

Authors Publish

The 2016 Guide to

**Manuscript
Publishers**

**104 Publishers that
Don't Require Agents**

Emily Harstone

Authors Publish

The 2016 Guide to
Manuscript
Publishers

105 Traditional Book
Publishers
That Don't Require Agents

Emily Harstone

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Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION..... 12

NONFICTION PUBLISHERS..... 18

Adams Media.....	19
Andrews McMeel Publishing.....	21
Barricade Books.....	23
BenBella.....	26
Cengage Learning.....	28
Chronicle Books.....	30
Duke University Press.....	32
Hohm Press:.....	34
Measure Press.....	36
Melville House.....	38
Oneworld Publishing.....	39
Osprey Publishing.....	41
Parenting Press.....	43
Prometheus Books.....	45

Skyhorse Publishing.....47

Source Books..... 49

Soft Skull Press..... 51

The New Press..... 53

Ulysses Press.....55

LITERARY FICTION PUBLISHERS.....57

8th House Publishing..... 58

Black Balloon Publishing..... 61

Casperian Books..... 63

Persea Books.....65

Platypus Press..... 67

Seven Stories Press..... 69

SOLID OBJECTS..... 71

MULTI-GENRE PUBLISHERS.....73

All Things That Matter Press..... 74

Ashland Creek Press..... 76

Back Hall Press..... 78

BelleBooks/BelleBridge..... 80

Big World Network.....	82
Black & White Publishing.....	85
Blue Tulip Publishing.....	87
Bold Strokes.....	89
Clean Reads.....	91
Cohesion Press.....	94
Crooked Cat.....	96
Endeavor Press.....	98
Fireship Press.....	100
Joffe Books.....	102
JollyFish Press:.....	104
Lakewater Press.....	106
Solstice Publishing.....	109
Speaking Volumes.....	111
The Wild Rose Press.....	113
WiDo Publishing.....	116
SCIENCE FICTION, HORROR, AND FANTASY PUBLISHERS.....	118
Angry Robot.....	119

Baen.....	121
DAW.....	123
Double Dragon.....	125
Edge.....	127
Ghost Pines Publishing.....	129
Ghostwoods Books.....	131
Great Old Ones.....	133
Hydra.....	135
Ticonderoga Publications.....	137
Tor/Forge.....	139
Brash Books.....	142
Felony & Mayhem.....	144
Five Star.....	146
Hard Case Crime.....	148
Seventh Street Press.....	150
Tyrus Books.....	152
WITNESS Impulse.....	154

CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULT BOOK PUBLISHERS..... 156

ABDO.....	157
Absey & Company.....	159
Alloy Entertainment.....	161
Blaze.....	164
Eifrig.....	166
Fat Fox Books.....	168
Flashlight Press.....	169
Giant Squid Books.....	171
Holiday House.....	173
Hotkey Books.....	175
Merit Press.....	177
Pajama Press.....	179
Peachtree Publishers.....	181
Skypony.....	183
Tilbury House.....	185
Triangle Square.....	187
CHRISTIAN PUBLISHERS.....	189
Anaiah Press.....	190

Crossroads Publishing.....192

Dancing With Bear.....194

Ellechor Publishing.....196

FaithWalk Publishing.....198

Paulist Press.....200

Pelican Book Group.....202

Wiseblood.....204

ROMANCE PUBLISHERS.....206

Avon Impulse.....207

Beachwalk Press.....209

Boroughs Publishing Group.....211

Crimson Romance.....213

Desert Breeze.....215

Entangled Publishing.....217

Evernight Publishing.....219

Harlequin.....221

Loose ID:.....223

Omnific Publishing.....225

Siren Bookstrand.....227

Soul Mate Publishing.....229

The Totally Entwined Group.....231

Tule Publishing.....233

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR MANUSCRIPT FOR PUBLICATION.....235

GLOSSARY.....240

Introduction

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

All of the reviews in this book were originally published in our magazine. The reviews have been updated to reflect any changes that have occurred within the company since the original review took place. This was an important and time-consuming project. Some of the changes that occurred with a publisher were minor; others were not. Many print companies who we reviewed early on have since started new digital first imprints.

Fifteen of the publishers in the first edition of the book have been removed from the second edition of this book because they either started charging submission fees, closed to unsolicited submissions, or went out of business entirely. Around half of the publishers that did not make it into the second edition were removed because they closed to unsolicited submissions, and now they accept only agented submissions.

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, instead 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 in this book 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 not worth your time. 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 firmly belong 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 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. This is our second edition. Since the release of our first edition our subscribers have reported finding homes for their manuscripts at the following presses: Big World Network, Omnific Publishing, Beachwalk Press, Endeavor Press, All Things That Matter Press, Blue Tulip, and Brash Books.

If you submit a manuscript to a publisher after reading this book and it is accepted, please send an email containing the good news to support@authorspublish.com.

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 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 sending them.

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

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. They have published many bestselling non-fiction books.

Adams Media has three publishing imprints that specialize in different genres and subject matters. But the main branch is only interested in nonfiction.

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.

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 150 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 also publish middle grade children's books. 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](#).

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.

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.

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 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 expertness about the topic you are proposing 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](#).

Chronicle Books

Chronicle is an established and respected publisher of cookbooks, gift books, anthologies, children's books, 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 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 only reviewing and recommending Chronicle as a potential publisher 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 aimed at adults submitted electronically or through the mail.

They only consider manuscripts aimed at children if they are submitted via post. 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. Scroll down on the same page to read the submission guidelines for all other books.

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.

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](#).

Hohm Press:

A small print publisher based out of Arizona, Hohm has been around for many years. They are a respected press that has published a number of well known authors. They publish a wide variety of genres, including poetry, non-fiction, and children's books. They generally focus on eastern religion and spirituality. They are not interested in fiction or short story collections.

Their website is very basic. It is not very easy to navigate and it is hard to find out information about the press itself on the website. I also noticed a couple of minor, confusing errors. The majority of sales they make are elsewhere on the web or in brick and mortar bookstores, so it makes sense that not that much effort is put into their website.

The covers of their books are largely well designed and appealing.

You must query first. They are not interested in unsolicited manuscripts, only queries. When you query them include a query letter and a small representative sample from the book. It should not be more than 20 pages in length.

It is important to note that while they publish children's books they are about nursing and breastfeeding and they are aimed at children and parents, so this is not the best place to submit most children book manuscripts to.

To learn more visit their submission guidelines [here](#). Before you submit your query, I highly recommend that you review their catalog.

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 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](#).

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. But at the time of writing this book they are not accepting any fiction submissions but they hope to reopen to fiction at some points.

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. 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](#).

Osprey Publishing

Osprey Publishing is a company that focuses on a niche market and has good distribution. I have seen and purchased a number of their books in brick and mortar bookstores.

Osprey publishes non-fiction books, focusing on military history. They also produce historical themed military adventure games.

They are currently only accepting unsolicited proposals for manuscripts that fit into one of their already established series of books. Thankfully, their existing series of books cover a wide variety of topics. Also, many of the series are very broad and unfocused. For example one of the series is called General Military. Others are much more specific, such as Aircraft of the Aces.

All the series names can be seen on a drop down menu on the left hand side of the homepage. You can then click on the title of the series in order to see what books they have already published within that series.

Like many non-fiction publishers, they offer contracts based on proposals, not on completed manuscripts. You do not need to write a book in order to submit it to them. If they are interested in your proposal they will request additional information before proceeding to a contract.

They accept proposal submissions via post and email. To submit please write a short synopsis of not more than 2,000 words. They request that

your synopsis include “a brief overview of the nature of your proposal and outline of chapter headings and content; a list of available source material on which the research will be based; sample copies of illustrations that will accompany the title or article, together with details of where others will be obtained from.”

To learn more about submissions visit their contact page [here](#). Then make sure to click on the subheading Proposals/Writing for Osprey. To learn more about what they have previously published, visit their main page [here](#).

Parenting Press

Parenting Press is a publisher that has been around for 35 years. They have good distribution and they focus on publishing work in a specific, niche market that they know well.

The goal of Parenting Press is to publish books that teach practical skills to parents, children, and people who take care of children.

They try to publish books that are nonjudgmental and focus on providing options rather than “shoulds.” Their books tend to be on the short side.

They should present information in an accessible way. They field test all books prior to publication.

They do not publish fiction, children’s books, autobiographies or biographies, religious books, parenting books based on an author’s experience with one child or family, academic or theoretical works, craft books, or poetry.

Their website is outdated, a little hard to navigate, and overwhelming, however they have a respected free weekly e-newsletter that they have been putting out for some time now.

They only accept submissions through the mail. If you do not have a completed manuscript at this time, that is fine. Like many non-fiction publishers, they consider unfinished manuscripts. Submit as much of the

manuscript as you can to them. If you have a completed manuscript, submit it.

Also make sure to submit a query letter that talks about why you are qualified to write the manuscript you are submitting, and what the manuscript is about in terms of ideas. More detailed guidelines are available on their website [here](#).

They respond to all submissions within four months. If they really like what they see they will offer a contract. If they are interested but think that your writing needs refining they will connect you with a professional writer to help you prepare to resubmit the manuscript.

To know more details about what to submit it is helpful to browse the catalog to see what they have previously published. You can access their catalog [here](#).

Prometheus Books

Prometheus Books is a large established publisher of what they like to call “intelligent non-fiction”.

They specialize in publishing non-fiction books that fall into the following categories: Popular science, philosophy, atheism, humanism, and critical thinking.

They are distributed by Random House.

Prometheus books was started in 1969 by the philosopher Paul Kurtz, who was also the founder of the Council for Secular Humanism. Since 1969 they have published over 2,500 books

The authors they have published include Isaac Asimov, Pulitzer prize winner Tom Toles, S. T. Joshi, Philip J. Klass, and Julian Huxley.

If you are interested in submitting they request that you submit a letter of inquiry first. The letter introduces your topic and briefly outlines your project. This letter should also discuss relevant competing works, the potential market, the availability of the complete manuscript (or its likely completion date), and the manuscript’s (proposed) length. You should also submit a copy of your CV or resume that includes publishing history.

All letters of inquiry must be mailed to Prometheus. They do not read emailed quires.

You can read their complete submission guidelines [here](#). You can get a better idea for what they publish by browsing their catalog [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](#).

Source Books

A large independent publisher based out of Illinois, they also have offices in Connecticut and New York. Source books was started in 1987 by Dominique Raccach. They also have several imprints all founded within the last decade. They started out publishing business books but then expanded to gift books. A number of books they have published have been New York Times Bestsellers, including *We Interrupt This Broadcast*, *And The Crowd Goes Wild* both by Joe Garner.

They now publish fiction and nonfiction in a large variety of genres. A good way to get a feel for what they publish is to browse their catalog [here](#).

They only accept unsolicited adult fiction in the romance genre. You can read their romance submission guidelines [here](#).

They are interested in nonfiction submissions in the following categories: memoir, history, college reference and study aids, entertainment, general self-help/psychology, business, parenting and special needs parenting, health, beauty, reference, education, biography, love, relationships, gift books and women's issues.

All submissions must be made via email. They try to respond to all submissions within 10 weeks.

To learn more about their submission guidelines you can go to their main page [here](#).

Soft Skull Press

Soft Skull Press is a small publisher of literary fiction and non fiction based out of California. They publish a wide variety of quirky and well written work. They have published a number of well known authors, including Maggie Nelson.

They are a niche press. Their distributor is Publishers Group West. They are now an imprint of Counterpoint Press.

They are open to unsolicited queries of nonfiction only. For literary work they require an agent.

The non fiction they publish includes history, memoir, literary biography, religion and philosophy, and natural history.

Send a query letter, a detailed proposal, and two sample chapters via the mail. They will not consider queries submitted electronically.

Their mailing address is as follows:

Editorial Submissions
Soft Skull Press
c/o Counterpoint LLC
2560 Ninth Street, Ste. 318
Berkeley, CA 94710

They only respond to proposals they are interested in, due to high volume of submissions. So there is no need to include a self addressed and stamped envelope.

To learn more about what they publish you can see their catalog [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.

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

Ulysses Press

Ulysses Press is an independent publisher that has been around for almost a decade. They focus on publishing non-fiction books aimed at niche markets. It is a good idea to go through their catalog before submitting to see if your work is a good fit for their press.

They are looking for books on the forefront of emerging trends, books that have a unique angle on an established topic, or books that fill a demonstrated niche in the trade book market.

Genres they publish include Cleanse, Arts and Crafts, Coloring, Gifty Grabs, Fashion and Beauty, Healthy Eating, Krav Maga, Mmm Bites, Pop Culture, Prepping (for the apocalypse), Fitness, Special Diets, Trivia, Working Out, Rehab and Injury Prevention.

Submissions must be made by post. Submitters should expect to wait at least three months before hearing a response. Make sure you include self-addressed stamped envelope and your email addresses. Acceptances, rejections, and other correspondence may be conducted via e-mail. Inclusion of a working e-mail address may dramatically reduce response times.

Please submit a brief synopsis of the project that is no more than 2 pages in length. Include an annotated table of contents, 1-2 sample chapters, and an author biography. Also include your market research that contains a

description of the target audience, and a brief comparison of competitive titles.

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

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 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.

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

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. It has historically started on Memorial day and ended a month later.

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.

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. To learn more, 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.

As of March 1, 2016, due to high volume, they no longer respond to email queries unless they are interested.

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.

You should make sure to study their backlist 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](#).

Platypus Press

Platypus Press is a publisher of prose and poetry. They are a new publisher based out of the UK. They have been around for less time than most of the publishers we review. However, because so few presses take poetry without charging submission fees to writers, we decided to review them anyways.

They are open to a wide variety of genres, but they don't go into the specifics of what the genres are. Their only guidelines for fiction are no erotica, horror, fan fiction, or religious material.

For poetry they are not interested in rhyming poems or works in translation. My general impression is that they are interested in publishing work with a literary aesthetic.

Their website is aesthetically pleasing and easy to use. The books they've published have excellent covers and are available in print and electronic versions. The emphasis is on selling books, not recruiting authors, which is always good.

Platypus Press also publishes an online literary journal called WILDNESS, so if you don't want commit a whole book to a fledgling press, you could try submitting a piece or two to WILDNESS instead. You can learn more about the literary journal [here](#).

So far they have published only three books and have one more that will be released soon. The main red-flag with the press is that two of the three books they have published so far have been written by the editors/owners of the press (who are in a relationship).

Your manuscript must be complete to submit, but it is fine to just submit the first three chapters of a novel.

Manuscripts must be submitted via email. Simultaneous submissions are fine. They try to respond to all submissions within a month.

To learn more visit their website [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 will not respond to submissions that do not follow their guidelines. 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.

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](#).

Ashland Creek Press

Ashland Creek Press is a boutique press dedicated to publishing books with a world view. The fiction and non-fiction they publish is about the environment, animal protection, ecology, and wildlife. Books they have published have received critical acclaim from a number of magazines including *Publishers Weekly*, *Library Journal*, *Booklist*, and *Kirkus Reviews*.

They are open to many genres (including young adult, mystery, literary fiction) as long as the stories focus on the environment, animal protection, ecology, or wildlife, or some combination of those themes. They want to publish engaging and well written stories about these themes. They do not publish children's books or books of poetry.

Ashland Creek Press is an established publisher with experienced editors, a great website, and wonderful covers. If your writing includes the themes they publish, they could provide a very good home for your book.

For all submissions make sure that you include in a single document a 1-2 page synopsis of the manuscript (including word count), and the first 50 pages, as well as an author bio that includes credits, awards, and experience. If you have been publishing your work in literary journals that will help your bio. Include a valid email address, mailing address, and phone number in the document.

They consider works that were previously self published as long as you retain all rights to the publication. They ask that you include details about its previous publication.

Ashland Creek Press tries to respond to all submissions within 1-3 months. Do not query before 3 months have passed.

They also have a non-fiction animal anthology open to submissions which you can learn more about [here](#).

To visit their main website click [here](#). To learn more about what they have published visit their catalog [here](#). To learn about their submission guidelines or to submit visit their Submittable page [here](#).

Back Hall Press

A digital first publisher that wants to carve out a new and inclusive space on the progressive edge of genre fiction. They are eager to highlight new and unpublished writers, writers of color, women/non-binary writers, GLBTQ writers, niche genres and innovative styles. Back Hall Press is seeking manuscripts in a wide range of genres including sci-fi, slipstream, mystery, horror, and all subcategories of romance.

They do not publish young adult books but they publish new adult books, featuring characters ranging in age from 18 to mid-20s. These books should contain lots of drama. Intensity is key: love triangles, dystopian settings, and major angst work well in this genre.

They are open to all subgenres of romance including M/M, historical, GLBTQ, multiples, historical, contemporary, and more. Erotic romance and explicit scenes are welcome in the context of a well-developed story.

Back Hall is open to all subgenres of science fiction particularly speculative, dystopian, apocalyptic, and dark fantasy stories. They are seeking mystery, horror and slipstream manuscripts featuring well-developed characters and new twists on old tropes. Magical realism and genre-bending concepts are welcome. They are particularly interested in working with fanfiction writers.

They are small and new at this point. Currently they have only published four books by two authors. However they have editors, designers, and

marketing. They also have distribution and established channels for print, if your book is chosen to be published in print as well as digital. However, there is very little information about the editor's experience on the website and the website is more aimed at writers and readers, so take that into consideration and proceed with caution.

They have clear and detailed submission guidelines on 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 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](#).

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](#).

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.

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](#).

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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 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.

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 in house, beyond a final prepublication round of copy editing.

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

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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 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](#).

JollyFish Press:

JollyFish Press was started in 2012. They are based out of Provo, Utah. Jollyfish has a major distributor and a large staff for a relatively new press. Their authors have won numerous awards.

Jollyfish publishes commercial and literary fiction, historical, fantasy, sci-fi, mystery, humor, horror, thriller, middle-grade, and young adult. They also publish motivational non-fiction, self-help, biography, and memoir.

In their own words they are particularly interested in “upmarket women’s fiction that is emotional in unpredictable ways; science fiction and fantasy with an epic and visual scope; thrillers with strong, carefully crafted characters and a unique voice; and unconventional love stories.”

Their covers are well designed and appealing. It is easy to get a better idea of what they publish by browsing their [titles](#). Their website is well organized and easy to navigate. It is oriented more towards selling books than recruiting authors.

You can learn more about the press and their staff, on the [about us](#) page. The information included in the acquisitions editors bios are particularly helpful to help you know more about what they are interested in specifically.

To query them about a fiction manuscript please send one a one page query letter, a one page synopsis that includes spoilers, and the first three chapters. Your manuscript must already be complete.

Non-fiction manuscripts do not need to be complete, but you must make the status of the manuscript clear in your query letter. They accept very few non-fiction manuscripts, so do keep that in mind. Please submit a one page query letter and a thorough book proposal.

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

Lakewater Press

Lakewater Press is a newer eBook and print on demand (POD) publisher. They were founded in early 2015. They publish a wide variety of fiction. They appear to be open to all genres of fiction including young adult, new adult (18-30), and romance.

It is important to keep in mind that at this point they have only published 4 books although they have a number planned for release later this year.

They have a small easy to navigate website. I personally do not like their covers. Most of the website seems to be illustrated by the same person.

Lakewater Press has a small editorial team, whose previous experience is mostly from the writing side of the table. One of their editors appears to also be published by the press. The rest do not seem to be.

In the [about us](#) section of the website they break down which editors are open to submissions and which ones are not. They also go into editors personal preferences which can be very helpful.

Put your name and which editor you believe to be the best fit, in your subject line. Submit a cover letter and the first chapter in the body of an email to contact@lakewaterpress.com.

Read their full submission guidelines [here](#).

Pen-L

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 all accept all submissions via submission manager and they have a much quicker turn around 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 at [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 six imprints that cover everything from faith to erotica. They really publish a wide range of genres.

They consider work that has been previously published or self published but NOT if it is currently up for sale at the time the book is submitted to them.

The manuscript you submit to them should already be edited and polished. All submissions must be made through submittable.

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

Speaking Volumes

Speaking Volumes is an independent publisher based out of Naples, Florida. They started out just publishing Audio books, but now they also publish eBooks and paperbacks. At their [About Us](#) page, you can learn more about the company and the current staff. Their books are widely available and they publish a number of established authors.

According to their website they are interested in “Fiction, Non-Fiction, Novels, Novellas, and collections of Short Stories in the following genres: Science Fiction, Mystery, Romance, Action Adventure, Horror, Young-Adult, Children’s, Folklore, Poetry and Scholarly works.”

To get a better feeling for what they publish you can browse their author list [here](#) or their complete catalog [here](#).

They are open to publishing work that has been previously published as long as all the rights have reverted back to the author. They expect all submissions to be copy-edited beforehand.

To query them, email them the manuscript, a synopsis of the content, and the authors resume and cover letter. They will only review manuscript submissions by email, but if your book has been previously published you can mail them the hard copy.

Audio submissions must be made to a separate editor and email address.

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

The Wild Rose Press

The Wild Rose Press is an established small press that publishes full-length manuscripts.

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.

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 respond to queries within thirty days and to full length manuscript submissions within three months. Only send them your full-length manuscript for their consideration if they respond positively to your query letter.

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](#).

WiDo Publishing

A small family run publisher, WiDo publishes fiction and nonfiction books. They are currently particularly interested in science fiction, fantasy, mystery/suspense, and nonfiction essay collections and memoirs.

WiDo started out publishing their own work, but have since expanded significantly. They have been around for five years. Some writers seem to love working with them, praising the edits and attention their books receive, others do not feel like the contract works and the amount of promotion the publisher does seems insufficient to them. Make sure you are comfortable with the contract particularly in terms of rights reverting back to the author.

They have generally have good, well designed covers. The website is orientated towards selling books, not recruiting authors.

Submissions are accepted through email only. Please submit only the first three chapters of your work as a .doc or pdf attachment. The query letter must be in the body of the email itself. As part of your cover letter make sure to include information about yourself and your work, as well as contact information.

If they are seriously considering accepting your manuscript they will request a promotion plan, so if you want to publish with WiDo, take that into consideration. Many smaller publishers now request promotion plans, sometimes at the time of submission, sometimes right before acceptance.

They do make it clear that they expect each author to be active in social media before and after the book's release.

They stress the role and importance of editors even as part of their submission guidelines. Unlike some other small presses, they seem to take edits very seriously, and they do not expect the author to find and pay for editorial help elsewhere. Everything is taken care of by the publisher, as it should be with traditional publishing.

They recently added an imprint which is actually a vanity publishing arm, so I will be monitoring that development closely.

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

Science Fiction, Horror, and Fantasy Publishers

Science fiction, horror, 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/or fantasy book is aimed at children or young adults, you should check that section as well.

Some of the publishers in this section accept submissions in all three genres, some in two of the three, and some, only of of three.

Angry Robot

Angry Robot is a respected science fiction and fantasy publisher that occasionally dips into related genres (such as urban fantasy, steampunk, and horror). Angry Robot was originally funded by HarperCollins. They are now part of Watkins Media Ltd. They offer advances and good royalty rates. The contract they offer covers print, e-book, and audio book rights.

They are based in the UK but have excellent distribution in the US, Australia, New Zealand, and the UK. They have published several well known authors including Chuck Wendig and K.W. Jeter. Books they have published have gone on to win major awards including the Arthur C. Clarke Award, the Hugo Award, the Prometheus Award, the Aurealis, and Ditmar award.

Angry Robot has one to two open reading periods a year, where they consider unsolicited and unagented manuscripts. A number of the award winning books they have published were discovered during previous open reading periods. Check their website to see if an open reading period is currently occurring.

Beyond normal marketing measures, they also have an effective way of connecting with their fan base which is called the “Robot Army”, a street team of bloggers, reviewers and influential commentators from the science fiction world

To submit, send a 2-3 page synopsis of your book along with the first few chapters (no more than 10,000 words). Include a one sentence summary of your novel on the first page. Make sure to include your name, contact details, and the word count of the finished novel. If the book is the start of a series make sure to mention that. Include information about yourself only if it is relevant. Put all of this in one document.

All submissions must be made through Submittable. You will receive an automated confirmation email.

Submission guidelines and answers to frequently asked questions are [available here](#). To get a better sense of what they have published previously browse their catalog [here](#).

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 *Predictor & 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.

Double Dragon

Double Dragon Publishing is a publisher currently focused on publishing Science Fiction, Horror, Thriller/Suspense and Dark Fantasy. This includes Hard (Science) SF, Space Fiction, Future Fiction, Lost Civilizations, Utopias, Dystopias, Disaster Novels, Alternate Histories, Time Travel, Parallel Worlds, etc. They publish individual novels as well as series.

Digital publishers that have been around for 15 years are hard to find, for reasons that should be obvious. Double Dragon has been publishing e-books for that long. In 2016 they are starting to offer print versions of their books for the first time. An unusual course for a publisher, but Double Dragon has managed to establish themselves well.

Most authors seem relatively happy with the publisher. Often authors have stayed with them for a number of books and praise the editorial process. Although most authors stress that Double Dragon does not put much effort into promoting their books.

However, there has been two issues of major complaint. The first is that at least one author was not offered editing after their work was accepted. Even though Double Dragons has a reputation and a history of editing all their books. The second is that one author who contributed to an anthology has claimed that she was not paid, and that they continued to sell the

anthology after the contract on it expired. You can read about both matters [here](#).

The royalties they offer are 30-40 % of the amount received from a reseller, and 8 % of the cover price for print books.

Learn more at their website [here](#). If you do decide to submit to them, please be sure to follow their formatting guidelines.

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.

Ghost Pines Publishing

Ghost Pines Publishing is an independent press dedicated to dark fantasy fiction. They go to great length to define the term dark fantasy, but the main points appear to be that dark fantasy is sympathetic to the monsters themselves and it is set in a contemporary setting with fantasy elements. So think of series like *The Dresden Files*, rather than *Harry Potter* or *Supernatural*.

They are primarily interested in publishing series, but they are open to stand alone novels, short stories, and novellas. Ghost Pines only publishes 1-2 full length titles per year. They have been around since 2011 and since then have managed to place most of the books they have published on one Amazon bestseller list or another. They are primarily focused on digital publishing.

They were initially funded by a group of venture capitalists, which strikes me as odd, because that is rare in the publishing industry. I also am uncomfortable with the fact that their website does not focus on selling books.

However, they have been around for a while and appear to be legitimate. Watchdog sites do not have much information available on them.

Please query first before submitting. All submissions are made via email. They offer advances for some books and pay all manuscript authors royalties. Authors of short stories and novellas are paid a lump sum, that is

equal to about 10 dollars per manuscript page. They are particularly interested in short stories that fall into a sub genre of dark fantasy, such as romance or young adult.

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

Ghostwoods Books

Ghostwoods Books is a small publisher that has been around for five years now. They publish books in paperback and e-book editions. They publish sci-fi, fantasy, speculative fiction and non-gore horror novels for adults.

They recently ran a successful crowd funding campaign that will allow them to publish at least 6 books this year. Usually they have only published a few books each year. Their books look professional. They tend to have good covers and good blurbs.

They are currently open to manuscript submissions through Submittable. Manuscripts must be between 60,000 – 150,000 words in length. They are closing to submissions on December 31st 2015. So if you want your work to be considered for publication by Ghostwoods in 2016, you must submit before then.

Ghostwoods books has a good, easy to navigate website. It is easy to buy their books on the website and to learn more about their books and their authors. Authors get half of the proceeds for the book. Their contract covers world rights for your book for two years. After that they are open to negotiations. They have a lot of information about how their contracts work on their website [here](#).

Make sure to include any information about previous publications (self or otherwise) in your cover letter.

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

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. The website is easy to navigate and focuses on selling books rather than recruiting authors, which is a good sign. Also the books themselves 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 the Kindle, but not any runaway bestsellers. They publish books from individual authors as well as anthologies. Although there are not 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.

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

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

Hydra

Hydra is a digital first Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror imprint of Random House. That means that they publish manuscripts in an e-book format that is available everywhere (Amazon, Barnes & Noble, etc). If the book does well digitally, a print edition will follow. They are open to queries and will try to respond to all queries within a month.

Hydra does not offer an advance. Hydra and the author will split profits 50-50. They define the term “profit” as follows

Net sales revenue minus deductions as follows: For print editions, deductions will include actual costs directly attributable to production and shipping of the book; for digital editions, Hydra will cover the cost of production. For both print and digital editions, Hydra will cover all marketing costs connected with general, category- or imprint-wide marketing programs. Hydra will also cover costs of marketing activities undertaken specifically on behalf of the book up to \$10,000. Title-specific marketing costs above \$10,000 will be proposed in advance to the author. If the author agrees, the incremental costs of such title-specific marketing activities over \$10,000 will be deducted from sales revenue before profits are split. Cash payments owed to authors will be made quarterly.

They only publish works that are 40,000 words or more. You can submit any manuscript as long as you have exclusive copyright. Which means it

can be previously published or self published, as long as you currently hold all the rights.

Their digital program is focused on building new author brands. The program is managed with the same attention given to all the other Penguin-Random House Publishing Group imprints. You will be assigned an experienced editor and a marketer and publicist.

All queries should be made through their easy to fill out form.

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

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 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](#).

Tor/Forge

Tor/Forge publishes science fiction and fantasy books. Run by Tom Doherty Associates, LLC, Tor/Forge is an imprint of Macmillan, one of the big five publishers. Tor is one of the most established science fiction publishers and they have won the Locus Award for best SF publisher 26 years in a row.

Some of the most popular books they recently published include V.E. Schwab's *A Darker Shade of Magic*, *Anna Dressed in Blood* by Kendare Blake, *Article 5* by Kristen Simmons, and *The Emperor's Blades* by Brian Staveley. Historically they have published many of the best known Science fiction and fantasy novels including *Enders Game* by Orson Scott Card, *Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell* by Susanna Clarke, and *The Final Empire* by Brandon Sanderson.

They are open to unsolicited submissions from authors without an agent. All submissions should be made through the mail. They do not respond to queries. They consider tens of thousands of projects every year, so the competition is fierce. However, every proposal is reviewed by at least one member of the editorial staff.

Submission packets must include the first three chapters of your book. This excerpt should be between 40-60 pages. The submission packet must also include a dated cover letter, a self addressed and stamped envelope, a synopsis of the entire book that includes all important plot elements. If

you have written or plan to write a whole series, only propose the first book, not the series as a whole.

Make sure you read their complete submission guidelines before submitting. Tom Doherty Associates also considers books in other genres as long as you follow the same guidelines and alert the correct editor. Other genres they consider include women's literature and children's books (although not picture books).

It is important to note that if you do not receive a reply after six months, please resubmit.

Learn more by reading their submission guidelines [here](#) (scroll down – the submission guidelines are near the bottom of the 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 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 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.

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](#).

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

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Seventh Street Press

Seventh Street Press is the mystery imprint of the established non-fiction publisher Prometheus Books. They are distributed by Random House. They publish only mystery and thrillers, but are open to a variety of sub-genres, including legal thrillers.

Seventh Street Press has a memorable tag line: “Where fiction is a crime”.

Seventh Street Press has only been around since 2012 but they have published a number of best selling and critically acclaimed books in that period of time. These books include *The Bookseller: The First Hugo Marston Novel*, *The Cold Cold Ground*, and *Hammett Unwritten*.

They like publishing individual books and series’ that contain well developed and memorable characters.

Their website is easy to navigate and professional. Their covers are intriguing and well designed. To get a better idea of what they have previously published you can browse their [catalog](#).

Also, it is nice to know that sample chapters of their most recent novels are available for free [here](#). This is a great way to get a better feel for what they publish.

They only accept submissions via email. Your email should include your name, address, telephone number, and an up to three paragraph synopsis

of your work. The manuscript should be completed and attached as a Word or RTF file. New authors and authors without agents should include the full manuscript.

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

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.

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

WITNESS Impulse

WITNESS Impulse is a digital first imprint of Harper Collins. They publish a wide variety of mystery novels, including digital editions by some of the most famous mystery writers of all time, including my personal favorite Agatha Christie. However, they also publish new and emerging authors. It is important to note that usually publish print editions of their books. However they always publish the digital version first.

According to their website “The average number of books sold for all Impulse titles on sale for at least six months is about 15,000.”

WITNESS Impulse authors receive 50% royalties after the first 10,000 copies sold, and will start at 25%. They are also very marketing focused. They really try to sell as many copies of each of their books as possible.

They are very new author friendly for a division of a major publishing house. The link for author submissions is very easy to find and their instructions for submissions are easy to follow.

To submit you have to complete an easy to fill out form that asks simple questions about the state of your manuscript. They also request a synopsis, the best scene, and various other specific pieces of information. The manuscripts they publish vary in length between 10,000 and 75,000 words (although they can be longer than 75,000 words, they cannot be shorter than 10,000).

I suggest typing out the answers to the more complicated question first and then cutting and pasting it into the submission form. You are less likely to make errors that way and also you will be able to save your work for later if you have to submit something similar to another publisher.

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

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 and non-fiction sections 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](#).

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.

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](#).

Blaze

Blaze is a new print and electronic publisher focusing on publishing fiction books young adults. They seek to publish books in a wide variety of genres including fantasy, science fiction, and horror, as long as that book has heart. They want readers to finish their books feeling happy and uplifted.

Because they are new, they do not have much of a track record, but what they do have is mostly good. The first and only book they have published so far, *Asleep* has sold well. All the covers they have released so far are excellent. The website is focused on selling books in a concrete way. All of these are good signs.

There are a few warning signs. That successful first book is written by the editor of Blaze. Also, they are brand new. Blaze has five books scheduled for publication this year. They plan to publish six in 2016. So far they have only published one. So it might be prudent to wait a year or two before submitting to them.

Blaze publishes manuscripts between 55,000 and 120,000 words in lengths. All submissions should be made via email. Submit a query letter, the first three chapters of the manuscript, a couple of sentences describing the message your book contains, a short author bio, and contact information. They do not open attachments so all of this should be pasted into the body of the email.

They will consider work that has been previously self-published but they prefer work that is previously unpublished. They try to respond to all submissions within eight weeks.

Learn more at their website [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. The books they publish are aesthetically pleasing and fun reads. Their website is well designed and easy to use. They were established in 2014 and publish around 4 books a year.

Fat Fox publishes picture books. 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.

Manuscripts must be double-spaced in black font on white background. To learn more, please visit their submission guidelines [here](#).

Flashlight Press

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

Holiday House

Holiday House is an established and reputable children's book publishers. Holiday House has been around for over 75 years. They publish picture books as well as books aimed at children grades 1-3, grades 4-6, and grades 7 and up. They are based out of New York City. They have published many well known books and authors, including Kenneth Grahame. The books that they have published have won numerous respected awards and honors.

They specialize in quality hardcovers, from picture books to young adult, both fiction and nonfiction.

Because they receive so many submissions they cannot respond to all of them personally. Although if they are interested in your manuscript, they will respond within four months of receiving it. If you have not heard from them in four months, consider your manuscript rejected.

Submit your entire manuscript, even if you are submitting a novel. They only accept submissions through the mail. They do not accept registered or certified mail and there is no need to include a self addressed and stamped envelope.

If you are submitting a picture book, there is no need to submit illustrations, but if you are an artist that has them, include copies, never originals.

To learn more or to submit, 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](#).

Merit Press

“It’s all in the name. When we envisioned what a new Young Adult imprint should be, we recalled the books that changed our lives, the kind readers don’t see so much anymore — enduring, exciting, intensely readable young adult stories about young people facing an all-too-challenging contemporary world. Merit Press plots twist and turn with a mix of extraordinary, heartbreaking and seemingly magical events, from shattered friendships, to burgeoning romance to searing secrets and life-and-death danger. In short, they’ll offer readers an emotional journey of adventure and love, dread and delight, peopled with authentic characters that will stay with them for the rest of their lives.” – Mission statement from the editor’s of Merit Press.

Merit Press is a newer imprint of the large predominantly non fiction publisher Adams Media. They have published around 20 books over the past few years. They mostly publish in print, generally in hardcover. They don't even have eBook versions of most of their books at this point, which is unusual for a publisher today, particularly a YA Publisher.

The covers are generally well designed, well blurbed, with arresting back cover text. They have published a number of debut novels.

The editor's at Merit Press prefer their protagonists to be over the age of fourteen. Most are female. They want to these characters rising to meet the challenges of today.

All submissions must be made via email. You can send a full or partial manuscript (65k-to 100k words) and query letter to their email address: meritpress@fwmedia.com.

To learn more about their catalog, browse it [here](#).

Pajama Press

Pajama Press is a publisher of books for children and young adults. They focus on publishing literary works. They publish books that fall into a wide range of categories including: picture books, board books for the very young, middle-grade novels, young adult novels, and non-fiction for all juvenile categories.

Pajama Press has good distribution and I have encountered their books at various bookstores and libraries. Their books are reviewed by the New York Times and other reputable publications.

They were established in 2011 so they are a relatively young press. They were founded by three individuals who all had over twenty years of experience publishing or editing children's books.

Their books have won a wide variety of awards, mostly in Canada, as they are a Canadian publisher. Most Canadian publishers only accept books by Canadian authors due to government funding. However there is currently no mention of submission restrictions based on nationality on their website.

They only accept unsolicited queries (so do not submit manuscripts) from authors without agents. They only respond to queries that they are interested in, but they try to respond to those queries within three months. If you have not heard from them after three months it is safe to assume that they are not interested in seeing your manuscript.

They do not publish series or books that are specifically aimed at the educational market.

In your query include a summary of your book, an excerpt (one or two pages of your book), and information about your writing background.

To learn more about the books Pajama Press has previously published, visit their main page [here](#). To learn more about their query submission guidelines visit [this page](#).

Peachtree Publishers

Peachtree Publishers is a well respected independent publisher with good distribution. They are based out of Atlanta Georgia and they specialize in publishing children's books, young adult books, self help titles for parents and educators and guides to the American south. They also publish books on gardening and cookbooks, but usually only with a southern focus.

They are a general trade publisher which means that they publish books that are sold in book stores and found in libraries and schools. They do not publish professional or scholarly books or textbooks, even though their books are used in classroom settings. It is good to review their catalog to get a better idea about what they have previously published.

They accept unsolicited submissions and have clear submission guidelines, but do be warned that it takes up to a year for them to respond to most submissions.

They are currently accepting submissions in the following two categories.

- Children's fiction and nonfiction picture books, chapter books, middle readers, young adult books
- Education, parenting, self-help, and health books of interest to the general trade

Peachtree only reads query letters if there is a manuscript or sample chapters attached. You must submit a full manuscript for a picture book. For all other books you can send a full manuscript or the table of contents plus three sample chapters.

All submissions must be made through the mail. Their complete submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

To learn more you can 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 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.

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.

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 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 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, 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.

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 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](#).

Paulist Press

Paulist Press is an established press that has been around for 150 years. It is founded and run by the Paulist Fathers, a society of missionary priests founded for and by Americans in 1858. Paulist Press publishes Christian books in a wide variety of sub-genres, they have excellent distribution and sales within that market. They primarily publish print books but they also publish electronically as well. They do not publish fiction except for children's fiction.

To get a good idea of what they publish it can be helpful to review their [bestsellers list](#) or browse their [new releases](#).

They have four separate submission guidelines for the four primary categories of books that they publish: Academic Books, Children's Books, Popular Books, Professional or Clergy Books. They publish four types of Children's books: Picture books, Activity books, Chapter books, and Prayer books.

When they refer to popular books they mean ones aimed at a lay (not clergy) audience.

All of the guidelines are very specific and you should read the ones for your category closely and make sure that your proposal matches their requirements. Submissions for all categories should be made through the same email address. Electronic submissions are preferred but submissions are still accepted through the mail.

Proposals for all categories can be made before the manuscript is complete.

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

Pelican Book Group

A print and eBook publisher of Christian romance novels. They have a number of imprints and accept unsolicited submissions for all but one of them.

They are not interested in publishing a book that has been previously self published. They stress this point on their website more than once, as they evidently have to deal with this issue a lot. So please do not submit a previously published book to them.

Their website is aimed at readers, not writers, which is always a good sign. Although I did find their website a little hard to navigate.

Many authors have published multiple books with them, which is also a good sign. Their covers vary wildly in quality, some are excellent and others are very amateurish.

They respond through email exclusively, so make sure your spam filter does not block them. Also their response times have been generally reported as being rather quick, and almost always under 60 days.

All submissions must be made through [their online submission form](#). They ask that you specify which imprint you are submitting to, so it is worth your time to research all the imprints before hand to ensure that you are querying the right editor. Their submission form is very thorough. You

should make sure to spell check and edit all your written responses before submitting the form.

Make sure to read their guidelines to ensure that you are complying with all their instructions. They require that authors query first by submitting the first chapter of your novel, and based on that they will either reject the submission or request the full manuscript.

Manuscripts must reach a minimum word requirement in order to receive a print run. They publish hardcovers and paperbacks.

To learn more visit their website [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 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.

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.

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 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. 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](#).

Crimson Romance

Crimson Romance is an imprint of Adams Media, a large established publisher. Crimson Romance is a digital-first romance line that is open to submissions in five popular subgenres: romantic suspense, contemporary, paranormal, historical, and spicy romance. They recently started accepting LGBTQIA+ adult romances that feature a strong emotional/romantic journey between two partners. Romances where both partners are male are particularly encouraged.

They are looking for previously unpublished full-length novels (between 55,000 – 90,000 words) as well as novellas (between 20,000 – 50,000 words). All authors are encouraged to submit any works that have not been previously published in whole or in part in any media, that includes self publishing.

Crimson Romances primarily focus on the hero and heroine's emotional journey together towards love. They only accept works that end happily ever after or happy for now. They are not interested in any other genre of books. However, they do claim to want romances that are a little offbeat, and that twist established themes.

Make it clear in your query letter what makes your romance different. They are looking for authors that have a strong online presence and are willing to promote their work online.

All submissions must be made online through email. If you have a completed novel make sure to submit the manuscript along with a query letter and a detailed (3-5 page) synopsis. Your query letter should include the goals, motivations, and conflict for your characters.

For specific submission calls, to learn more, or to submit, please visit their page [here](#).

Desert Breeze

Desert Breeze is an ePublisher that primarily publishes romance novels although they do dabble in other genres such as women's fiction and Christian fiction (with or without romantic elements. Much of the romance they publish is cross genre and incorporates elements of various genres ranging from steam punk to modern cowboy.

They have been around since 2009, which is a fair amount of time for an ePublisher, and some of their books have sold well, others have not. They do rely heavily on the authors ability to promote the book, so take that into consideration.

Authors have had mixed experiences working with Desert Breeze. You can read more about that [here](#). One of the main issues seems to come down to editing. They pay their editors in royalties, which is not a good practice if you want to retain quality editors. They also do not provide editors for all books.

They publish primarily sweet romance and the emphasis is not on sex. This is how they phrase it in their submission guidelines:

Here's an easy guideline... If you can't give us a short synopsis for your novel without explaining how sex moves the plot, or is vital to the plot, or if the plot would come to a halt if the two people didn't have sex, then the manuscript may not be a good fit at Desert Breeze.

They have a lot of editorial preferences so read their submission guidelines thoroughly. Their preferences cover everything from Point of View (third person is preferred) to voice (active).

Their publication docket is already full for 2016 so any manuscript they accept now will be published in 2017. Their publishing schedule is listed below.

Publishing releases six to twelve books a month, with three release dates a month on the first, the eleventh, and the twenty-first with two to four books at each release.

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

Entangled Publishing

Entangled Publishing is an independent publisher of adult and young adult romantic fiction. Since its first release in July 2011, Entangled has published more than 970 titles. This number includes 14 titles that have made it onto the *New York Times* Bestsellers list and 42 titles that have placed on the *USA Today* Bestsellers list. Some of their more famous books are *The Marriage Bargain*, and *Obsidian* by Jennifer L. Armentrout which has been slated to become a major motion picture to begin production in the Spring of 2017.

Entangled Publishing has twelve imprints. They have three single title imprints. These are Entangled Select (an adult romance imprint, encompassing all subgenres of romance), Entangled TEEN (a line of books geared to the young adult audience, there must be at least a romantic subplot), and Embrace (with protagonists typically ranging from 18-22, Embrace publishes high-concept stories that focus on the endless possibilities this stage in life brings, and above all, romance). They also have nine category romance imprints that are released digital-first across a wide variety of platforms.

Submit to only one imprint per title. They will move the submission if it would be better for another imprint. Do carefully review each of the imprints before submitting.

All submissions must include a query letter and the full manuscript unless you are a bestselling author or an author who has published with Entangled previously.

They promise that all submissions will be responded to with a rejection, a request to take to board of acquisitions, or revision request within 60 days.

Entangled releases between 30-45 titles per month in digital first format and 4 per month in simultaneous print and digital formats. They are distributed by Macmillan, one of the largest distributors, and they have a joint partnership with St. Martin's Press. Many of their titles are also released in audio format.

They claim to create an individual marketing plan for every book that they release. Their website is engaging, well organized, and well designed.

According to their website, this is how their royalties work "Digital-first releases receive up to 35% of cover price, while print royalties begin at 7.5% of cover price. When releasing simultaneously in print via brick and mortar bookstores, ebook royalties are 20% of cover price."

All submissions are made via the online submission platform [Submittable](#).

To learn more or to submit visit their website [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.

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.

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](#).

Loose ID:

Loose ID is a romance publisher that publishes a large number of electronic books every year. They are open to reprints and works by brand new authors. They have four lines, Love Unleashed (hot romance), On the Edge (taboo romance), Young Hearts (new adult romance), and Love Revisited (republished romance).

Authors have had a mixed experience with them. Many have published multiple books with them and have good things to say. Although these authors stress that the promotion is up to you.

Other authors have had a more mixed experience. There is a very active thread discussing Loose ID over at Absolute Writes which is worth reading [here](#) before submitting. Authors do seem to agree on the fact that Loose ID primarily publishes books with a “high heat” level, in other words, a lot of sex.

For regular submissions, please submit your complete manuscript and a synopsis of the whole plot. In the body of the email include your name, pen name, contact email, and any previous publishing history, actual word count, genre, and a brief description of your story.

To submit to their reprints line submit the full manuscript along with proof that the rights have reverted to you and include your name, pen name, and contact email in the body of the email. Include the publication history of

the story as well as reviews (if relevant), as well as the name, word count, genre, and a brief description of your story.

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

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](#).

Siren Bookstrand

Siren Bookstrand is a popular publisher of romance and erotica. They only publish books that end happily ever after. They publish many books every year and most authors seem happy with the work that the Siren Bookstrand editors do. They are primarily an electronic publisher but they also have print editions.

They are most known for publishing books about menages, and they have more than one line devoted to menages. Authors who have published more than one book with them say that the menage books sell the best. So that is something to keep in mind, if you have a book that features one. They do also publish more mainstream, traditional romance novels, but as a publisher that is not what they are known for.

All of their imprints are looking for very specific things in terms of content so read all of the guidelines for the imprints very closely.

They also have very specific guidelines, these guidelines cover everything from sex scenes to cliffhangers and character age requirements. For example they are not interested in erotica or porn, which they define as: “sex scenes with no romantic development involving the main characters with each other. Make sure to read all these guidelines closely before submitting.

They only consider work that is longer than 20,000 words in length.

When you submit to them the subject line must read “SUBMISSION: Title of Book (total word count). Otherwise your email might be caught in their spam filter. All submissions must be made through email.

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

Soul Mate Publishing

Soul Mate is a romance eBook publisher. They have only been around for a few years but have published a number of books in that time. They encourage authors to blur genre lines and to experiment. They respond to every manuscript submitted correctly, personally. They try to respond to all submissions within 4 weeks.

Soul Mate seems to focus exclusively on publishing eBooks for the kindle market place. Most of their covers are good, not great. The focus of the website seems to be on selling more books, not recruiting more authors. Although a lot of information is available about the individual editors there is very little information on the website about the company as a whole.

They publish all the following romance sub genres, action/adventure, chick lit, contemporary, erotica, fantasy, historical, inspirational, new adult, novellas, paranormal, sci-fi, suspense, time travel, urban fantasy, women's fiction, and young adult.

They encourage potential submitters to read all the editor profiles seriously and then to submit to the editor that best fits your novel. You can see the editor profiles [here](#). Out of the ten editors, only one is currently closed to new submissions.

In the body of your query letter make sure you include your contact information, the genre, a brief summary of your story, and any contest

wins or publishing credits. Also attach a synopsis and the first three chapters of your manuscript.

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

The Totally Entwined Group

The Totally Entwined Group is an eBook and print publisher that was successful in its own right, before being purchased by the Bonnier Publishing group. There have been some shifts in focus since Bonnier purchased it in 2015 but the group still has a good reputation and its focus is still on its two flagship established imprints - Pride and Totally Bound.

Becoming part of the Bonnier publishing group has greatly increased their distribution particularly in the UK where print editions on their books are widely available.

Pride Publishing, as you might be able to deduce, is focused on publishing stories where the lead characters identify as GLBTQI. They are interested in stories with a word count between 10-100k. Serials and series will also be considered.

Totally Bound publishes erotic romance and sweet romance in a wide variety of sub-genres, everything from morphing to Rubenesque. They also have an imprint called Totally Five Star. Each story should be a totally standalone, contemporary story about hotel staff, clientele or service providers.

Both imprints have a number of very specific calls for submissions, so make sure to read [the submission calls page](#) thoroughly before proceeding.

They pay a royalty rate of 40% for eBooks, 30% for audio, and 10% for print, based on their standard four year contract. Their contracts are for both electronic and print rights, and worldwide territories. There is no mention of advances.

All submissions to all imprints should be made via email. All imprints have different guidelines, so read the guidelines carefully. You can read the full guidelines [here](#). Do note that according to various sources and other pages on the website the imprints Finch and Evidence Press are both closed to unsolicited submissions indefinitely.

Their authors page which you can access [here](#), contains helpful additional information.

Tule Publishing

Tule Publishing is Romance and Erotica ePublisher with multiple imprints. Many of their books have sold well on Amazon. Most books they have published have at least 25 positive reviews. They have published bestselling and award winning authors. They publish a wide variety of romance including western, paranormal, and holiday.

They also have a newer erotica imprint that is open to contemporary, paranormal, historical, BDSM, and LGBTQIA erotica.

Their website focuses on selling books to readers. It is easy to navigate and up to date. They sell eBooks in bundles on their website and one of their goals appears to be to encourage readers to be loyal to them as a publishing house.

They also have a newsletter for readers that promotes new books it that they have published to readers. They actively encourage people to subscribe. There are sign up options all over their website.

Tule Publishing is very upfront about the fact that they pay others for professional editing, cover art, formatting, e-conversion, marketing support, and social media. They want their authors to have a social media following or a back list of previously published romance titles.

Tule Publishing predominantly focuses on ePublishing with a few select print titles. Their eBooks are formatted for the Kindle, but also for other eReaders including the Nook and Kobu.

They have a number of imprints with different goals and specifications, but submissions to all romance imprints have to have a central romance plot with a happily ever after, or (less preferable) a happy for now ending. Submissions to all imprints must either be a novella (35k-45K words), a short novel (54k-60k words) or a long novel (60K-100k words).

They are very interested in stories with series potential.

To submit, familiarize yourself with their imprints (not all are currently open to submissions, but most are). Make sure you state the imprint your manuscript is for in an email. Include a bio with relevant links. Also submit a synopsis of your book and a first chapter. All submissions must be made via email.

To learn more visit their main page [here](#). To learn more about submitting visit their guidelines page [here](#).

How to Submit Your Manuscript for Publication

When I finish the first draft of a novel I always have a great surge of adrenaline. When I was younger I would enjoy the thrill of completion for days and then start on a new project. It should surprise no one that my early efforts were not published (thank goodness).

Now that I am older and wiser I know that the first draft is just that, a draft.

If you're not sure if your work is a ready to submit, [this article](#) can really be helpful. It covers the three steps you need to follow to make sure your manuscript is ready to be sent out to agents or publishers.

Once you are sure your manuscript is ready, you can start submitting it. But realize that you still might have to make changes in order for it to be accepted by a publisher or an agent.

For a long time submitting seemed strange and mysterious to me. It seemed too overwhelming to actually do.

In fact, for the most part submitting is relatively easy.

Most publishers want the same two things – a query letter and a synopsis. They also expect an excerpt of your book, generally the first two chapters.

There are specific requirements that differ from publisher to publisher and from agency to agency, however it is good to have a basic query letter and synopsis that you modify to meet the needs of the given agent or publisher. Just make sure you send the correct version to the right person. It really annoys a publisher to receive submissions with another publisher's name on it. The same goes for agents.

You should spend a lot of time and consideration crafting the cover letter. This is the first impression you will make on agents and publishers. [This article](#) is very helpful to read before starting your cover letter. It is written from the perspective of submitting to agents, but all of the information can be applied to a small publisher as well.

It is important note that most publishers expect information about your author platform or marketing plan. Don't know where to start in terms of an author platform? [Building an Author Platform](#) by Chantelle Atkins is a great place to start.

If you meet a publisher or an agent directly at a conference, most want a pitch. A pitch can also be handy to include in your cover letter. Don't know what a pitch is? [This article](#) talks about what a pitch is, and more importantly, how to make a good one. I always include my pitch in my cover letter.

Not all publishers and agents require a synopsis, but many do. Most want a complete synopsis of the plot that fits on one page. By complete synopsis, I mean that they want spoilers. They also generally want information about character development.

It should go without saying, but edit and polish the query letter and synopsis. If you can afford an editor get them to review the query letter, the synopsis, and also the first twenty pages. Twice. Or more. The first twenty pages of the novel are all that most agents and many publishers will initially see, so make sure they are compelling and error free.

M.J. Moores interviewed a literary agent, an editor, and a published author to see what the top reasons most manuscripts are rejected. Her article [The Top Three Reasons Most Manuscripts](#) get rejected, should be read before you begin the submission process.

Once you have completed a query letter and a synopsis, that you are happy with start to research where you are going to submit your book. You can start your research earlier if you want.

You should decide early on if you want to submit directly to publishers or if you want to submit to an agent.

If you are focusing on finding an agent you should read the article [The Safest Way to Search For an Agent](#) before proceeding. One of the best free reputable search engines for agents is [Agent Query](#). So you can start looking for an agent there.

If you are looking at submitting a manuscript directly to a publisher, our [index of manuscript publishers](#) is a good place to start. We always check Predator and Editors and other watchdog site before reviewing a publisher.

Remember there is no such thing as a legitimate traditional publisher that charges its writers. You should be paid by your publisher, not the other way around.

When examining a publisher's website [this article will help you know what to keep an eye out for](#).

Some publishers can respond to submissions within weeks, others within years, so keep that in mind. If you have not heard from a publisher in six months, you should email them to ask about the status of the manuscript, unless they explicitly say they will take longer on their website.

Once you find agents or publishers that you feel would be a good fit, you should check and double check their submission guidelines.

Most publishers accept electronic submissions through email or a submission manager, but a few still require submissions through the post. Either way, the publisher's submission guidelines should walk you through the steps. The same goes for agents.

It is important not to submit to an agent or publisher if they say they are closed to unsolicited submissions. Your manuscript will not be read and in all likelihood you will annoy the person or persons who receive it, which could hurt your chances in the future.

Hopefully this helps give you the courage, the motivation, and the information to start taking steps to turn your manuscript into a published book.

Glossary

There are many words and phrases associated with publishing. To a new author, or an experienced author new to publishing, it can seem a little overwhelming at first. This chapter focuses on defining the most common terms associated with publishing.

Advance

An advance is a signing bonus that is paid to the author before the book is published. It is paid against future royalty earnings. So for every dollar you receive in an advance, you have to earn a dollar from book sales before you receive any additional royalty payments. Most independent publishers do not offer advances.

Anthology

A published collection of poems or other pieces writing, usually on a theme.

"Big Five"

Previously known as "The Big Six, this term refers to Penguin Random House, Macmillan, HarperCollins, Hachette and Simon & Schuster, the five largest publishers in North America. All of these publishers have

multiple imprints. All of these publishers and most of their imprints require agents.

Chapbook

A 10-20-page collection of poetry, or less commonly fiction or creative non-fiction, by one author.

First Publication Rights

This term is most commonly used in the context of literary journals and magazines. Most publications will not publish work that has previously appeared in a different literary journal, print or online. Because of this most publishers require First Rights. These can also be called First North American Serial Rights or First Serial Rights. No matter what they are called it usually means that you are giving that publications exclusive rights to publish your poem first. After they publish work the rights revert to you, sometimes right away, sometimes after six months. Many publishers of poetry and short story manuscripts want your work to have been previously published in literary journals.

Genre

A category of artistic composition, characterized by similarities in form, style, or subject matter. Genre can refer to poetry, prose or nonfiction in terms of form. Or it can be a subject matter classification referring to science fiction, mysteries, or various other established types of stories. If

a literary journal or publisher says they are not interested in genre work, they are using it as a subject matter classification.

Imprints

An imprint of a publisher is a trade name under which a work is published, many larger publishers use imprints as a way to market specific books. For example science fiction books are usually published by a different imprint than mystery books, even if they are published by the same publisher.

Independent Publishers

A publisher that is not an imprint of the Big Five or a large media corporation. Independent Publishers can be small startups, or large established presses like Chronicle Books. Most do not require agents in order to submit.

Literary Agent

A literary agent is someone who represents writers and their written works to publishers and assists in the sale and deal negotiation of the same. Many publishers require authors to submit their work through a literary agent.

Literary Journal

A magazine that publishes primarily poetry, fiction, and/or creative nonfiction. Also commonly referred to as journals or reviews.

Manuscript

An unpublished book length work of fiction, non-fiction, or poetry.

Reader

Used mostly in the context of larger journals and contests generally have volunteer readers, individuals who read a large chunk of the work submitted and who decide what part of that work they are going to pass on to the editors.

Reprints

Work that has been previously published elsewhere. This includes self-published work. Some publishers are particularly interested in publishing reprints as long as all the rights belong to the author. The majority of publishers only consider reprints of work that have been previously traditionally published.

Royalties

Royalties at their most basic refer to the amount of money an author earns off each copy of their book that is sold.

SASE (Self Addressed and Stamped Envelope)

If you submit to a publisher, a contest, or a literary journal via the mail, most publishers require that you include a SASE (Self Addressed and

Stamped Envelope) so that they can respond to your work with a rejection or acceptance letter.

Self-Publishing

When you publish your own work either directly on a platform like the Kindle or when you use a vanity press.

Solicited Submissions

Submissions from authors that the publisher's directly request. Most literary journals publish a mix of solicited and unsolicited submissions. Editors can solicit the work of friends or of famous or emerging writers. Most time when your work is solicited it is published.

Submission Manager

An online program that handles submissions electronically. The most common one is Submittable. Both literary journals and manuscript publishers use submission managers.

Traditional Publisher

A publisher who never charges you any fees, and who pays the author for their rights.

Unsolicited Submissions

The bulk of submissions to most journals are unsolicited. They are the submissions sent through submission managers, post, or emails to literary journals. If a manuscript publisher says they do not accept unsolicited submissions, you cannot submit to them unless someone at the publisher has explicitly asked to see your work, or you have an agent who can submit your work for you.

Vanity Publisher/ Press

Also known as assisted publishing. Any publisher that charges you in order to publish your work is a vanity publisher.