigues you, and reading it. Then, if you like the book, when submitting you can mention it in your cover letter. This often increases your chances of your manuscript receiving the attention you deserve, particularly when dealing with small presses.

It is interesting to me that most of the blurbs on the books are provided by established and respected poets, which implies that either the press or the poets that they publish are connected.

Manuscripts can be submitted online or through the mail. No other guidelines are provided by SOLID OBJECTS; however, a cover letter is usually a good idea, even when it is not explicitly requested.

To learn more or to submit work, visit their website [here](#).

Multi-Genre Publishers

The following publishers generally don't specialize in one particular genre. Most publishers listed here have multiple imprints and are open to most work. Some only have a couple areas of focus.

There are some unusual publishers in this section. Even if you have read a book or two by one of these presses, it is usually much harder to get a feel for what they are interested in due to the sheer range of what they publish.

No matter what genre you write in primarily, you should read this section, as one of the following publishers is sure to be interested in that genre.

All Things That Matter Press

All Things That Matter Press is a small publishing company that prints their books on demand. They pay their authors royalties.

They primarily publish self-help books, books that focus on personal or societal growth, or novels that have a similar message. They are pretty much open to diverse genres, and they have published poetry, science fiction, young adult, nonfiction, and even romance.

They focus on publishing first-time authors. They do not accept books with an overtly religious message or ones that include violence or eroticism.

All Things That Matter Press is looking for manuscripts that grab and maintain their attention. Manuscripts should also have a good sense of flow and be well edited in terms of punctuation and grammar.

It is really important to follow their submissions guidelines, so double and triple check the guidelines on their website before submitting. They are also not interested in overly long manuscript synopses.

Make sure that you read the guidelines yourself but remember that they only accept email submissions. Your manuscript must be completed, although they only want you to submit the first three chapters of your manuscript as an attachment.

Even though All Things That Matter Press takes on the burden of publishing costs and managing some basic marketing, they want to know when you submit that you are committed to putting an effort into marketing your book. That is typical of most publishing houses these days.

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Their website tone is a little overbearing, but they also include a lot of helpful tips and walk you through the steps your book will go through before being published.

You can visit their website and learn more about [them](#).

Beau Coup Publishing

Beau Coup Publishing is primarily an e-book publisher, but they also publish print editions (through CreateSpace). They publish a wide range of books. Although most books they publish are in the romance or erotica genre, they are also interested in work outside of those genres.

They are currently open to romance and erotica, including those containing a subgenre (i.e., paranormal, western). They are also open to mysteries, thrillers, science fiction, and books aimed at young/new adults.

Beau Coup Publishing is a relatively new company, but they have already published some books that ended up on Amazon's bestseller lists. They seem to focus more on marketing, in terms of e-books, because of this. However, not all of their books sell well, and it is hard to find out much about the company because they are new, and they do not offer that much information about their staff on their website.

They are open to publishing previously self-published works and reprinting works previously published by other publishers, as long as you still have all the rights. They try to respond to most submissions within a month.

They are currently seeking books that contain a minimum of 50,000 words. Shorter books are considered if they are part of a series, or if they can be connected to other short work, so that they can be sold as part of a package deal.

They do not publish books that encourage discrimination of any kind. They also do not publish books that have incest, pedophilia, necrophilia, bestiality (not including shape shifters), and rape as titillation.

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When you submit to them, include the full manuscript. In your email cover letter, make sure that your name, pen name, and email address are included. Make sure to specify the genre and word count. Manuscripts must be 12 point Times New Roman or Calibri font. The file format must be .doc or .rtf. They only accept submissions via email.

Beau Coup handles covers, marketing, and some editing, although you are encouraged to have your book proofed by others before submitting or before publication. This is a fairly normal request from a publisher of this size. Most of the larger publishers would not do this, but they would expect the book to be thoroughly edited anyways.

To learn more or to submit work, visit their website [here](#).

BelleBooks/BelleBridge

BelleBooks was founded in 1999 by a number of writers of Southern fiction. They focused on publishing works of Southern fiction before creating the now substantial imprint, BelleBridge, which is open to a wide variety of genres including cozy mysteries, women's fiction, romance, fiction, nonfiction, science fiction, horror, fantasy, young adult, mystery, suspense, and thrillers.

They are currently seeking manuscripts in some but not all of the genres they publish. They primarily publish hardcover books, but they have started to publish e-book versions simultaneously.

BelleBridge books have won major awards, been Kindle bestsellers, and been optioned to become TV shows. They have published a number of already established writers, and they have launched a number of previously unpublished authors into successful careers.

Over the years, they have developed a good reputation as a small publisher with a devoted and thoughtful staff. The books they publish receive publicity, and they make sure that each book has blurbs from other authors on the back, as well as a synopsis of the plot. Many authors appear to publish a whole series of books with them, which is a very good sign.

Because they are respected and they do a good job, publication slots can fill up quickly. They can only publish so many books of a certain genre each year. They try to respond to most submissions within three months, but it generally takes more like six months.

When you submit, you do so directly to the editor of your genre. Only mystery (non-cozy), suspense, and thrillers, are currently open to submissions at the

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time this review was published, but it is good to keep an eye on their site, because that often changes. When you submit work, you do so using your full manuscript attached to an email query letter.

There is a lot of information about their preferences, approach to publicity, covers, and a number of other things, on their website. I highly encourage you to spend some time reading the guidelines before submitting work.

You can read their submission guidelines and additional information [here](#). To visit their website as a whole and to browse their past publication catalog, go to this [page](#).

Big World Network

Big World Network is a very unusual publisher that was founded in 2011. They release the stories they publish serially in twelve installments and publish the most successful ones as books.

Most installments are between 4-10 pages long. They call twelve installments a season and, if the season is popular, it can be "renewed" for a second book in the same series. Individual installments are released in audio and written format.

Writers are not paid for a season unless it is published as a book. Once the serial has been published, however, they provide all their authors with editing, formatting, and cover design. So, they might not be paying you, but at least they are providing other services.

If the season is successful, it is published, and you will be paid. At that point, your work will receive an additional round of editing, and it will be released as a book, an audiobook, and an e-book.

The stories they publish are both fiction and nonfiction, and the stories cover a wide variety of subgenres. All authors whose completed seasons are compiled and published will receive compensation. Although they do not say exactly what compensation that is, it seems to be on a royalty basis.

They also publish holiday specials and some mini-series that can be between one and six installments in length. If you have written a short story or novella and want to test out a relatively unknown publisher, this is a good way.

In fact, the shortness of the work they publish in general makes it appealing. Some of the completed published manuscripts are no more than forty-eight pages in length. So, if you write novellas, they might be a good fit for you. Plus your work does not need to be completed at the time of submission.

For many writers, particularly those who are trying to learn new genres and grow their style, it could be a fun experiment to publish with them, without having to commit to writing a work of a more traditional length.

Submitting is easy. It is good to read or listen to a couple of the serials in the genre you are interested in, before submitting. Do not submit previously published stories.

Submit via email and make sure to read their release form beforehand and state within the email that you have read and agree to it. Submit a brief description of your series concept and the first three installments.

If your work is provisionally accepted, you will be asked to provide the remaining nine installments. You do not have a deadline for providing these, but the work cannot be officially accepted and the series cannot start till they receive all twelve.

To learn more visit [their website](#). To submit work, visit their [submission guidelines](#).

Black & White Publishing

Black & White Publishing was founded in 1995 and is now one of the largest Scottish publishers. They currently have over 200 books in print. They are based in Scotland, but they are open to publishing work by authors of any nationality or geographical location.

They have good distributors, and they are starting to break into the e-book publishing world. They publish general nonfiction, biography, sports, and humor, as well as selected fiction, crime novels, young adult, and children's books.

They are currently accepting both solicited and unsolicited manuscripts that are fiction, nonfiction, and young adult. They have published a number of established authors of various nationalities. Their covers are generally well designed and appealing.

They prefer receiving submissions by email but are open to submissions by post. Attach to your email (that contains a query letter) a detailed synopsis outlining the whole manuscript and the first three chapters or first thirty pages of your manuscript. Attachments should all be Word documents. The words NEW SUBMISSION should be in the subject field.

They try to respond to all queries within three months. If you have not heard from them by that time, you must assume that your work has been rejected.

To learn more about Black & White Publishing, visit their website [here](#). To learn more about submitting work, visit their submission guidelines [here](#).

Black Inc. Books

Black Inc. Books is a respected independent publisher based out of Australia. Their books are distributed through Penguin Australia. Even though they are based in Australia, they publish authors from all over the world.

They publish primarily nonfiction and fiction. They publish poetry and have published many books by the famous Australian poet Les Murray, but they are not open to unsolicited poetry submissions.

They have published many well-known authors from a wide variety of backgrounds including Diablo Cody, Hamish McDonald, Diane Keaton, and Raj Patel.

The fiction they publish ranges from serious literature to chick lit. The nonfiction includes memoirs and research-based work. It is good to look through their catalog, particularly their recent and forthcoming publications to get a feeling for what they are looking for.

You must submit to them via email. Submit a short synopsis (no more than one thousand words) of your work, a total word count for your manuscript, a list of previous publications if you have any (this is where literary journals can be very helpful), and any relevant information about yourself. All that can be in the body of the email. It can be in the format of a query letter.

Attach the completed manuscript as a word document. If you are a nonfiction writer whose work is not complete, send a proposed chapter outline and a sample chapter. They try to respond to all submissions within three months.

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To learn more about Black Inc. Books, visit their website [here](#). To learn more about their submission process visit their guidelines [here](#).

Blue Tulip Publishing

Blue Tulip Publishing is a digital publisher with a number of imprints focused on targeting different readerships. Most of the books they publish are romance novels but some of their imprints are open to genre fiction without romance.

They are a newer publisher, so they have not established much of a track record yet, but they seem to be pretty good at cover design (given the context of the genre).

Their different imprints have very different intended audiences. The Blooming Tulip imprint focuses on publishing sweet romances that you would not be afraid to give to a thirteen-year-old or your grandmother.

Blushing Tulip can describe some sex but is more focused on sensual tension and plot development.

Traveling Tulip focuses on publishing fantasy and time traveling novels. Romance does not need to be in these books.

Young Tulip publishes books for readers between the ages of 5 and 18.

Living Tulip publishes memoirs. The books they publish in this imprint have to be based on real events. They should have a very compelling plot in order to stand out among the crowd.

Broken Tulip is their new adult line of books and the protagonists should be between the ages of 18-23. They must be strongly plot or romance driven.

All manuscripts must be submitted in Palantino font (an odd choice in my opinion).

Include the following information on the first page of the submission file: title of the manuscript, author name, email address, phone number, and word count of completed manuscript.

Make sure you include a three-paragraph synopsis of the story. You should also make it clear who your target audience is. Include any author information you deem necessary for the publisher to know.

All submissions should be made via email. Your name, the title of your work, and the genre should be the subject line of the email.

They try to respond to all manuscripts within six weeks. To get a better idea about the work they have previously published, visit [their blog](#).

To learn more or to submit work, visit their website [here](#).

Bold Strokes

Bold Strokes Books publishes only LGBTQ books, which means that its books feature characters that are lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, trans, and queer. They publish general and genre fiction. They offer advances to their authors.

LGBTQ books are a niche market but Bold Strokes is interested in publishing books that fall under the LGBTQ umbrella including literary fiction, romance novels, young-adult novels, genre novels (including science fiction and mystery), and works of nonfiction. The only genre of books they do not appear to publish is poetry.

Bold Strokes has a good distributor because their books are available in most stores, including Barnes and Noble. They generally publish a digital edition first and then release the print edition later. However, occasionally they release both editions at the same time. Because their print distributor requires fifteen months in advance notice, these books have a longer turnaround time, between acceptance and publication.

I have heard mixed things about their contracts, so review them carefully before you sign anything (which is something you should do anyways).

Two editors review every submission. Because of this intensive process, it can take them up to sixteen weeks to respond to most submissions.

They are not interested in reprints without proof that the previous publishing contract was terminated.

They only accept online submissions of complete manuscripts. Manuscripts must be attached and formatted as a .doc, .docx, or .rtf file.

Make sure to submit a cover letter in the body of the email. The cover letter should contain a one-page synopsis of the plot, working title, category or genre, and a word count. It should also include a short author bio as well as contact information.

Because Bold Strokes publishes such a diversity of genres, it is good to thoroughly read their [submission guidelines](#) to get a better feeling for what they are looking for. They also have [an informative FAQ page](#). To get a better feeling for the books they publish, visit their [homepage](#).

Calderwood Books

Calderwood Books is an e-book publisher that has been around since 2007, with print-on-demand versions available for some books. Most e-book publishers these days focus on romance, but Calderwood Books has a much broader approach. They publish most genre work except for erotica. They are also interested in publishing cross genre work that does not necessarily fit into an established market. Their slogan is “Good readers deserve good books.”

It is a small company run by just three people, but they have been around for a while now and do not appear to be going anywhere. Their books are available on most major digital marketplaces.

My only complaint about Calderwood Books is mostly an aesthetic one. I find their website visually unappealing, dated, and hard to navigate. However, it clearly focuses on promoting the work of authors they have already published rather than getting submissions from new authors, which is always a good sign.

The quality of the website would be a bigger issue if it was the primary way they sold books. However, the aesthetic issue also stretches out to the covers. Most look hand drawn and are poorly designed.

Calderwood Books is currently open for submissions. They do not have a listed deadline for when they will close to submissions. To submit work, send Calderwood Books an email with the word *query* in the subject line; a cover letter; a bio; and a short, concise synopsis of your book. They do not seem to want any attachments. They are not interested in seeing sample chapters or full manuscripts.

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They do not list word limits, but most of the books they publish tend to be on the shorter side. They also do not mention specific contract terms online but, from what I have read elsewhere, it is a relatively standard contract for royalties.

To learn more, visit their website here: <http://www.calderwoodbooks.com/>

Clean Reads

Astrea Press officially launched in 2010 and published its first e-book in early 2011. It was founded because the owner, Stephanie Taylor saw a gap in the e-book market when it came to *wholesome* mainstream romance novels. Astrea does not publish anything erotic. To this end, in the last year they seem to have re-branded as Clean Reads.

They were primarily a romance publisher when they first started out but their focus seems to have shifted in the last year or so, and they are now open to all fiction genres, although they still publish a lot of romance.

Clean Reads gives their authors a fair contract. Authors receive 50% of the royalties from sales on the Astrea website and 40% of sales from third-party websites (they also sell their books through Amazon and Barnes and Noble). They are also open to making print editions of books that are longer than 50,000 words. They allow their authors to work one-on-one with their cover artist in order to create a cover that properly represents the book. After all, they say you can't judge a book by its cover, but a lot of people buy them based on the cover anyway.

Their authors are also represented by an agency for foreign and audio rights. Astrea always encourages direct communication between the author and the other people working on the book, including copy editors and agents. All books will be thoroughly edited before publication, but that editing will happen with the authors knowledge, consent, and contributions. They also make sure that authors can buy copies at a discounted price, although they don't go into specifics on their website.

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They accept all genres of fiction. They also publish books for young adults, so they are open to those works as well. They do not publish work that is less than 15,000 words or more than 100,000.

The editors have lots of explicit guidelines for what they are willing to publish in their novels. They are opposed to seeing the details of sex unless the characters are married. Even then, the editors have clear limits to how much they want to see. They don't want any of the characters to have premarital sex unless consequences such as a baby are involved. They are not interested in publishing books with coarse language or graphic violence.

The editors are open to books that end with the characters being HFN (happy for now), versus HEA (happily ever after). They are not interested in publishing stories with homosexual pairings. They often focus on specific calls for submissions that change regularly.

They only accept unagented submissions through their online submission manager. You can learn more about Clean Reads by visiting their website [here](#).

Cohesion Press

Cohesion Press is a small press that publishes novels, short-story collections, and novellas. Currently, they are an e-book only press. They are new but have published books by six authors so far, and several anthologies.

They offer 50% of gross income on all electronic and print sales.

Most of the work they publish could fall into the horror, crime noir, or military genres. They are also interested in post-apocalyptic stories, and works of young-adult fiction.

They have various subcategories, so I recommend that you read their guidelines before submitting.

The novellas they publish are between 30,000 and 40,000 words in length. Novels and collections are 40,000 words and above.

They also publish memoirs related to crime, addiction, or the military. They are particularly interested in memoirs by current or former members of the Special Forces.

Their owner is Geoff Brown, the past president of the Australian Horror Writers Association. He also runs an editing company under a similar name. They are an Australian based company.

When you submit work, please include a brief cover letter in the body of the email. All submissions must be made via email. The rest of your submission should be attached as a word document.

Make sure to include your contact information on the top left and total word count on the top right. Title and author name should be centered. The full synopsis (no more than 600 words in length) and author bio should be included.

Include any promotional experience you have as well as your website, blog, social media links, etc. You should also submit the first three chapters (or the first 10,000 words). All of this should be one attached document. The subject of the email should be genre_[title]_[surname].

They try to respond to all submissions within two weeks. If you have not heard from them at that point, feel free to query.

To learn more visit their submission guidelines [here](#).

Crooked Cat

Crooked Cat is a multi-genre e-book publisher that has six imprints focusing on a variety of subjects, covering the range from young adult to mystery. They are based in the UK, and they have previously published over eighty books.

The six imprints are

Black Line (crime, thriller, or mystery)

Red Line (women's fiction and chick lit)

Blue Line (historical fiction)

Green Line (contemporary fiction)

Silver Line (young adult, they are not interested in children's books)

Crooked Love Cats (contemporary and historical romance)

For more detailed information on all the genres, visit the [genre page](#) here.

They are a smaller company, although they do have an active social media presence. Their website needs work. It looks aesthetically pleasing and features the authors it publishes; however, I have two primary problems with it.

The first issue is that it heavily focuses on recruiting authors. The first image on the site is a link to their submissions page; there are additional links on the sidebar. A website for a publisher should primarily focus on selling books, not on recruiting new authors. Although they do spend a lot of energy on promoting the authors they have, which is good.

However, the second issue, and a very serious one at that, is that they do not sell any books on their site, nor do they directly link to where you can buy them anywhere obvious. When you read an author's bio, it lists the names of the book they have published with Crooked Cat but it does not link to them. All of the books are easily available on Amazon, however there are no direct links to any of the online retailers, at least in the more recent bios.

That said, authors tend to publish multiple books with Crooked Cat, which is a good sign. Their contract is supposed to be fair and meet all of the industry standards. Also, they do directly link to their books on their social media pages.

To learn more or to submit work, visit their website [here](#). Their submission guidelines are very straight-forward, and you submit work via an easy-to-use submission form.

Endeavor Press

Endeavor is an e-book publisher based out of the UK, although they accept books from authors of any nationality. They claim to be the largest e-book publisher in the UK. Although it is hard to determine if that precise statement is true, it is clear by looking at their competitors that Endeavor is one of the largest and most established UK e-book publishers.

They have been around since 2010, and one of their early strategies was to get the rights to books that were out of print, and re-publish them digitally. They managed to obtain some very respected books and publish them using this strategy. They also initially focused on writing e-books about current events, such as the royal wedding. They also give away books occasionally and regularly put books on sale.

Endeavor Press is currently open to submissions from new and established authors. They are looking for works that are at least 25,000 words in length. They are also looking for full-length books. They are currently looking for primarily fiction books in the genres of crime fiction, thriller, women's fiction (chick lit), romance, and historical fiction. They are also open to publishing nonfiction history books. They also buy backlist titles in these genres as long as that title is not already sold in an e-book format. So, if your book has been published before, but not as an e-book, and the rights belong to you, Endeavor might be interested.

For crime, thriller, and historical fiction submissions they are most interested in books that could be the start of a series. Like many e-book companies, one of their strategies seems to be to sell the first book in a series cheaply to get readers engaged and committed to buying the other books.

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To make a submission, authors are asked to send a paragraph-long synopsis, approximate word count, and a few lines of bio to the editor's email address (as supplied on the website). They try to respond to all queries within a month. Endeavor provides all services for free and pays all their authors royalties.

To learn more or submit work, visit their website [here](#).

Fireship Press

Fireship Press is a small press that focuses on publishing books with a nautical theme, historical fiction, and history books. Fireship Press publishes about fifteen books a year. Most have well chosen, genre appropriate covers. The website is fairly easy to navigate. They are open to submissions from authors without an agent or previous experience. Authors who have worked with them tend to have positive things to say about the publisher. They also have distributors in the US and Canada. All their books are printed on demand. They also have e-book editions of all of their recent books.

Fireship Press is looking to publish books that are between 90,000 and 150,000 words in length. They are not interested in manuscripts that fall outside of the genres of nautical and historical fiction and nonfiction. However, their new imprint Cortero is open to publishing fantasy with a historical setting, or alternative history as well as murder mysteries with a historical setting.

Send them a query via email first. They do not accept any submissions via post. Include a brief synopsis of the work. For nonfiction books, also include an outline or detailed chapter list. Do not include a manuscript or manuscript excerpt in your first email query. If they are interested, they will request three sample chapters. They prefer that these three chapters be the first three in your novel or nonfiction works. They try to respond to all queries within two months.

Fireship Press negotiates contracts on an individual basis. They only offer contracts for manuscripts that are already completed. However, it is very important to note that Fireship Press does not provide an editing service, and

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expect that work to be done by an editor paid for by the author of the book. I think that is an important factor to take into consideration when submitting to them, because editing can be costly.

To learn more, visit their website [here](#). To read all the submission guidelines, visit [this page](#).

Great Old Ones

Great Old Ones is a newer e-book and print-on-demand publisher that focuses on publishing horror, but also publishes science fiction, steam punk, and fantasy.

I found their covers and website a little garish and overwhelming, but very much in tune with what I have seen in the horror genre in general. It is easy to navigate, and it focuses on selling books rather than recruiting authors, which is a good sign. Also, the books themselves have generally received good reviews, which is nice to see.

I did find a number of minor errors in their submission guidelines. There were areas where random letters seemed to be holding place for future text. I don't know how long that has been there, but it is not a good sign.

They have had at least one book that has sold well on Kindle, but not any runaway bestsellers. They publish books from individual authors as well as anthologies, although there aren't any current calls for submissions for anthologies.

There are a number of editors involved in the project and you can learn more about all of them at their [about](#) page.

Their submission guidelines are specific in terms of formatting but not in terms of what they want. There is no mention of a query letter, although it is always good to include one. There is also phrasing that leads one to assume that they want the complete manuscript, not a few sample chapters.

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All submissions should be made via email. Simultaneous submissions appear to be permitted.

To learn more about Great Old Ones, visit their website [here](#).

Joffe Books

Joffe Books is a new independent publisher based out of London. They were founded in 2013. They focus on publishing new e-books and making classic books and short stories available electronically. Their cover quality varies widely; some are professional looking, and others are awful.

They are looking to publish full-length novels preferably in the genres of literary fiction, thrillers, detective, romance, horror, and suspense, but they will consider books outside of these genres.

It is always tricky to get a feeling for a new small press. Their marketing strategy seems to hinge largely on Amazon, and they have only a small web presence outside of that. While they have published a number of books so far, none seem to have sold particularly well. That said, they don't seem to be running a scam of any kind, and they are very open to publishing new writers. Also, they are just starting out and there seems to be plenty of room for growth. Currently they appear to be run entirely by the founder, Jasper Joffe.

It is also good that in their submission sections they talk explicitly about promotion, royalties (although they don't say exactly what the rate is), and other information that is relevant to a potential author. Also, the website seems to be focused on selling books and not just recruiting authors.

It is very easy to submit to Joffe Books. All you have to do is submit your full-length book as a PDF or a Word document, a synopsis that is no more than three paragraphs long, and 100 words about yourself. You submit all of these things via email.

To learn more, visit their [website](#).

Jupiter Gardens Press

Jupiter Gardens Press was started in 2007 by Mary K. Wilson. It started out as a metaphysical press that also sold other items, such as crystals. A lot has changed since then. Their main publication, Jupiter Gardens Press, is mainly nonfiction focused on spirituality, pet care, and contemporary culture. They publish electronic and traditional print books.

However, many of their imprints publish work of fiction in varying genres. They have two erotica imprints alone, both are interested in all subgenres and one (Jupiter Gardens Ignite) seems to favor same sex pairings.

They also have a fantasy imprint (Jupiter Gardens Quest), a romance imprint (Jupiter Gardens Romance), a young-adult imprint (Jupiter Gardens Teen), and a science fiction imprint (Jupiter Gardens Xenon). All of these imprints pay their authors royalties. Authors receive 40% of the profit from e-book sales and 10% the profit from traditional book sales.

Jupiter Gardens accepts manuscript submissions for any of these genres. They prefer books between 10,000 and 100,000 words in length. There are certain additional guidelines for erotica so, if you write in that genre, make sure to look for the specific information needed.

Jupiter Garden accepts all submissions through their email address, which is listed on their submission guidelines page. One of the great things about Jupiter Gardens is that they respond to most submissions within two weeks. This is unusually fast for manuscript publishers.

Because of this quick response time, they prefer not to receive simultaneous submissions. However, if you do submit simultaneously, make sure to tell

them this in your cover letter. They expect a cover letter to be attached to all manuscript submissions.

In your cover letter, detail your writing experience (they do welcome new authors, so this is not required), your manuscript's intended imprint, and a brief synopsis. Then attach the first three chapters of your novel in a .doc or .rtf format. Because their response time is so quick, you should know within the month if they are interested in your book or not.

Pen-L Publishing

Pen-L publishes a large range of writing including literary fiction, popular fiction, historical fiction, westerns, science fiction, fantasy, books for younger readers, and nonfiction. They publish print editions. They are currently open to query submissions in all these categories. What this means is that you should not submit your whole manuscript directly to them, instead you must query first in order for Pen-L to consider your work.

That means they want a query letter, much like an agent would. It also means that for fictional books, the query letter must include the genre of your book, the word count of your completed manuscript, titles of books that are similar and already on the market, a brief author's bio, and the platforms for selling your books that you have already built (Facebook, web site, classes, etc.).

After the query letter in the email, please include a complete synopsis of the book that is no longer than three pages and the first three chapters plus the last chapter of your manuscript. All of this must be submitted to Pen-L via email. They will only consider queries submitted through email. In the subject line of your email, you must include the words PLP Query, state the name of your manuscript, and the genre.

Pen-L will confirm receiving your query within seven days and, at that time, they will tell you approximately how long it will take for them to respond with more details. They do not charge their authors fees, but there are also no details on their site regarding how much they pay in terms of royalties, so make sure you know more before committing to anything.

To learn more please visit their website [here](#).

Solstice Publishing

Solstice is a mid-sized publishing house based out of the United States that publishes e-books. They have published over 200 authors and have started to buy small publishing houses. They prefer to deal with authors directly instead of working with agents.

They publish a wide variety of work and consider full manuscripts instead of asking for outlines. They accept all submissions via email, and they have a much quicker turnaround time than most small publishers.

Some authors have had favorable experiences with them. Others have not. To read more about these personal experiences, you can read the complete thread on the publisher [here at Absolute Writes](#). If you are considering submitting to them, I highly recommend that you read that thread first.

On their website, they publish a great deal of conflicting data, which is confusing, but I have tried to feature the information that seems to be most relevant.

Solstice has four different categories for submissions: Solstice Shadows, Solstice, Summer Solstice, and Solstice at Night.

Solstice Shadows only publishes books that involve paranormal elements such as vampires or witches.

Solstice publishes mostly fiction although, currently, they are not accepting manuscripts in the following genres: children's, young adult, erotica, juvenile, or religious/inspirational fiction. They are open to reprinting books, as long as they have been out of print for at least a year.

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Summer Solstice is currently looking for romance, paranormal, mystery, and fantasy manuscripts. Manuscripts submitted to them must contain no more than 99,000 words. They accept previously published work as long as the author holds the exclusive rights.

Solstice at Night is focused only on publishing erotica.

These different categories have their own email addresses where you should submit your manuscript, although all categories involve the same basic application process.

The manuscript you submit to them should already be edited and polished. Include your query letter and synopsis in the email body, and attach the file as a .doc or .rtf attachment. No other attachment types will be read.

The subject of your email should include the genre type, the fact that this is a book submission, then the book title, and the author's name. This will make it clear that your email is not spam. They want the manuscript to be single spaced with standard margins and a 12-point font.

Make sure that your email body contains your name, pen name, phone number, the current title of your book, word count, genre, any plans of a future series, your publishing history, and where they can find you online (i.e., Facebook, Twitter ...).

You can learn more at their website [here](#).

The Wild Rose Press

The Wild Rose Press is an established small press that publishes full-length manuscripts. Preditors & Editors, a third-party website that ranks presses based on how they treat their authors, highly recommends The Wild Rose Press. In fact, they have been ranked as the number one publisher in the Preditors & Editors readers' poll five years running.

They primarily publish e-books. Their longer books also receive a print release. Because they are an established press, they are able to promote their e-books in a way that you cannot when you self-publish for the first time.

Initially, The Wild Rose Press only published romance novels but, as of January 2013, they started accepting queries for manuscripts that were not in the romance genre including women's fiction, mystery or thriller, historical fiction, and erotica. They are still best known as a romance press, so take that fact into consideration when submitting.

They only accept queries submitted via email. The company has several lines. Each line publishes books between a set of lengths. Rosette is between 7,500 and 20,000 words (e-book only), Miniature Rose is between 20,001 and 40,000 words in length (e-book only), Rosebud is between 40,001 and 65,000 words (e-book only), and Rose is between 65,001 and 100,000 words (e-book and print).

For the subject line of the email, use the term TWRP Query, the name of your manuscript, and the line in the company you are targeting. For example:

TWRP Query - Love Knows No Bounds - Scarlet Rose.

Write a query letter that provides a synopsis of your novel and also includes your personal information: name, email, contact information, and any pertinent writing background information. Make sure you include the word count of your manuscript.

If you are nervous about writing a query, you may want to read our article on query letters here: [How to Write a Query Letter](#). This article focuses on how to get an agent, but publishers expect the exact same things out of a query letter. Do not send any of this as an attachment; it should be in the body of the email.

They generally only accept books written from a first-person point of view, so make sure that you tell them whose point of view the book is written from in the synopsis.

They are not interested in books that contain any of the following elements or plot points: depraved or illegal acts, bestiality, rape, or pedophilia. If your book contains any of these elements, do not submit it.

They generally get back to writers within six months or sooner so, if they are intrigued by your query letter, you should expect to hear back from them before too long. Only then can you send them your full-length manuscript for their consideration.

If your work is accepted by The Wild Rose Press, your work will be edited by a professional, and you will receive support and publicity, as well as royalties, as you should when working with a traditional publisher. However, you will not need an agent when dealing with The Wild Rose Press.

If you are a romance author, you should definitely consider submitting to The Wild Rose Press. You can visit their website [here](#).

Walrus Publishing

Walrus Publishing is a small print and e-book publishing company founded in 2007 and based out of Missouri. In their own words, "Our mission is to contribute to the literary arts by publishing books people enjoy reading, by collaborating with writing groups and programs, and by assisting writers."

They have a president and publisher, Lisa Miller, and are managed by a board of seven people (including the president). This structure is a little unusual for a company of their size.

They sell books on their own and on Amazon, but I have not seen them in bookstores, so take that into consideration before submitting. They do not seem to do a lot of promotions for the books they publish.

They have published a small number of books since 2007. However, there is a huge diversity in what they publish, including sci-fi collections and the memoirs of a middle-aged lesbian. They are open to books of any genre except for poetry and pornography.

They seem to be focused on mainly publishing local regional books by authors living in or from Missouri, but they are open to submissions outside that region as well. Their main focus seems to have shifted in the last year towards looking for manuscripts that have strong character development.

To learn more visit their submission guidelines [here](#).

Science Fiction and Fantasy Publishers

Science fiction and fantasy are interesting markets. Even imprints of the big five traditional publishers are often open to general submissions. A number of respected and established independent publishers actually prefer submissions from authors without agents. It's a little different from most markets.

Some of the multi-genre publishers are also open to science fiction and fantasy, so make sure to check that section as well. If your science fiction and fantasy book is aimed at children or young adults, you should check that section as well.

Baen

Baen is one of the best-known publishers of science fiction and fantasy books. They are one of the few established publishers that will accept full-length manuscripts from authors who do not have an agent. They do not need to see any history of publication either. As long as your book is science fiction or fantasy, they will consider publishing it.

If you are a genre writer, you have likely read many books that Baen has published and, therefore, have a good idea of what they are looking for. They are most interested in science fiction stories: “powerful plots with solid scientific and philosophical underpinnings are the sine qua non for consideration for science fiction submissions. As for fantasy, any magical system must be both rigorously coherent and integral to the plot and, overall, the work must at least strive for originality.”

They prefer to publish books with a clean unobtrusive writing style. They do not specify how much they pay authors, but they are one of the few recommended publishers by the website *Preditor & Editor*, and so they probably pay their writers at or above the market rate.

Baen prefers books to be between 100,000 and 130,000 words in length but they will consider books that are shorter than that. They do not require query letters and only ask that your manuscript be accompanied by a synopsis. Baen prefers online submissions through their easy-to-use submission manager.

It takes them between nine and twelve months to respond to submissions because they receive such a high volume. So, keep that in mind when submitting. They also prefer that you submit your work just to them but, if

your work is accepted elsewhere, they would like to be notified as soon as possible.

In conclusion, if you want your work of science fiction or fantasy to be considered by one of the most respected publishers in the genre, you should submit your work to Baen. To learn more or submit work, visit their website [here](#).

DAW

DAW is an imprint of Penguin that is open to manuscript submissions from authors without an agent. This is unusual and a great opportunity. DAW is a highly respected publisher of science fiction and fantasy. DAW has published authors such as Marion Zimmer Bradley and Roger Zelazny. DAW has published many bestselling books, and they have published Hugo award-winning books. So, they are respected and popular.

DAW novels vary in length, but they rarely contain less than 80,000 words, so keep that in mind. They have a fairly long wait time for responses if the book makes it past the first reader. However, they have made some efforts to reduce that wait time in recent years.

Although they ask for exclusive submissions, if you have waited for longer than three months, your work can be submitted elsewhere. This is a recent improvement they made to their submission policy.

It may require up to three months or more for their editors to review a manuscript. If it takes longer than three months to review your manuscript, they no longer require an exclusive submission.

They do not accept electronic submissions. Do not try to submit work to them via email, or any other online method. All manuscripts must be sent through the mail. They will not be returned, and they do not consider handwritten manuscripts.

The manuscript should double-spaced, with at least one-inch margins and printed on white paper. It should be printed on only one side of the page and

the pages must be numbered. Make sure the title of your novel is at the top of each page. Manuscripts should always be unbound.

Make sure that on the first page of the manuscript your name, address, phone number, and the word count of the manuscript are all typed in the upper right hand corner.

Include a self-addressed and stamped envelope so they can respond. Include a self-addressed and stamped postcard if you want to be notified when they log your book into the system.

To learn more visit their website [here](#). You can scroll down the submission guidelines on the main page.

Edge

Edge is an established and well-respected Canadian publisher of science fiction and fantasy. They have a great distribution network within Canada and a good distribution network within the US. They are open to authors regardless of nationality.

Their website is a little outdated, and there is a mention of floppy disks in their submission guidelines, but it is functional and up to date in terms of listing author readings, upcoming books, and events.

For the most part, the books I have seen and read have excellent covers and are always well edited. They have an e-publishing imprint that encountered some management issues a few years back, but it seems to be resolved now.

They favor authors without agents. They are only interested in publishing novel length science fiction and fantasy for adults. Their list of preferences include books with depth and insight, original ideas, characters with believable behaviors, strong plots, unique settings, and solid science or magic systems.

They only accept completed manuscripts that have been thoroughly edited. If you are not sure if your manuscript fits within their standards, please send a query letter first.

Otherwise, submit the first three chapters, prologue (optional), synopsis, cover letter, title page, and self-addressed and stamped envelope. All submissions must be made through the mail. They do not allow simultaneous submissions.

Response times vary, but an older report says that they are trying to respond to all submissions within four months.

To get a better sense for what they publish, browse [their storefront](#). To learn more, you can read their extensive [FAQ section](#).

If you are interested in submitting work, you should read their full [submission guidelines here](#). They are extensive and detailed.

Ticonderoga Publications

Ticonderoga Publications is a small Australian based print publisher that has been around since 1996. They focus on publishing speculative fiction. That means they are open to a wide variety of subgenres including fantasy, science fiction, horror, steam punk, and paranormal. They also publish a number of anthologies every year.

This year they are already planning to publish three novels, with more slots still available according to their 2015 releases listing. On top of that, they are publishing four anthologies. One was limited to Australian writers, but the rest were open to authors regardless of their nationality or geographical location.

Their website is easy to use and orientated towards selling books rather than recruiting authors, which is always a good sign. Unfortunately, though, a number of the links on their website were broken at the time this article was written. A number of the pages including the listing of their top ten bestsellers, were down.

They offer advances to authors. Although they do not disclose the details of their contracts, they appear to be pretty standard in terms of royalties. There is not much information about the company elsewhere on the internet. So, even though they have been around for a while, they appear to be pretty small.

They do not accept reprints or simultaneous submissions. All submissions must be made through email.

They are interested in manuscripts between 60,000 and 120,000 words in length. They prefer that the spelling be Australian English. If the work is

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complete, submit the entire manuscript. If it is not, they prefer three to six
sample chapters plus a synopsis.

To learn more about the publisher, visit their homepage [here](#). To learn more
about their novel submission guidelines visit [this page](#).

Mystery Publishers

Over the years, mystery is one of those genres that has managed to accumulate a huge number of subgenres. From cozy mysteries to literary mysteries, from crime novels to ones focused on conspiracies, now there is a mystery subgenre for almost every reader's taste.

All of the following publishers focus on one or two subgenres of mystery, although some are open to mystery novels of any kind. To find additional publishers that are interested in mystery novels, make sure to check out the multi-genre chapter of the book as well as the literary fiction chapter.

Brash Books

Brash Books is a company that specializes in publishing crime novels. Lee Goldberg and Joel Goldman, both bestselling and Edgar nominated authors, started the company. The books they publish have electronic and print editions.

Brash Books publishes psychological thrillers, murder mysteries, international espionage, and police procedurals. The website has a cocky, over-confident tone, and it focuses on selling books and promoting authors rather than finding new authors. That is always a good sign. Even if the cocky tone gets on my nerves, it is what one should expect if the name of the company is Brash Books.

They are open to submissions of crime manuscripts. When you are submitting your work, please include two chapters of your manuscript (double-spaced and it cannot exceed twenty-five pages in length) as well as a synopsis (double-spaced and less than two pages). Include a cover letter and submit this work by email to brashbooks@gmail.com. They accept electronic submissions of Microsoft Word documents or PDF documents only.

They only contact authors if they are interested in reading the full manuscript. This means that you should not expect to hear from them in case of a rejection, although, you can always query after six months.

They are also open to publishing previously published books that have fallen out of print as long as all the rights belong to the author. Submitting a previously published book or series is a little different. They want you to send

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the titles of your books and share some of the reviews and author blurbs the books have received and awards they have won or been nominated for.

To learn more about Brash Books visit their website [here](#).

Felony & Mayhem

Felony & Mayhem is a print mystery book publisher founded in 2005, with a fairly good distribution network in brick and mortar bookstores. They initially focused only on re-issuing books that had fallen out of print, releasing books in paperback that only had hardback editions, and publishing books that had only been published outside of the US. Although that remains as the bulk of their business, they opened to general submissions in 2011. They now accept submissions from authors with or without an agent or previous publishing experience.

The company is based out of Greenwich Village in New York City. They like to publish work that leans more towards literature, but is still a mystery. They prefer work that has some sort of cultural aspect to it. For example, a plot that involved a murder set in academia, or the art world, would appeal to their general publishing sensibilities. They are also particularly interested in mysteries set in other countries. They often publish more than one book by the same author, and they are not opposed to publishing a series.

Manuscripts submitted to them must be at least 75,000 words in length. All work must be submitted electronically. They prefer the work to be submitted as a .doc or .docx attachment. They request that all you submit is "A brief synopsis, and a representative chapter, which may or may not be the first chapter. In writing the synopsis, please confine yourself to a maximum of four SHORT paragraphs: the purpose here is to offer a rough outline of the story."

Only include information about yourself if it is relevant to the story. Say the story is about an undertaker turned detective, and you were an undertaker turned detective fiction writer, that information would be relevant to them. Do

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not include information that does not pertain to the story or your experience writing.

To learn more, visit their website [here](#) or their submission guidelines [here](#).

Five Star

Five Star is an imprint of the publisher Gale, which is a part of the large academic company Cengage Learning. Cengage Learning, Five Star, and Gale are all respected publishers with established track records, good distribution networks, and many ties to schools, colleges, universities, and libraries.

They are a large company, and they do not focus on online sales for their Five Star imprint, so the website is a little unwieldy, and it can be difficult to navigate. If you did not know in advance that they were open to unsolicited submissions, it would be hard to find that out from their website.

Fortunately, Five Star is open to unsolicited submissions of western, mystery, and frontier fiction. Most of these genres are broad and they are open to most subgenres that fall within these loose guidelines. Unfortunately, the current submission guidelines on their website are out of date and mostly focus in great detail on the subgenres of romance, a genre they are currently not accepting. So, keep that in mind.

Make sure to list the subgenre in your query email. Additional guidelines for all genre submissions are outlined on their introduction to submission guidelines PDF (link available below). It is important to note that if you have never been published by them before and do not have an agent, you have to query first to a non-genre-specific editor.

Five Star will consider manuscripts from 65,000 to 120,000 words in length, with some exceptions made for work that is a little longer or shorter. Do not submit your manuscript to them until they request it, but make sure it is completed and falls within their guidelines.

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All queries should be made via email. In the query letter, request their full Five Star submission guidelines and make sure to include your name, address, and the genre guideline (mystery or expressions) you would like to receive. Then one of the editors will send you all the information and forms that will allow you to submit your manuscript properly.

They do not accept simultaneous submissions but respond to all manuscripts as promptly as possible.

You should first visit their main catalog page [here](#), to get a better feel for what they have published in the past. If you are interested in submitting a PDF, an introduction to their guidelines is available [here](#). For more background information, you can read their [About page](#). Also, their [facebook page](#) is a good indicator of what they are currently looking for. To learn more, you can email them directly at fivestar@cengage.com.

Hard Case Crime

Hard Case Crime is a well-respected and established niche publisher of hard-boiled crime novels. The publisher has been featured in a number of respected publications including *Time Magazine* and *The Stranger*.

They re-issue books that were previously published, and they also publish new books. They are open to manuscript queries. They focus on publishing paperback novels.

They have published established authors such as Stephen King, Lawrence Sanders, and Cornell Woolrich. A number of their newer novels have won prestigious awards within the field of mystery novels.

They are distributed by Random House and, as such, their books are often found in brick and mortar bookstores.

Their books have very distinctive branding, and all of their covers have a cohesive feel to them. All their books have a vintage-style pulp cover with the publisher's logo on the top left-hand corner.

Because they are so focused on publishing a specific, cohesive genre, it is a good idea to pick up one of their books from your local library or bookstore, before querying, if you are not already familiar with the books or authors that they have published in the past.

All manuscript queries must be made via email. Keep your query letter short and to the point. They do not request sample chapters or anything else. Their contact information is available [here](#).

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To learn more about **Hard Case Crime** and the books that they publish, please visit their website [here](#).

Joffe Books

Joffe Books is a new independent publisher based out of London. They were founded in 2013. They focus on publishing new e-books and making classic books and short stories available electronically. Their cover quality varies widely. Some book covers are professional looking, and others are awful.

They are looking to publish full-length novels preferably in the genres of literary fiction, thrillers, detective, romance, horror, and suspense. But they will consider books outside of these genres.

It is always tricky to get a feeling for a new small press. Their marketing strategy seems to hinge largely on Amazon, and they have only a small web presence outside of that. While they have published a number of books so far, none seem to have sold particularly well. That said, they don't seem to be running a scam of any kind, and they are very open to publishing new writers. Also, they are just starting out and there seems to be plenty of room for growth. Currently, they appear to be run entirely by the founder, Jasper Joffe.

It is also good that in their submission sections they talk explicitly about promotion, royalties (although they don't say exactly what the rate is), and other information that is relevant to a potential author. Also, the website seems to be focused on selling books and not just recruiting authors.

It is very easy to submit work to Joffe Books; all you do is submit your full-length book as a PDF or a Word document, a synopsis that is no more than three paragraphs long, and one hundred words about yourself. You submit all of these things via email.

To learn more, visit their [website](#).

Tyrus Books

Tyrus Books is a publisher of crime and literary fiction. All the work they publish leans towards literary. They offer advances to authors. They have a good distributor and a good reputation.

They have extensive notes for potential submitters on their website. These are worth reading to know more about what they are and are not interested in.

However, it is best to know upfront that they do not consider publishing novels where the protagonist works for the CIA, FBI, NSA, the military, or law enforcement of any kind. They are also not interested in books where the protagonist is an unrealistic “bad-ass” or involved in an important criminal syndicate. They also are not interested in clichés or tropes, like being pursued by a serial killer or defusing a bomb.

In other words, if you wrote the book version of CSI, Criminal Minds, or a Hollywood blockbuster, they are not interested.

They are interested in books that are set somewhere unusual in the States. They are interested in books where melodramatic violence and car chases do not play a significant role. They are interested in books set today and during the last decade.

They are looking for edited manuscripts (no first drafts) that are between 60,000 and 100,000 words.

It is good to look through their list of past publications to see if anything matches your writing style. If you think one of their books might be similar to what you have written and you don't have the money to buy that title, you can

tell them. They will either buy the book for you or offer a significant discount. That is a really unusual and impressive offer.

They try to respond to most queries within three months. If you have not heard from them in that time, consider your work rejected.

If you are interested in submitting your manuscript, send a synopsis to them via email. You do not need to include any of the manuscript but, if you do, just make sure it is less than twenty pages in the body of the email.

Children and Young Adult Book Publishers

Children's book publishers tend to focus on specific niches within the larger market. They also tend to publish only a small number of manuscripts each year, unless they are publishing educational work. Most publishers prefer books to be submitted without illustrations, so that is important to keep in mind.

You can find additional book publishers for children and young adults in the multi-genre section of this book. Persea Books, which publishes literary fiction for young adults, is listed under the Literary Fiction chapter.

ABDO

ABDO is an established publisher of children's books. They publish a great deal of educational books for children. Currently they are looking for nonfiction and fiction manuscripts. These manuscripts must contain educational content, and they should be focused on children between the ages of four and twelve. You can get a good idea of what they publish by visiting their website and scanning through their catalog.

Most of what they publish are not individual books but a series of books. So they prefer submissions to include the concept for a series and not just an individual book.

In order for your work to be considered for publication, send in a detailed outline of the manuscript and potential series, as well as an introduction and two chapters. These two chapters don't need to be the first two, they should be the two chapters that you consider to be the best.

If you are an illustrator, you should submit three to five pieces that reflect your style and range. These can be hard copies or JPG images. Your work will not be returned to you, unless you include a self-addressed and stamped envelope. Always make sure that everything you submit is a copy and not an original.

Make sure to include a cover letter that includes your particular skills and qualifications. You should also include your publishing history if you have any.

One of the few drawbacks of ABDO is that they do not personally respond to all submissions. If they reject your work, they will not necessarily tell you unless you query. Do not query before six months has passed.

Submissions can be made via email or by post. Make sure when emailing to address your submission to the correct editor. To read all the details visit their website here [Submissions](#).

Absey & Company

Absey & Company is currently looking for full-length manuscripts to publish. Absey & Company has published many award-winning books in the last decade. They are an established small press that publishes full-length works of poetry and prose. They are a print publisher that has yet to venture into e-books.

They publish work for children, teens, and adults. They are interested in publishing literary works of fiction, poetry, and language arts.

Absey & Company is based out of Texas. They only accept submissions that are mailed to them. They do not read electronically submitted work or full-length manuscripts.

When you submit work to Absey & Company, you should include a chapter-by-chapter outline, mention any previous publications (this is when being published in literary journals comes in handy), and other relevant information. You should also include two to three sample chapters and a self-addressed and stamped envelope.

Larger publishers such as this one often take up to six months to respond. If you have not heard from them after six months, feel free to send them an email query letter.

To get a better feel for what they publish, go to their website and look at the books in your genre that they published recently. This is a good way to tell if they would be interested in your work.

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Absey & Company is respected and established, they have won awards, and you can submit your work to them directly without having to get an agent who will take part of your check. To learn more visit their website [here](#).

Alloy Entertainment

Alloy Entertainment is a large company that has been responsible for a number of successful books, including *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants* and the *Gossip Girl* series. The books they publish tend to be aimed at a young female audience. They are not a traditional publisher; they are a book-packaging and a television production unit of Warner Bros.

A company like Alloy is very commercial, and they are aggressive about turning their books into movies and TV shows. So, it is worth keeping those angles in mind when submitting your work. If your book is accepted, Alloy acts as your agent in regard to potential movie and TV deals. Obviously, those ties to Warner Bros. are significant in this aspect.

Alloy does not always publish under their name. One of their books this year is being published by an imprint of Harper Collins. Some of this information is confusing, but the simple facts are this: Alloy is a company with a good reputation that really supports their authors. This is the most important thing.

Alloy has a distinct arm that is interested in authors without agents and open to books from new authors. This part of the company is called the Collaborative Initiative. If you submit to Alloy, you will be submitting to the Collaborative Initiative.

The Collaborative Initiative is interested in acquiring up to twelve full or partial manuscripts a year. To submit work directly without an agent, you need to send them a query letter with a description of your manuscript, how close it is to completion (if it is not yet finished), and a little bit about your writing

background. You should also send five pages from your manuscript. You submit all this via email.

They will try to respond within a month. Although I have heard wait times can stretch up to three months. If they decide that they are interested in your work, they will email you a request to see the rest of the manuscript. Alloy is one of the few publishers that does not require your manuscript to be complete before you submit. They are not interested in manuscripts that are simultaneously submitted elsewhere.

Since originally writing this review, Alloy made a major change to their business model. They now have a secondary way of submitting called **Alloy Entertainment – Powered by Amazon**. This division is open to previously self-published work. They are trying to focus on publishing fresh, new voices and stories with strong, unique concepts. They are open to stand-alone novels as well as a series.

One of the major differences with this branch of Alloy is that they are a digital-first imprint, which means their books are distributed as e-books first, with the potential for print runs. They have a much quicker turnaround because of this.

Amazon provides marketing support for this imprint and these books are only available on the Kindle marketplace.

If you have written a compelling book for girls or for teenaged women, you should really consider submitting to Alloy. To learn more, visit their website [here](#).

Bloomsbury Spark

Bloomsbury Spark is a digital imprint of the large established publisher Bloomsbury. Bloomsbury UK was responsible for publishing Harry Potter. Bloomsbury US has also published many bestsellers both in terms of fiction and nonfiction. However, Bloomsbury US does not accept unsolicited submissions from authors. Bloomsbury Spark does.

Bloomsbury Spark specializes in publishing young-adult and early-adult novels. They were founded in 2013, and they are interested in publishing a wide variety of subgenres including romance, contemporary, dystopian, paranormal, sci-fi, mystery, and thrillers.

They are a full-service publisher that pays via royalties. They have clear marketing plans for the books they publish.

If you have a manuscript between 25,000 and 60,000 words long that fits into one of the appropriate genres, send it to the correct editor's email address. The editors differ depending on your geographical location. Emails should include a query letter, a brief biography, and links to your online presence. The manuscript should be attached.

Do note that they only contact you if they are interested in publishing the manuscript.

They are an e-book publisher but, if a book reaches a certain level of success, they will publish a print edition of it. The e-books they publish are available wherever e-books are sold, including the Kindle marketplace, on the Barnes and Nobles website, and at the iBookstore.

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To learn more about their submission process or to submit work, visit their website [here](#).

Chronicle Books: Now Accepting Book Submissions

Chronicle is an established and respected publisher of children's books, cookbooks, gift books, anthologies, and various other books, most containing a strong visual element. They are based out of San Francisco. Their books receive a lot of positive attention and acclaim. This year, one of the children's books they published, *Flora and the Flamingo*, written and illustrated by Molly Idle, was a 2014 *Caldecott* honor winner. Many of the top cookbooks in the past five years have been published by them, including *Plenty* by Yotam Ottolenghi and the *Tartine* Cookbook. If you look through your own bookshelf, there are high odds that you own at least one book published by Chronicle.

Chronicle is one of the most established independent publishers, and it is unusual that they consider unsolicited manuscript submissions without an agent. There is a slight catch of course; they do not actually respond to these proposals unless they are interested in accepting the book as a whole. So, don't expect a rejection letter, although you should know that if they have not responded within three months, they are most likely not interested in your book.

Perhaps this is for the best, because a number of years ago Chronicle Books got into trouble for referring people whose proposals were rejected to an assisted publishing company. An assisted publishing company charges people to publish their work and Chronicle is a traditional publisher, it pays their authors. Part of an added complication to this whole situation was that Chronicle appeared to have been receiving money from the assisted publishers for this referral. The only reason that we are reviewing and recommending

Chronicle as a potential publisher is because of the fact that this practice no longer takes place and has not for years.

Before submitting to them, browse through their catalog online or go to a local bookstore and find a couple of their books to peruse. This is a good way to see if your work might fit well with their catalog.

Make sure to review their submission guidelines carefully before submitting your work. They have separate guidelines for children's books, so make sure you are reviewing the correct guidelines for your manuscript. They accept manuscripts submitted electronically or through the mail but they prefer electronic submissions. They consider simultaneous submissions as long as you alert them to the fact that you are submitting it elsewhere.

If you are considering submitting to them, please read their submission [Children's submission guidelines](#) in order to learn more. Adult guidelines can be found [here](#).

Eifrig

Eifrig Publishing is a small independent publishing company that focuses on publishing print children's books. They also publish family psychology books, some nonfiction for adults, and books on education. They publish some e-books. Their motto is "good for our kids, good for our environment, and good for our communities."

They are not listed on the watchdog site Preditors & Editors and there is limited information available online about them. Their website is easy to navigate, but they don't mention much about distributors, contracts, or anything along those lines. However, they are focused on selling books, over recruiting new authors, which is a good sign.

The *About* page states that the company was founded in 1996, but it also states that they published their first manuscript in 2006. I do not know if this is a typo or not. I also do not like the fact that the owner of the company has self-published a number of her own books under the company's name.

The covers of the books themselves vary in quality, although the children's books appear to be thoughtfully illustrated.

They have very specific book proposal guidelines that focus a lot on marketing and expect a fair amount of market research. However, they are open to proposals even if the manuscript is incomplete, which is unusual.

You can read their complete submission guidelines [here](#). You can browse their website [here](#).

Fat Fox Books

Fat Fox Books is a new children's book publisher. They just opened their doors last year. Because they are a brand-new publisher, authors are taking on a few risks when signing with them, because they have no proven record, however they are taking on the same risk if you are a previously unpublished author. The early news that I have heard about them is good. The books they publish are aesthetically pleasing and fun reads. Their website is well designed and easy to use.

Fat Fox publish picture books as well as young fiction (6-9 approx.), fiction (9-12), and young-adult fiction (12-14). They are currently open to submissions in all these categories. They are also looking for illustrators.

They accept all submissions through email. They do not respond to all submissions, but they state very clearly on their site that if you have not heard from them after three months, they are not interested in your work at this time.

If you are submitting a picture book (they are only interested in ones without illustrations), submit the entire manuscript plus the cover letter, which should include a summary of the book, a bio, and some information about who the book is aimed at.

For a fiction book, please submit a cover letter and the first three chapters of your book as well as a rough estimate of the final word count. Manuscripts must be double-spaced in black font on white background.

To learn more, please visit their submission guidelines [here](#).

Flashlight Press: Open to Book Submissions

Flashlight Press focuses on publishing illustrated children's books.

Their books are a lot of fun to read and very well illustrated. They receive a lot of good reviews and are pretty widely available, even outside of the United States. If you are considering submitting to them and are unfamiliar with their books, look for one to read at your local library.

Flashlight Press has won a number of awards for the books they publish, and many of the individual books have received awards. The awards Flashlight Press and individual books have won include: ABC Best of Books Catalog, Comstock Read Aloud Book Award, NY State Charlotte Award, and many others. Flashlight Press has been publishing books since 2006, and all of their back catalog remains in print.

Flashlight Press only publishes two to four books a year. They do not require you to have an agent or previous publishing experience. The editor tries to respond to queries as quickly as possible. The books they publish are targeted at four- to eight-year-olds. The book should be between 500 and 1,000 words in length. It should have a universal theme and deal with a family or social situation.

To submit work to them, you must first email a query letter to the editor; it must not have any attachments, and all the information should be in the body of the email. If they want to see your full manuscript, they will reply within a month.

If your manuscript is requested, they will respond with an acceptance or rejection letter within four months of receiving your manuscript. Unless you

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are an artist, they do not want to see any artwork with your submission. If you are an artist, there is an additional set of guidelines to follow. To learn more visit their website [here](#).

Giant Squid Books

Giant Squid Books is a small publisher that has been around for a little over a year now. They publish e-books and paperbacks (print-on-demand books). They have only published three books so far. They are interested in publishing young-adult books. They do not have any genre restrictions.

Giant Squid is run by a team of two editors. Both editors are relatively inexperienced. The one obvious red flag on the website is the fact that the first book they published is by one of their editors. However, they make that fact known and do not try to hide it.

The website is easy to navigate and focuses on selling books, not recruiting authors. One of the authors that has been published by them has spoken highly of their copywriting and editing abilities and also by the attention given to her book.

The covers are well designed, and the books are easy to buy on the website, which is not always true, even with more established publishers.

They try to respond to all queries within a month. If it has been longer than that, feel free to email them. All queries should include a query letter and the first three chapters of your book OR the first fifty pages of your book, whichever you feel better represents your story and writing. All submissions should be made via email.

The editors go into some of their genre and storytelling preferences in the submission guidelines, which can give you a good idea of what they are interested in, and what they are not. Both are particularly interested in

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compelling characters. To learn more or to submit work, please visit their
website [here](#).

Hotkey Books

Hotkey Books is an imprint of Bonnier Publishing, which is part of the much larger international Bonnier a large media group.

Hotkey Books is based in the UK. They publish books for kids and teens between the ages of eight and eighteen. The cover art for these books is exceptional. They also have a great, easy-to-use website. They even have a map to encourage people to visit them if they are in the UK. I think that their catalog is the best part, and very unique. I encourage you to check it out, in part because it will give you a better idea of what they are looking for.

Their staff list is very impressive; most of the people working there have a great deal of experience. The managing editor previously worked for a number of big name publishers including Penguin and Bloomsbury.

Hotkey Books has some established and respected authors on their list already, including Garth Nix. Hotkey Books has already published a lot of books in a wide variety of genres.

They are open to unsolicited submissions. Submitting work is very easy to do. Just email them a synopsis and the full edited manuscript of your book (as an attachment). They do not respond to every submission, only the ones they are interested in pursuing. So, if you have not heard back from them after six months or so, it is safe to assume they are not interested in your novel.

To learn more visit their website [here](#).

Lacewing Books

Lacewing Books is an imprint of Engine Books, an established small publisher of works of literary merit, including novels and short-story collections.

Lacewing Books is a new imprint and has only been around for a couple of years now. They are interested in publishing YA novels that are literary (or realistic). They are open to genre YA novels only if they are character driven. Some of the editor's favorite YA novelists include Rainbow Rowell and Jay Asher.

They publish just two novels a year, so their acceptance rates are rather low. They have only published three novels previously. Their website is professional and easy to navigate.

It is good to look over their catalog to get a better idea of what they are interested in before submitting. The covers are well designed and appealing. Their books all have blurbs from respected publications and authors.

All submissions should be made through the submission manager Submittable (commonly used by literary journals). When you submit, include a cover letter and the first chapter (maximum 20 pages).

To learn more about submissions, visit their submission page [here](#). To learn more about Lacewings as a whole, visit their website [here](#).

Skypony

Skypony Publishing is a division of Skyhorse Publishing. Skypony focuses on publishing works for children, they are also open to publishing young-adult work as long as it intersects with other areas of interest for the publisher such as ecology, farm living, wilderness living, recycling, and other *green* topics.

They are currently open to submissions of picture books, books aimed at early readers, young-adult novels with a *green* focus, midgrade novels, and informational books for children and young adults. They also consider books with special needs themes such as food allergies and ADHD. They prefer to publish single titles but are open to considering series proposals.

Some of the titles of their most recent books include: *Alpha Goddess*, *The Little Raindrop*, *Jonah and The Whale*, and *Dixie Wants an Allergy*. They have also published a number of craft how-to books and one sequel. Clearly, they publish a larger range of books than just eco-friendly or educational books. *Alpha Goddess*, for example, is a science-fiction influenced young-adult book.

Skypony only considers work submitted electronically via email. They expect all work to be attached either as a Word file or, if it contains images, as a jpg file.

When you submit work, include a query letter that contains relevant information about yourself, including your publishing history, any institutional associations you have, your occupation, and a website link if relevant. If the book is informational, you should include your qualifications.

They do not specifically request a pitch or plot synopsis, but your query letter will look more professional with them. Also, they do not mention anything

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about simultaneous submissions, so you should be fine submitting your work elsewhere at the same time as long as you notify them if your work is accepted elsewhere. To learn more or submit work, please visit their website [here](#).

Tilbury House

Tilbury House is a press based out of Maine that publishes children's and adults nonfiction books. Their focus since the early 90s has been primarily on children's books with a message about the environment, social justice, nature, or cultural diversity. They are often published along with teacher's guides. Most of their books are aimed at children between the ages of seven to twelve. They are not interested in regional children's books.

They have published some very successful children's books, including *Talking Walls*, *Sheila Says We're Weird*, and *Playing War*. Each book has a focused message involving a social issue.

Tilbury House still publishes books aimed at adults, primarily regional nonfiction about Maine or the Northeast. They tend to publish books that you could easily find in local regional museums.

They accept submissions via post (their mailing address is on their website) and via email (but they do not open attachments). When you submit work, make sure to include a query letter, and/or a partial manuscript and an outline. For children's books, they prefer to see a complete manuscript. If you are submitting a complete manuscript, it is probably best to send it in the mail, as they do not open attachments.

Work sent through the mail must be accompanied by a self-addressed and stamped envelope if you want a reply. If you are making simultaneous submissions to other publishers, state that information in your query letter. It takes over a month for them to respond to most queries, so take that into consideration.

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It seems like they have a very clear marketing plan for most books, which is a good thing. This is one reason why they are only interested in such a narrow range of publications. Tilbury House was recently bought by new owners, but they seem to be committed to continuing the vision of the previous owners and very little has changed. If you are interested in learning more or submitting work, please visit their website [here](#).

Triangle Square

Triangle Square is an imprint of Seven Stories Press that focuses on publishing young-adult novels and children's books. Seven Stories Press is an independent publisher that is well respected and has been around for twenty years. Their books are distributed by Random House. You can read our full review of Seven Stories Press, [here](#).

Triangle Square focuses on publishing high-quality writing that is educational. They recently published Pulitzer Prize winner Jared Diamond's first science book for children, *The Third Chimpanzee for Young People*. But they also published an illustrated book called *The Mummy Makers of Ancient Egypt* by Tamara Bowers, and a novel called *Misdirected* by Ali Berman that focuses on such issues as bullying and homophobia.

Their books all have an educational aspect, even if they are fictional. Triangle Square, like Seven Stories Press, has a focus on education and social justice, their audience is just younger.

It is a good idea to look through the books they have previously published so that you know what they are looking for. You could also buy a book, or check out a few of them from your local library.

Their submission policy is the same as Seven Stories Press. All submissions must be made by mail. Just send a cover letter and two sample chapters (no more), along with a self-addressed and stamped envelope or postcard so that they can respond.

Their address is Seven Stories Press, 140 Watts Street, New York, NY, 1013.

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To get a better feeling for what they publish, please visit their website [here](#).

Christian Publishers

Anaiah Press

Anaiah Press is a Christian digital-first publisher. They publish faith-based fiction and nonfiction. They are a relatively small and new publishing house. However, they have a large number of editors for such a small organization and many of the editors have a fair amount of experience. The editors (aside from the managing editor) all have wish lists below their profile. These wish lists make it clear what kind of manuscripts they are particularly interested in.

At this point, they are still a relatively new publisher having been around for little over a year. The cover art appears to have made a marked improvement in this time, but there is still room to grow.

As a Christian press, they do not accept works that are anti-faith, contain gratuitous sex, or encourage religious or social intolerance.

They are accepting manuscript submissions for the following imprints: Anaiah Presence (45,000 – 110,000 words), Anaiah Romance (20,000 – 90,000 words), Anaiah Surge (45,000 – 90,000 words), Anaiah Adventures (up to 60,000 words), and Anaiah Inspirations (20,000 – 90,000 words). The imprints page gives potential submitters a better idea of what each of the imprints are looking for.

They pay royalties of 40% on net for digital format and 9–12% net on all other formats. Right now, they are primarily a digital publisher.

If you are interested in submitting work, send a query letter and the first three chapters in the body of an email to their general submission address or to the editor that you feel would be most interested in your work. They try to contact all submitters within 8–12 weeks. Make sure you mention in your query

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which imprint your work is intended for. To learn more or to submit work,
visit their website [here](#).

Crossroads Publishing

Crossroads Publishing is a large established publisher of Christian and spiritual writing. They should not be confused with other presses with similar names, of which there is at least one. Crossroads has published authors like Mother Teresa, Timothy M. Gallagher, Pope Benedict, and Bernard McGinn. They do not publish fiction.

They publish books on prayer, mysticism, theology, Catholicism, faith and spirituality. It is easy to see what they are particularly interested in publishing by investigating the subcategories of what they publish, which is easy to do on their website. Everything is very clearly organized and the website itself is easy to navigate.

Crossroads Publishing has a good distribution network and you will often find their books in the religious section of brick and mortar bookstores.

They accept unsolicited submissions. They try to respond to all submissions within six to eight weeks, although they acknowledge that this timeline is not always possible. After three months, please query them. They do not always manage to respond to all submissions.

They have very clear guidelines for what they expect writers to submit. You can read those guidelines [here](#). They place particular emphasis on new writers knowing their target audience and being aware of the other books currently on the market for the same audience. They provide PR support for their authors, but expect authors to promote their work through interviews, readings, etc.

Your manuscript does not need to be finished, however it should be close to completion at the time of submission. Make sure to follow their guidelines

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and read their very helpful FAQ section, which is included after the
guidelines.

To learn more, visit their website [here](#).

Dancing With Bear

Dancing With Bear is a print and e-book publisher that publishes exclusively Christian manuscripts. They publish books for adults but they also have a children's line. They are currently open to submissions in all categories and are eager to receive quality work.

Dancing With Bear is run by an author. They know what it is like to publish in this market, and they try to offer the best royalties they can while still making a profit. They pay their authors 50% royalties. Most traditional publishers pay their authors between 10% and 20% percent of the royalties.

Dancing With Bear also provides editing, cover art, ISBNs, and promotional services, and they absorb the cost of those services. It is important to have a publisher that supports you and provides additional editing and promotional services.

They are primarily a print publisher, but they are starting to offer certain titles as e-books. They accept YA (young adult) and children's books as well. These books have a separate set of guidelines available on [their sister site](#).

Dancing With Bear has strict guidelines and is only interested in Christian books that feature traditional evangelical values, so keep that in mind before submitting and make sure to read their full guidelines that include all the details of what they won't publish, and they are rather extreme. For example, they do not publish anything that involves homosexual or bisexual characters, which this reviewer considers discriminatory.

They accept all submissions online, just make sure that your manuscript is attached as a .doc, .docx, or .rtf file. They also want single line spacing,

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standard 12 pt Trebuchet MS font, and one-inch margins (left, right, top and bottom) with a 0.5" indent for the first line of each paragraph only.

All submissions should be thoroughly proofread. They do not want any headers or footers, and they do not want two spaces after punctuation.

They also expect a query letter that includes biographical information. They are open to publishing first-time authors. They try to respond to all submissions within the first four months. If you have not heard back from them by that time, please send them an email query.

In conclusion, if you write for a conservative Christian audience, Dancing with Bear is a great publisher for you; they really support and pay their authors. Learn more at their [website](#).

Ellechor Publishing

Ellechor Publishing is a Christian publisher of print and electronic books. They have a good distribution network, both online and in brick and mortar stores. They started in 2009, and they seem to have improved over time in terms of distribution and cover design. They publish Christian fiction and nonfiction.

Ellechor Publishing also has a vanity publishing arm, but they make it very explicit on their website which option it is, and they state very clearly that they would never reject manuscripts from one of the traditional imprints and refer them to the self/vanity publishing arm.

The other potential red flag I encountered on their site was that while they were well designed and easy to navigate, the main page was more targeted at authors rather than at readers.

That said, the shop section of the site was easy to navigate. The covers looked professionally done.

The one author who has spoken publicly about working with them has said good things in terms of editorial attention and communication. They have quite an extensive staff for such a small publisher. Also, [all their staff bios are listed online](#), which is helpful.

They try to respond to all manuscript submissions within a month. Because of this quick turnaround time, they prefer that you do not simultaneously submit your manuscript elsewhere.

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Right now, they say they are particularly interested in books that fit into the following categories. "We have a growing market for books slanted toward women's concerns and toward the needs of singles and youth in the church."

They have a very extensive [FAQ section on their website](#), which you should read if you are planning to submit your manuscript to them. To submit your manuscript to them, please visit [this page](#).

FaithWalk Publishing

FaithWalk is an independent publisher of Christian books. They try to publish a wide variety of books that will help people wherever they are in their spiritual journey. FaithWalk was founded in 2002, and they now have a wide distribution online, in traditional bookstores, and in Christian bookstores.

Although they do not openly state how many books they publish each year, from browsing their selection I would hypothesize that it is between three and ten books. Currently, the bulk of what they have in print is nonfiction, with only two fiction titles being sold on their website.

A lot of the nonfiction they publish could easily be categorized as memoirs, as they are about someone's personal journey. Even though only one title is listed under the Inspirational Memoir category on their website, there are a number of other books that would fit that are filed under different categories (such as Relationships, Parenting, and Adoption). They have also published a number of bible-based theology books.

FaithWalk accepts manuscript proposals only through the mail. They only respond to proposals that they are interested in. If they take longer than a year to respond (or even six months), it is safe to assume that they are not interested. Because of this, you should not include a self-addressed and stamped envelope.

When you submit via the mail, make sure to include a short query letter, your author bio, a one- or two-page summary of your work, and up to two sample chapters as well as basic marketing information. The marketing information

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should focus on how your work fits within their larger catalog, who would be interested in your work, and how to reach your intended audience.

To learn more about FaithWalk, you can visit their submission guidelines [here](#).
To get a better idea of what they publish, visit their main page and browse their catalog [here](#).

Prism Books

Prism Books is an e-book publishing company with four imprints. They publish a wide variety of books. However, Prism is a Christian company, and while they do not only publish Christian books and their authors do not need to be Christians, they are not interested in publishing books that promote other religions beside Christianity. They are also not interested in hate literature, or manuscripts that portray rape or violence in a positive light.

Prism offers new authors a standard contract that gives authors 40% royalties. Many authors who have published work with them speak highly of Prism and the way they treat their authors.

Prism is currently looking for works of fiction, young-adult novels, romance novels, inspirational novels, and Christian fiction. They have different submission guidelines and expectations for their three main imprints.

Their Diamond imprint is interested in romance novellas starting at 10,000 words and novels that are over 85,000 words in length as well as everything in between. Within the romance genre, they are willing to consider contemporary, historical, comedy, holiday, romantic suspense, supernatural (but no vampires or werewolves), and apocalyptic/futuristic works.

There is no need for these romances to contain anything Christian. However, they will not consider erotica, or anything too scandalous according to their guidelines. Their key focus is on emotions, not physicality.

The Inspired romance imprint has a different editor, but is looking for work largely in the same genres, with the addition of Amish romance. Their key focus is on romance that inspires.

The Illuminate imprint is looking for work in the same genres. The difference here is that it does not have to be a romance book, and it has to be overtly Christian in nature.

Submissions for all publications should be formatted as a .doc or .rtf file. The font should be 12 point New Times Roman. They do not want page numbers or headers and footers.

Each editor has a bio on the site that lists what work they are particularly interested in. You should read that information carefully if you plan to submit work. It is a real advantage as an author to know the specifics of what an editor is looking for. Also, you submit directly to the editor of your choice, which is very unusual.

To learn more about Prism Books, please visit their submission guidelines [here](#).

Wiseblood

Wiseblood is a small independent literary book publisher. They publish a wide range of literary work including short story collections, novels, novellas, literary nonfiction, poetry, and, on occasion, critical or essay works.

They are a Christian publisher that is deeply influenced by Flannery O'Connor's work. Because of this, not all of the work they publish is overtly religious in nature, and they have an imprint for work that is even less overtly religious. The publishers were influenced by writers like P. D. James and David Foster Wallace.

What they are most interested in is the theme of redemption.

They are still a new press, so they are still figuring certain things out. But they seem to be making a great deal of effort to promote their authors by having an established distributor and attending writing conferences. They also try to provide some of the services a larger publishing house would by setting up book reviews and author interviews.

Authors receive 20-50% of all book sales profits. All of the books have a similar feel in terms of covers, because they work with the same illustrator to create compelling covers for all their work. It gives the press a bit of an old fashioned, literary press feel. The books themselves make a strong impression, and I have seen several people buy them based on the cover alone.

Wiseblood only considers manuscripts by authors that have first submitted query letters. They are looking for authors whose work meshes with their publishing mission and ethos. Do attach an excerpt of the manuscript of your

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work to the query letter submission. They prefer manuscripts and excerpts to be submitted as PDFs. All submissions are accepted through email.

Make sure that you browse [their catalog and read their mission statement](#) before editing your query letter and submitting your attached manuscript. They are usually open to submissions during the summer.

To learn more or to submit work, visit their website:

<http://www.wisebloodbooks.com/submissions.html>.

Romance Publishers

As the number of e-readers has rapidly grown, the publishing market has shifted and changed. This has had a huge impact on the self-publishing industry. The media talks about this shift all the time. However, they often neglect to mention the huge impact it has had on the romance publishing industry. There are so many more romance and erotica novels published these days, that it seems like every few days a new romance publisher sprouts out of the woodwork.

This extensive but incomplete list manages to cover a lot of ground, in this list there are traditional print publishers, established romance stalwarts, up and coming e-book publishers, and everything in between. Most focus on romance and are open to erotica, but there are some exceptions. The review makes it clear which publishers are open to which kind of work.

Please note that all of the romance publishers that exclusively publish Christian romance are listed in the Christian chapter of this book. Also, publishers that primarily publish romance but are open to genres outside of that, are listed in the Multi-Genre section of this book.

Amira Press

Amira Press started out as a small e-publisher of romance and erotica and has grown considerably over the years. They have sold a lot of e-books, and now they even have some print editions.

Writers that have been published by Amira speak of them highly. They have good editors and they pay their royalties on a monthly basis. Many authors publish more than one book with them. Each year that they have been around, they have expanded and become more established.

Amira Press pays 40% of cover price on e-book sales from their own site, 30% of cover price from other sites (with a few exceptions—details available in the contract) and 8.5% of cover price on print book sales. All books over 50,000 words in length appear to have a print edition.

They are fine with receiving manuscripts that were also submitted elsewhere as long as you let them know, but they are not interested in working with agents.

There are also a number of things they are never interested in, such as books that contain a scene glorifying rape or the exploitation of children. The full list is available on their site.

When you submit to them via email, make sure that you follow all their guidelines as outlined on their site.

Also, make sure to include a fully detailed plot synopsis and a promotional plan for your novel. These are pretty standard requests from smaller publishers in any genre.

To learn all the details about submitting work, or to learn more about the company, visit their [website](#).

Avon Impulse

Avon Romance is a romance imprint of HarperCollins. Avon Impulse is their digital-first imprint, and they publish primarily new authors because of this. If your book does well in terms of digital sales and it is over 25,000 words in length, it will receive a print run and receive good distribution. Books that receive a print run are officially published by Avon Romance (and not Impulse) for the print edition only.

They try to publish a number of books every month. They have experienced editors and marketers to help authors out, and they try to give a lot of personalized feedback and support. Avon Impulse really focuses on publishing e-books that sell well, and they know a lot about online marketing specifically. They put a lot of effort into promoting the books and authors that they publish.

They do not offer advances for most books, but royalties start at 25% and move up to 50% after the first 10,000 copies are sold.

At this time, they are particularly interested in publishing books that fall into the following categories: romantic suspense, super sexy contemporaries, trilogies—and beyond, and historical romance with a hook.

You submit using an easy-to-fill-out online form. You do not submit to a specific editor. Your work does not need to be formatted in any specific way as long as it is readable. They try to respond to all submissions within six months.

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They have additional tips for how to make your manuscript stand out [here](#). To visit Avon Romances main page [go here](#). To learn more about the editors that work there and their personal preferences [go here](#).

Beachwalk Press

Beachwalk Press is an independent publisher that was started in 2011 by Pamela Tyner. They largely publish romantic e-books, but some of their books have been released in print as well. Most of the books they publish are on the sensual side. They are open to romances in all subgenres except for young-adult romances.

Beachwalk Press has well-chosen covers, and they advertise their books and send out a number of review copies each time a new book is released. The royalties amount to 45% of the cover price for e-book sales originating from their website. For other retail distributors, they pay 45% of net sales. Royalties are distributed quarterly.

Their goal is to publish books within six months of signing the contract and, from what I have read, so far they have not had an issue of meeting that goal. All manuscripts are edited by one of Beachwalk's editors after the contract is signed.

[The About Us](#) section of the site is worth reading, as it lists the genre preferences of each of the four editors at Beachwalk. Information like that can be very helpful when you are submitting your book. That section also lists the individual editor's email address, and if you have any specific questions about what you read, you can email them directly.

Submissions are only accepted through email. Submissions can be no less than 15,000 words and no more than 75,000 words. They try to respond to all submissions within three months. The subgenres of romance they publish include BDSM (bondage & discipline / sadism & masochism), contemporary

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romance, fantasy, futuristic/sci-fi, gay/lesbian, historical, interracial, May-December romance, menage, paranormal, suspense, and time travel.

They are open to re-publishing previously published books as long as you can verify that you hold exclusive rights to the work. If you were to sign with them, they would hold the electronic rights to publishing your book for three years.

To learn more about Beachwalk or to submit work to them, visit their website [here](#).

Boroughs Publishing Group

Boroughs Publishing Group is an e-publisher that focuses on publishing romance novels, novellas, and short stories. Within the romance genre, they are interested in publishing a large number of subgenres including contemporary romance, young adult, historical fiction, paranormal, urban fantasy, multicultural, erotic, thrillers, and fantasy novels.

Boroughs Publishing Group has been around now for over three years. The editor at the helm, Chris Keesler, has a good reputation. The company seems to be consistently growing. The website is aesthetically pleasing, easy to navigate, and focuses on selling books rather than recruiting authors (always a good sign).

Many authors that have signed with them have stayed on with the company after the release of their first book. Their books have well-designed covers and overall they appear to be more professionally edited than most e-romance books.

All submissions are accepted electronically. You can submit via email or through their online submission manager. They are open to backlisted books but only if you query first. If you are an unpublished author, you must submit a completed manuscript. If you are an author who has been previously published, you can submit just the first three chapters.

They accept simultaneous submissions as long as you inform them of that fact in the cover letter. Novellas should be between 30,000 and 40,000 words in length and novels should be between 70,000 and 120,000 words in length.

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Submissions to their lunchbox romance line must be already-completed manuscripts that are between 6,000 and 12,000 words in length.

All stories must focus on romance, but any heat level is fine. You can submit more than one manuscript at a time, but they must be submitted separately. If you have written a series, tell them, but only submit the first novel.

They try to respond to all submissions within eight weeks and you are encouraged to query them after that point.

To read their full submission guidelines, visit them [here](#). To learn more about the books they have previously published, visit their main page [here](#).

Evernight Publishing

Evernight is an e-book publisher of romance and erotica novels that is currently open to submissions from writers. They also publish print versions of some books. They publish a lot of books and have a relatively high acceptance rate. Most authors that are published by them seem to have had an overall good experience. A number of the books they have published have been on the Amazon bestseller list.

The books they publish are all romance and erotica but they are open to a lot of subgenres within these genres. These subgenres include YA romance, western, science fiction, holiday, and many more. All of the subgenres of romance have to have a happily ever after (HEA) or a happy for now (HFN) ending. They also publish a number of anthologies, so they are open to short stories as well.

They are very upfront about their royalty rates. They are listed below.

Authors earn 45% of gross royalties from sales off their website and 45% net royalties from their distributors. Anthology authors earn 50% gross royalties from sales off their website and 50% net royalties from their distributors.

They are currently accepting submissions of completed manuscripts of 8,000 to 100,000 words in all the subgenres of romance and erotic romance that they publish, as well as some urban fantasy.

Readers seem to really be drawn to their covers. From the reviews I have read, I personally do not see the appeal, but I am not their market audience.

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They are open to most subjects appearing in their books, but they will not allow the following: NO pedophilia, bestiality, incest, infidelity, rape as titillation, necrophilia, underage sex, or depraved acts.

They expect the manuscript to be edited before you submit it, which most likely means that it will not be edited much beyond that, although they do not explicitly state that on their website. Individuals who have worked with them have commented on that fact. Also, they appear to be leery of working with agents. However, even in the year since this review was originally written, their reputation as a romance publisher seems to have increased.

To learn more, visit their website [here](#). To read their complete submission guidelines, visit this [page](#).

Harlequin

Harlequin is easily the most famous romance-only publisher out there. In fact, their name was synonymous with romance novels when I was growing up. They have a wide distribution network, from grocery stores to bookstores; they are everywhere. They became an imprint of Harper Collins a few years ago.

Most of the famous romance writers from Mercedes Lackey to Nora Roberts and Christopher Rice, got their start at Harlequin.

Their submission process is very user friendly. First, you create one account, with that one account you can submit to any of their divisions. After creating an account, you fill out a form and upload a synopsis and a manuscript. If your manuscript is rejected from one division, you can always submit it to another.

Each division has a different focus, different editors, and different guidelines. So, everything from the length of the manuscript to the content has to match the guidelines for that division. The divisions operate very separately from one another, many are not geographically close, and some are located in Canada and some in the States.

Harlequin has so many divisions that focus on different subgenres in romance that it might take you a while just to figure out what might be the best fit for your manuscript. Different divisions are open to different heat levels. Heat levels in the context of romance novels is a scale that measures what amount of romantic/sexual details are allowed in that particular division.

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Different divisions focus on publishing everything from medical romance novels to paranormal romance novels, to Christian romance suspense novels to Westerns. So, read up on all the divisions to make sure you are submitting to the one that fits your work the best.

In the past, Harlequin had a reputation for having contracts that are unfavorable to authors. They were successfully sued recently by a group of authors over contract issues. However, the situation seems to have improved somewhat since their acquisition by Harper Collins.

To learn more, visit their main website [here](#). You can also visit their index of divisions and submission guidelines [here directly](#).

Omnific Publishing

Omnific Publishing is a romance publishing company that publishes digital books. Omnific started in 2009. At first, it seemed like they faced a learning curve to a certain degree. However, they have turned into a successful publishing company, regularly landing books on the Kindle bestsellers lists. Also, a number of their books have been picked up by larger publishing companies for the print editions. One of their books was even given a seven-figure advance to be made into a movie. All this has happened in less than five years.

Omnific Publishing started out by publishing a number of stories by authors of fan-fiction (fiction written by a fan of, and featuring characters from, a particular TV series, movie, etc.). Of course, for legal reasons, the authors had to change the names and elements of the characters, etc. The works they published were largely set in an alternate universe (this kind of writing is known as AU in the fan-fiction community). Most works set in an alternate universe are very different from the original TV show, movie, or book to begin with. This was a smart move on Omnific's part as many of these authors and stories already had established followings. Remember, *50 Shades of Grey* started out as *Twilight* fan-fiction, although it was not published by Omnific.

It seems like most of the newer work they publish does not have fan-fiction origins. Omnific, over time, seems to have leaned towards romance publishing and their tagline is "romance without the rules."

In July, 2014, Gallery Books entered a co-publishing agreement with Omnific Publishing. Because of that agreement, the Gallery Books and Pocket Books imprints will co-publish with Omnific a select number of titles in print and

electronic formats. Additionally, Simon & Schuster will now serve as the exclusive distributor of all other Omnific titles.

They accept submissions in all subgenres of romance, including historical, young adult, contemporary, paranormal, new adult, and erotic romance. They will consider manuscripts between 60,000 and 80,000 words, but only with the understanding that the book will have to be edited down to a maximum of 75,000 words before being published. Also, shorter works are considered under the condition that they will be anthologized.

When you initially contact them, you do so through an easy-to-fill-out submission form on their website. If you are interested in learning more or submitting work, visit their website [here](#).