

**THE
2017
GUIDE TO**

**MANUSCRIPT
PUBLISHERS**

134 TRADITIONAL PUBLISHERS

NO AGENT REQUIRED

AUTHORS PUBLISH

Authors Publish

The 2017 Guide to
Manuscript Publishers

134 Traditional Book Publishers

No Agent Required

Emily Harstone

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Introduction

Over the past four years, I have reviewed a publisher almost every week for *Authors Publish Magazine*. Some of these publishers are nearly household names, while others are new, 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 in this book are updated to reflect any changes that have occurred within the company since the original review took place. This is an important and time-consuming project.

Sometimes, the changes that occurred within a publisher were minor; others were not. Many print companies who we reviewed early on have since started new digital first imprints. A number of the eBook only companies now have print versions of their books available.

Fifteen of 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.

This year is the book's third edition. Since the last edition nine publishers we reviewed either went out of business or started charging submission fees. Three other publishers stopped taking unsolicited submissions.

This year, like last year, I saw an increase of traditional publishers starting a vanity imprint. I must emphasize that I am only reviewing the traditional publishing arm of any company and not the vanity-publishing arm. I do not recommend working with a vanity publisher.

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

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

A small number of the companies we reviewed mentioned explicitly that they were closed to unsolicited submissions for the rest of 2017. I felt conflicted about including these companies but eventually chose to include them, because the plan is to update the Manuscript Guide every May from now on. Which means that this guide will still be referred to for at least part of 2018.

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.

In the past I, and almost everyone else, recommended [Preditors & Editors](#). It is a website devoted to listing publishers, agents, and book distributors. They were established and reputable, and they receive many tips about publishers that are not.

As we noted last year they were having issues with updates, and a lot of their listings were out of date for years, even for major publishers. Around six months ago they closed their listings up entirely and have since been looking for someone to take over the task.

I had to include that information this year because in the past they have been a resource for so many writers and their hiatus has changed things. However, I personally am doubtful they will recover at this point, which is deeply unfortunate. I would love to have good news to announce in the 2018 Guide to Manuscript Publisher, but instead more than likely, I will not even mention them.

Thankfully there is [the index of agents, publishers, and others](#) at Absolute Write. This is a great source of information. Because it is a forum, there are many active contributors, and the “popular and unpopular publishers threads” are often lively and active places.

However, a lot of speculation occurs in the forum, so take unverified information with a grain of salt. Also, it is important to note that because they rely on forum member’s contributions, some publisher’s threads are woefully out of date, although others are up to the minute.

Another good resource is the site [Writer Beware](#), which contains a lot of good information. They have a lot of detailed information as well as [this helpful list](#), although there are a lot of publishers they do not have any information on.

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

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

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

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

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

As I mentioned earlier, all of the publishers must check out as legitimate on watchdog sites such as 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 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 in the manuscript guide the information is much easier to access and better organized.

If you are new to publishing, it might actually be helpful to read the last two chapters, [How to Submit Your Manuscript for Publication](#) and the [Glossary](#) before searching the book for publishers.

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. Make sure the nonfiction publisher you are submitting to is open to the kind of nonfiction work you are submitting to them.

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

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.

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 have also published a number of books about the history of America and memoirs by holocaust survivors.

Their focus seems to be nonfiction books that focus on crime and specific parts 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.

City Lights Books

"City Lights Books is an independent publisher of fiction, essays, memoirs, translations, poetry, and books on social and political issues. We do not publish New Age, self-help, children's literature, how-to guides, or genre works such as romance, westerns, or science fiction."

City Lights Books is based out of San Francisco and is indeed part of the famous bookstore there. City Lights Books was started by the famous poet and writer Lawrence Ferlinghetti. They are most often linked to the beat poetry movement. They have published New York Times best selling books. They have been a publisher for over 60 years. They publish about a dozen books each year.

As they state right at the top of their manuscript submission guidelines page "City Lights does not accept unsolicited manuscripts". They do however accept unsolicited book proposals.

All proposals must be mailed (not e-mailed) to City Lights. Your proposal should include the following

- A one to two-page letter that describes your book and includes your resumé, with a list of any prior publications and information about your relevant writing and professional experience.
- A sample (10–20 pages maximum) of your work.
- An additional outline and table of contents for a nonfiction work.

Staff respond to all submissions within 6 months, but you must include a self addressed and stamped envelope. That is how you will receive your response.

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

Duke University Press

Duke University Press is a respected academic press. Like most academic presses, they publish well-researched books on a wide variety of subjects. The list of subjects they publish books on include: Latin American studies, social movements, gender environmental studies, anthropology, postcolonial theory, lesbian and gay studies, construction of race, gender and national identity, social studies of science, new media, literary criticism, film and television, popular music, visual studies political theory, sociology and social theory, geography, cultural studies, gender studies, American studies, literary theory and criticism, Asian American studies, science and technology studies, food studies, religion, women's studies, world history, and humanities.

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

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

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

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

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](#).

Free Spirit Publishing

Free Spirit Publishing is an established publisher with good distribution. They publish primarily non-fiction, mostly curriculum based, where they have a number of niche focuses.

They do publish fiction but only in the form of board books (aimed at infants to 4 year olds) and picture books (for ages 4 to 8) that focus on social skills and getting along, early learning, character education, self-esteem, and other topics related to positive early childhood development.

They are also open to non-fiction board and picture books with the same subject matters.

Their areas of focus in non-fiction include the following topics: Gifted & special education, bullying prevention & conflict resolution, character education, leadership & service learning, educational games, posters, & jars, counseling & social-emotional learning. More information about what specifically they are looking for is available on their [submission guidelines page](#).

If you are interested in submitting you must first submit a proposal.

It is important to note that they do not write rejections. If you do not hear from them after six months or so, consider your proposal rejected. They always contact authors whose work they are interested in. This is a particularly frustrating considering the fact that they do not accept electronic submissions. All submissions must be made through the post.

If you are submitting a proposal it must include the following:

- A cover letter briefly outlining your project, the intended audience (including age ranges), and your relevant expertise
- A current résumé
- A market analysis with a comprehensive list of similar titles and a detailed explanation of how your project differs from available products
- A detailed chapter-by-chapter outline
- At least two sample chapters (if a full manuscript is available, you may send it) ***Note:** For early childhood submissions, the entire text is required for evaluation. Bracketed art suggestions are appreciated, though illustration samples should not be sent unless professionally competent.*
- A description of your personal promotion plan for the proposed book (including both in-person and social media outreach)

To learn more about Free Spirit and see the books they have previously published, visit their [website](#).

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](#).

North Atlantic Books

North Atlantic Books is a publisher located in California. They have been publishing books since the 70s. They started out rather small and independent but now they are much larger and have excellent distribution through Penguin/Random House.

Over the decades they have focused on publishing a diverse range of books in the areas of alternative medicine, ecology, and spirituality. They publish fiction, purely academic books, and general nonfiction. They are only currently open to unsolicited submissions of nonfiction accessible to most readers.

To get a good feeling for what they have previously published, visit [their catalog](#). Because their catalog is a little overwhelming with over 1000 books in it, it might help to read through the categories listed on the right hand side bar. These categories include Celebrating Women, Martial Arts, and Society and Policy. There is also a category called "coming soon" which is very informative in terms of what they are publishing now.

It is pretty easy to figure out if they will be interested in your book based on what they have previously published. This is much easier to figure out when approaching a nonfiction publisher versus one that publishes fiction.

They try to respond to all submissions within 12 weeks of receiving them. Submissions can be made through the post or through email. They have clear proposal guidelines so make sure to follow them when submitting.

To learn more please visit their submission guidelines [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 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.

Chicago Review Press acquired Parenting Press effective January 1st, 2017. They will continue on as an imprint, and will in all likelihood reopen to submissions at some point in 2017, but at the time of this book's publication they are closed to submissions.

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](#). Although do keep in mind that those guidelines might change before they reopen to submissions.

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](#). Their website is

currently being updated so not all of the relevant information is currently there. So if the links do not work, that is why.

The Quarto Publishing Group

The Quarto Publishing Group which is an international publishing house known for its illustrated books. They publish most of their work through a number of niche imprints each with their own focus. All of their US imprints are distributed by Hachette.

Their imprints are all nonfiction. They publish a lot of cookbooks and gift books. They also have imprints covering almost any nonfiction topic you can think of from children's nonfiction to parenting to vehicles to architecture.

This is what their website has to say about all their imprints:

Each of our imprints has its own editorial focus and fits into one of the categories below. To ensure that your book proposal winds up in the right hands, please take a moment to review each category to determine where your book best fits. Submitting to the category will send your idea to multiple imprints. If your book idea fits into our focus areas we will contact you for more details. Please bear in mind that we receive a large number of unsolicited manuscripts, so our response time may vary and we ask for your patience.

Their submission guidelines are very specific so please review them carefully before submitting. You can read the full guidelines [here](#).

Once you have carefully reviewed their guidelines you should start composing (or editing) your book proposal.

Reviewing the catalog of the imprint you are planning to submit to is always a good idea.

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](#).

Sterling Publishing

Sterling Publishing is owned by Barnes and Noble. They put it for sale a couple of years ago, but then after a period of time pulled it from the market. During this whole period Sterling has continued to publish books. They also have a large crafting imprint named Lark. Sterling has been publishing books for over 60 years.

Their website is currently under construction and focuses on authors, not on selling books, but given the fact that they have very good distribution that might not be as much of a priority for them.

The books they publish for adults cover current events, diet and health, parenting, pop culture, reference, history, art, artists, and music. They have a number of imprints with specific focuses on topics such as cooking. They do not publish fiction for adults

They also publish books for children and toddlers. This includes works of fiction and non-fiction.

Sterling only accepts submissions via the post. They try to respond to all submissions they receive. For children's books they expect full manuscripts. For adult books they want a proposal and a first sample chapter.

When you submit, be sure to include your name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address. They will not return any materials submitted unless you specifically request that materials be returned and include, along with your submission, a self-addressed stamped envelope. Under no circumstance should you submit originals or the only copy. They cannot guarantee that they will return unsolicited material.

All submissions should be clearly addressed to the correct editor (for example the Parenting Editor).

To learn more visit their submission guidelines [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, except for HarperLegend, an imprint that was impossible to categorize anywhere else.

Some of these publishers 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).

you can find additional publishers of literary fiction in the multi-genre publishers chapter and in the nonfiction publishers chapter.

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](#). Scroll down to see their submission guidelines.

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).

BlazeVOX

BlazeVOX [books] presents innovative fictions and wide ranging fields of contemporary poetry. Our books push at the frontiers of what is possible with our innovative poetry, fiction and select non-fiction and literary criticism. Our fundamental mission is to disseminate poetry, through print and digital media, both within academic spheres and to society at large.

We seek to publish the innovative works of the greatest minds writing poetry today, from the most respected senior poets to extraordinarily promising young writers. We select for publication only the highest quality of writing on all levels regardless of commercial viability. Our outlets of publication strive to enrich cultural and intellectual life, and foster regional pride and accomplishments.

BlazeVOX is a publisher based out of Buffalo, New York. They are a small independent publisher. They are currently accepting poetry and fiction submissions. In the area of fiction they are only interested in collections of short stories and experimental fiction.

They pay 10% royalties on fiction and poetry books based on net receipts. It is easy to get a feel for what they publish by visiting their back catalog [here](#).

They sell books to authors at a wholesale discount, and these copies may be sold direct to consumers at readings and events. They also produce postcards, catalogues and other promotional material at their expense.

All submissions must be made via email. You can learn more about submitting [here](#).

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](#).

Douglas & McIntyre

Douglas & McIntyre is one of Canada's pre-eminent independent publishers, with books that have won many national and international awards, including the Scotiabank Giller Prize and the Governor General's Literary Award. They filed for bankruptcy a number of years ago. Harbour Publishing purchased Douglas & McIntyre at that point.

They specialize in publishing respected non fiction and literary fiction. They prefer Canadian authors but are open to publishing the work of non Canadians. They have published some of the best known Canadian writers over the years, including Douglas Copeland.

They have good distribution in Canada. They also have distribution in the U.K. and US but they only do extended distribution with some books. So do keep that in mind.

They try to respond to most submissions with an acknowledgment within two months. They publish approximately 20 books a year.

They accept submissions via submittable and the postal system. Browsing their [catalog](#) will give you a good feel for what they publish.

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

HarperLegend

HarperLegend is a digital first imprint from HarperOne which is itself an imprint of Harper Collins. What I mean by digital first is that they publish an eBook and then if it does well they publish a print edition. If your book is more than 25,000 words, it will be available as a print-on-demand at those same retailers initially.

HarperLegend is looking to publish a very specific kind of book. They call it visionary fiction. They list a number of examples to help potential submitters parse that statement. The full list of examples of books that fit their criteria is listed below.

- [THE ALCHEMIST](#) by Paulo Coelho
- [THE SCREWTAPE LETTERS](#) and the [SPACE TRILOGY](#) by C.S. Lewis
- [THE MONK WHO SOLD HIS FERRARI](#) by Robin Sharma
- [LIFE'S GOLDEN TICKET](#) by Brendon Burchard
- [THE SHACK](#) by William Paul Young
- [LIFE OF PI](#) by Yann Martel
- [BUDDHA](#) by Deepak Chopra
- [THE WAY OF THE PEACEFUL WARRIOR](#) by Dan Millman
- [SILENCE](#) by Shusaku Endo
- [SIDDHARTHA](#) by Herman Hesse

As you can gather from this list they are looking for books with a strong spiritual undercurrent from any number of faith traditions.

They are only interested in submissions containing complete manuscripts. They will try to respond to submissions quickly. If you have not heard from them in three months, your work has been rejected. They do not send rejection letters.

All submissions must be made through their easy to use submission system.

If your work is accepted, you will be assigned an editor. This will be a person with an email address, phone number, Twitter handle, etc with whom you can communicate with directly. Your editor will be your point person for all things moving forward in the publication process.

HarperLegend has general marketing strategies but they also also try to develop one for each book, specifically. A lot of their focus and attention goes into marketing.

According to their website, this is how the royalties work: "HarperLegend royalties are 50% after the first 10,000 copies sold and start at 25%. We do not pay advances against royalties. If we later decide to publish the book in print format at one of our imprints, you will receive standard print royalties."

If you are interested in submitting to HaperLegend, visit their website [here](#).

Harvard Square Editions

Harvard Square Editions is a publishing company founded by a group of Harvard Alumni. They accept novel and novella submissions with environmental and social themes. HSE seeks work of the highest literary quality.

Despite being a very small publisher with a very small budget, books they have published have won a variety of awards and honours including the National Book Awards 5 under 35 Award in 2016. They have also been talked about in various established publications including The Guardian.

They do not offer advances but they focus on in depth editorial work and they seem to be getting pretty good at promoting the books they publish. Unlike many publishers they do not focus primarily on publishing literary fiction by north American authors. They have published books by authors hailing from all over the globe.

Publishers Weekly wrote an article about Harvard Square Editions in 2011 that contains some interesting information, that you can read [here](#).

To read their brief submission guidelines or to submit using their online form [go here](#). To get a better idea for what they have previously published [go 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. Although now that they have been around two years they have established a track record and published a total of 13 books, most with excellent covers.

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 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](#).

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.](#)

Small Beer Press

Small Beer Press has now been around for over a decade and published some rather well known authors including Ursula K. Le Guin. They publish literary work leaning towards the speculative.

Although, to really know what they publish I highly recommend checking out one of their books from the library as well as browsing their [catalog](#). What they are looking for is rather specific. They only publish between 6-10 books a year. They are not interested in poetry manuscripts or chapbook length work.

Their website is well designed and focused on books. Their blog seems to be very regularly updated, which is a good sign. Their links to imprints are no longer working, but that was the only major error I could find on the organized and well maintained website.

They only accept submissions via the mail. Do not email editors directly with a query. Instead send a query letter and the first 10-20 pages of the manuscript to them, via the post, along with a self addressed and stamped envelope (SASE).

This press also publishes a literary zine (*Lady Churchill's Rosebud Wristlet*), which you might consider submitting to as well. The submission guidelines are on the same page. Submissions to the literary journal are also made through the post.

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

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. One is a publisher of western and frontier fiction, which I couldn't figure out where to put, except for here.

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. Looking through their catalog can be the most helpful way to figure out what they are interested in.

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 manages some basic marketing, they want to know when you submit that you are committed to putting an effort into marketing your book.

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.

Authors who have worked with them have had really mixed experiences and I would approach them with extreme caution. [This thread contains some very helpful information in terms of that.](#)

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

Amberjack Publishing

Amberjack Publishing is a small, new publisher founded in 2014. They primarily publish books for children and young adults, but they also publish fiction for adults and memoir.

All new publishers should be approached with caution, and Amberjack is no different, but since they started out in 2014 they seemed to have figured out a lot of things they should not do. They used to have a problem with ads and some of the phrasing on their submission page. Those issues have now been resolved.

I really like the design of most of their covers, they are appealing and eye catching. They have a decent distributor, Midpoint Trade Books which is also a good sign.

They appear to put effort into promoting books as they are released, which is a good start, and I like how detailed their author page and catalog is. You can get a good feel for what they publish just by spending time with their catalog.

There is not a lot of information about the company available on their website which leads me to believe that the editors had minimal experience before starting Amberjack, as past credentials tend to be advertised.

They accept all submissions electronically.

Although they are currently closed to unsolicited submissions, they do have an email list that alerts authors when they re-open to submissions. You can sign up for that email list on their [online submissions page](#).

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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](#).

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](#).

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](#).

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](#).

Cactus Moon

Cactus Moon is interested in novels and non-fiction titles with a unique perspective; books that spark curiosity, and stimulate the imagination. While we understand the challenges of being an "indie," we recognize the freedom it allows to take chances on new talent and to work closely with authors to create unforgettable books.

Cactus Moon is a small independent publisher. They have been around for a few years now. They have recently hired fresh blood, so some of the early complaints in regards to wording on their website has been resolved. The editorial staff seems knowledgeable and approachable. They are new though, and are still becoming more experienced, so do take that into consideration when submitting.

They publish eBook and print editions. The print editions they publish are through various print on demand services. They do not have an established distributor (they use a combination of a local printer, CreateSpace, and Ingram). This is important to note because they will not be available in most bookstores.

They have three imprints listed in more detail below:

Kal-Ba Publishing accepts all non-fiction titles falling under the spiritual, paranormal (to include the occult), and self-help. We will accept titles under specific genres such as: Christian, Jewish, Islam, Pagan, and other paths of faith. We will NOT accept any title whose content seeks to divide and/or alienate readers on another path.

Saturn's Moon Press is our YA and Children's press. Preference is given to books with illustrations included and may mean a higher royalty. We do provide illustrators for our titles so it is NOT a requirement for acceptance.

Cactus Moon Publications accepts non-fiction titles under the political, historical, and mainstream health and wellness genres. Fiction titles include crime, detective, and general romance, paranormal, horror, mysteries, and thrillers. Romance and mild erotica is acceptable under these genres. We have no limit on fear and excitement! We do not accept politically inflammatory titles or submissions without proper reference to information.

Cactus Moon, like most small publishers, expects help with marketing.

All submissions should be made via email. Expect a response within two months. To learn more about their submission guidelines visit their website [here](#).

Cedar Fort

Cedar Fort is a print and electronic publisher based out of Salt Lake City. They are the second largest publisher in Utah. They publish over 150 books a year. Their books cover a wide range of topics, from cookbooks to juvenile fiction.

They are a Mormon publishing company, although publish books by non-Mormons, and books that have no Mormon subject matter at all. However they are not interested in publishing books that contain profanity, violence, graphic, and/or sexual content and they reserve the right to remove it from your book, if it is accepted for publication.

Cedar Fort has weathered a major controversy in the past, which you can learn more about [here](#). But in the past few years I have heard mostly good things about them. They are often active with [PitMad](#).

They are currently open to submissions in most genres, but they are *not* interested in memoirs (including missionary memoirs), travelogues, and biographies, non-LDS/Christian children's picture books, poetry, defenses of Mormonism, short stories, poetry, and erotica.

Their website is more geared towards recruiting writers than selling books, which is not a good sign. I also got that impression when I visited their table at a writer's conference. However, the fact in and of itself that they visit major writer's conferences is a good sign.

They are open to publishing reprints and they offer advances. The typical advances they offer are around \$2,000. Their editors are reputable and appear

to do a very good job based on the books of theirs I have read. The covers are well designed and appealing.

It is easy to submit to them via Submittable.

You can learn more about Cedar Fort [here](#).

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.

Their website is currently under construction so there is not much information on it, but they are active on Facebook, Instagram, and Snapchat in the meantime so that is a good start.

They only accept unagented submissions through emailed submissions. You can learn more about Clean Reads by visiting their website [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.

Diversion Books

Diversion Books was started by Scott Waxman of Waxman Literary Agency. He said that it started as an experiment of sorts to publish books that the agency represented that they had a hard time finding "Big 5" publishers to accept. That was seen as conflict of interest, and writers were initially very leery. However, after seven years they seem to be doing a good job.

Diversion Books started out as strictly an eBook publisher but now they publish print books as well. They publish a wide range of fiction and non-fiction books. They seem to have good distribution, as I have found their books in a number of bookstores. For a while they closed to unsolicited submissions, but currently they are open to un-agented queries. Unfortunately if they are not interested in your book they often do not respond.

They accept books that have been previously self-published, which is rare. [Their FAQ page](#) is actually very helpful.

Their catalog is also very helpful as you can really get a feel for the range of books they publish, everything from corny romance, to a business book by Mark Cuban.

Currently they are looking for books in the following categories:

Fiction: Romance (contemporary and historical), Thrillers, Mysteries, Science Fiction, Fantasy, Horror, and Young Adult.

Non-Fiction: Business, Sports, Health, True Crime, and platform-based general interest titles.

If you want to submit to them please send a query letter including any marketing information and the first two chapters in an email. Do not attach anything. If you have not heard from them in over two months assume that they are not interested in your book.

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

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](#).

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 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 and Frontier Fiction. Unfortunately their current submission guidelines on their website are out of date and mostly focus in great detail on the sub-genres of romance, a genre they are currently not accepting. So keep that in mind.

Make sure to list the sub-genre 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 that includes an introduction to their guidelines is available [here](#). Also their [Facebook page](#) is a good indicator of what they are currently looking for. Also to learn more you can email them directly at fivestar@cengage.com.

Kensington Publishing

This large independent publisher is based out of New York. They publish a wide variety of mainstream fiction and nonfiction books, with a particular focus on romance. They publish an average of 600 books a year, so they accept a lot more submissions than most independent publishers.

To get a good feeling for what they have previously published this is a [good place to start](#). As far as I can tell, they are interested in most genres except hard science fiction. They publish a particularly large range of romance, from Amish romance to LGBTQ.

To submit, query first. If they are not interested in your query, you will not hear back from them. Do not attach the manuscript or the proposal to your query. If your manuscript is requested it should be submitted as a Word document. It should be typed in 12-point font, double-spaced, and paginated. Include title and author in the file name.

The way that querying works is that you read through the list of editors, and then you submit directly to the one that most directly matches your manuscript, via their email address.

Kensington Press runs a number of imprints that are all accessible through this querying system, except for one, Lyrical Press. [We have reviewed of Lyrical Press here](#).

To learn more about querying Kensington visit [this page](#).

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](#).

Page Street Publishing

Page Street Publishing is a publisher of full color, mostly hardcover, gift books, cookbooks, and craft-books. Most of them have an important visual component. To get a good feeling for what they have published in the past you can [go here](#). They are distributed through Macmillan in every country but Canada (where they have a different distributor). They publish around sixty titles a year.

Page Street Publishing has also started to focus on publishing children's and young adult books

They have a strong marketing plan, both online and off, and they have received a lot of attention for the work, by a number of news organizations, including NPR.

All submissions should be made through emails. They only respond to submissions they are interested in seeing more of. It takes them no more than three months to respond. More detailed information on submitting to them is below.

Children's Books

Please include a query (1 page) with the text as a word document or a pdf sketch dummy, 32-40 pages, as an attachment in spread layouts. Your query must contain: 1) synopsis, pitch, age range; and 2) an author bio that describes your occupation, publishing history, social media presence, and any other relevant information that pertains to your manuscript. If you are an illustrator, please also send your website. If you are represented by an agent or plan to be, please note this in your author bio.

Email: childrensubmissions@pagestreetpublishing.com with the title of your manuscript in the subject line.

Young Adult Fiction

Please label your submission YA and state the title of your manuscript in the subject line of your email. Include a query (1-2 pages) with the first three chapters of your manuscript in the body of your email. Your query must contain: 1) a book synopsis that includes your novel's pitch, word count, and classification (literary, historical, fantasy, mystery, etc); and 2) an author bio that describes your occupation, publishing history, social media presence, and any other relevant information that pertains to your manuscript (including any endorsements, if applicable). If you are represented by an agent or plan to be, please note this in your author bio. All submissions must be edited and proofread. Ideally, your manuscript's length is 60-90K words and your protagonist is 15-18 years old.

Email: submissions@pagestreetpublishing.com and make sure to label YA in the subject line. If you are an agent, write AGENTED in the subject line as well.

Nonfiction

Potential authors interested in submitting their work for consideration should include an author bio, a short synopsis (no more than a page) of their book concept and approach, samples of their work (recipes/projects/writing sample) if applicable, and any notable media hits or press features. If you are represented by an agent or plan to be, please note that they need to be part of the conversation from the start.

Email: submissions@pagestreetpublishing.com and make sure to label NONFICTION in the subject line. If you are an agent, write AGENTED in the subject line as well.

To learn more about submitting to them, visit their full submission guidelines page [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.

At the time of publishing the 2017 Manuscript they were closed to submissions, but they gave no indicators in terms of how long the closure will be.

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

Quarto Publishing Group

The Quarto Publishing Group which is an international publishing house known for its illustrated books. They publish most of their work through a number of niche imprints each with their own focus. All of their US imprints are distributed by Hachette.

Their imprints are all nonfiction. They publish a lot of cookbooks and gift books. They also have imprints covering almost any non fiction topic you can think of from children's nonfiction to parenting to vehicles to architecture.

This is what their website has to say about all their imprints:

Each of our imprints has its own editorial focus and fits into one of the categories below. To ensure that your book proposal winds up in the right hands, please take a moment to review each category to determine where your book best fits. Submitting to the category will send your idea to multiple imprints. If your book idea fits into our focus areas we will contact you for more details. Please bear in mind that we receive a large number of unsolicited manuscripts, so our response time may vary and we ask for your patience.

Their submission guidelines are very specific so please review them carefully before submitting. You can read the full guidelines [here](#).

Once you have carefully reviewed their guidelines you should start composing (or editing) your book proposal.

Reviewing the catalog of the imprint you are planning to submit to is always a good idea.

Quirk Books

This Philadelphia based press publishes just 25 books a year in a whole range of genres, from children's books to nonfiction to science fiction. Unlike most publishers that tackle a large range of topics, Quirk books has a clear marketing plan and to a certain degree their books have a cohesive feel, because they all are quirky.

They have published a wide variety of best sellers and they have excellent distribution. Some of their bestsellers include *The Last Policeman*, *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*, and *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*. You probably recognize more of the books they have published, you might even own a few.

Their covers are excellent. Their website is well organized. Even better, from a potential submitters perspective, their submission guidelines are clear. They also make it very obvious which editor you should submit to, based on your topic. For example below is one of the editor's profiles.

Blair Thornburgh (Editor) is interested in high-concept fiction and non-fiction for teens and adults with a humorous, geeky, and/or feminist bent. In YA fiction, she's seeking manuscripts with a strong, preferably comedic voice and a fresh premise (no dystopias, please). In adult fiction, she's looking for next-gen chick lit, genre fiction that's light and accessible to mainstream readers, and anything with a playful high concept. In non-fiction, she's looking for projects involving women and feminism, geeky stuff and pop culture, or anything that will appeal to quote-unquote millennials. She is actively seeking authors from diverse backgrounds. Definitely query her if you have:

1. High-concept YA with a strong voice—think geeky Meg Cabot
2. Fiction (adult or YA) that incorporates lots of voices or stylistic devices (à la *Dear Committee Members* or *Where'd You Go, Bernadette*)
3. A love story with an unusual narrative form, like Rainbow Rowell's *Attachments*, Jennifer E. Smith's *The Statistical Probability of Love at First Sight*, or Daniel Handler's *Why We Broke Up*
4. Genre fiction that's self-aware, like *Galaxy Quest* or *Cabin in the Woods* in book form
5. Any novel that plays with narrative form, especially involving the internet—a "TTYL" for the next generation

All of the editors have their email address posted at the bottom of their profile. They used to be quick in terms of response times. However, for the last year or so they appear to have only responded to queries they are interested in learning more about. So if you do not hear from them, keep that in mind. Only query one editor at a time. They ask that you do not follow up if you do not hear from them.

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

Solstice Publishing

Solstice is a 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. I would approach them only with caution

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](#).

Sterling Publishing

Sterling Publishing is owned by Barnes and Noble. They put it for sale a couple of years ago, but then after a period of time pulled it from the market. During this whole period Sterling has continued to publish books. They also have a large crafting imprint named Lark. Sterling has been publishing books for over 60 years.

Their website is currently under construction and focuses on authors, not on selling books, but given the fact that they have very good distribution that might not be as much of a priority for them.

The books they publish for adults cover current events, diet and health, parenting, pop culture, reference, history, art, artists, and music. They have a number of imprints with specific focuses on topics such as cooking. They do not publish fiction for adults

They also publish books for children and toddlers. This includes works of fiction and non-fiction.

Sterling only accepts submissions via the post. They try to respond to all submissions they receive. For children's books they expect full manuscripts. For adult books they want a proposal and a first sample chapter.

When you submit, be sure to include your name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address. They will not return any materials submitted unless you specifically request that materials be returned and include, along with your submission, a self-addressed stamped envelope. Under no circumstance should you submit originals or the only copy. They cannot guarantee that they will return unsolicited material.

All submissions should be clearly addressed to the correct editor (for example the Parenting Editor).

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

Turner Books

Turner publishes books in a wide range of categories and formats—fiction and non-fiction. They publish mainly in print but have electronic options as well. They are a major independent publishing house that has a number of imprints.

The following is a list of their imprints from their websites, which may be helpful in determining if they are the right publisher for you.

- Turner
- Wiley: Turner publishes under the Wiley name, with permission, for over 1,000 acquired titles
- Hunter House: Health, Wellness & Sexuality Titles
- Ancestry: Genealogy (acquired the assets of the book division of Ancestry.com)
- Fieldstone Alliance: Business Books for Non-profits (acquired assets of Fieldstone Alliance)
- Basic Health Publications: Titles on Health and Wellness
- Iroquois Press: Fiction and Literature imprint
- Ramsey & Todd: Children's books
- Specific Titles formerly published by Cumberland House Press

They have published a number of well known authors and bestselling books. They have good distribution. Their website is easy to navigate and well designed.

All submissions must be made through email. They are open to agented or unagented submissions. They will contact you if they are interested, otherwise

do not expect to hear from them. They are rather blunt about that. Unfortunately they do not have any information around average turn around time, but they allow simultaneous submissions.

To learn more about them I really encourage you to browse their [catalog](#). To learn their submissions email address (and not much else) 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](#).

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.

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.

People seem to have really mixed results when publishing with them. While the editorial team seems nice and prompt in most circumstances, there are a lot of other complaints including the amount of royalties authors receive. [To learn more, please read the full thread here.](#)

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 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.

You can 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 one of the 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/when an open reading period is scheduled.

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](#).

Cohesion Press

Cohesion Press is a small press publishes novels in the sub genres of military horror, military sci-fi, and creature-based thrillers. They have only been around for a few years but they have already published 19 books, although many are part of the same series.

They offer 50% of gross income on all electronic and print sales. They have a lot of detailed requirements so I recommend that you read their guidelines before submitting.

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 your pitch 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. 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](#).

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 re-seller, 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.

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](#).

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](#).

Kraken Press

Kraken Press is a small press that publishes novels, novellas and short fiction collections in the genres of dark fantasy, horror, and weird fiction. They want to publish fresh work that avoids tropes.

They are based out of Sweden but open to submissions from authors around the world. They accept all submissions through Submittable.

Kraken Press has a visually appealing website but it is a little difficult to navigate (for example it is hard to get from one of the subsections to the catalog). The covers of the books are generally excellent, professional, and intriguing.

They only publish a few books a year. In fact the one warning sign I saw was the fact that the last time they published a book was in 2015, although one is listed as forthcoming on the blog.

Also, if they were closing to publication or going on a hiatus, one would assume that they would close down their Submittable page (particularly because Submittable charges editors).

The books they publish always have print and eBook editions. All of the books appear to be available for free to Kindle unlimited subscribers.

Follow their submission guidelines carefully as submissions that do not follow their guidelines will be discarded.

Manuscripts must be no longer than 120,00 words. They list their current response time as 30 days.

You can browse their catalog [here](#). You can visit their submission page [here](#).

Parvus Press

Parvus Press is a new digital first publisher of science fiction and fantasy novels. They have been around for over a year now, they have published one book that has sold over 4,000 copies, and they have two other books scheduled to release this year. One already has a release date and information about it up on the website, the other does not. They hope to publish more books in 2018

Usually we like to wait a little longer to review a publisher, and even in reviewing Parvus now we are doing so cautiously and with warnings. Many publishers fail before the two year mark. They only have a one book track record. They are still figuring things out. All things to keep in mind.

However, we have decided to review them in part because they have an excellent, easy to use, website. They have a good track record with the one book they have published. They seem to be actively trying to get an established reputable distributor for their books. They also have a reputable editor on board who has worked with Chuck Wendig. The two founders of the company appear to have a solid background in marketing, which is not the same as publishing, of course, but is a step in the right direction.

Also, they are offering advances of up to \$3,500 as well as quarterly royalties on sales. For a new publisher they seem to already be doing some things right.

I also like the fact that they have [very clear submission guidelines](#). They are currently accepting full manuscript submissions. They respond to all submissions within 60 days.

You can visit the main page of 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.

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.

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 currently closed to manuscript submissions because of a family situation, and have been for some time, but they are still actively publishing anthologies, so they appear to still be in business and this is hopefully a temporary setback.

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, 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 interested in mystery novels, make sure to check out the multi-genre chapter of the book as well as the literary fiction chapter.

Alibi

Alibi is Random House's digital first imprint that focuses on publishing mysteries and thrillers. This is a great opportunity for writers without an agent to be published by one of "The Big 5" publishing houses.

All Alibi books are initially published as eBooks, but if they do well, a print version will also be published.

Alibi books has a marketing team devoted to them. They stress that:

"Our program (Alibi) is managed with the same attention given all of our other imprints within the Penguin-Random House Publishing Group. Every book will be assigned to an accomplished Random House editor and a dedicated marketer and publicist. Not only do our authors benefit from working with the finest cover designers to ensure irresistibly eye-catching books, but they are also offered the unique advantage of social media tools and training that will allow them to connect directly with their readers."

You will be expected to help with promoting the book but the book will be promoted by the assigned publicist as well, and you will be given guidance and training in terms of promoting your book.

It is important to note that their contract was initially very controversial, and was modified. There are still points of contention, but there are fewer. You can learn more about all of that [here](#).

They are interested in full-length works, so your work must be 40,000 words or more. They also accept submissions of previously published or self published work as long as you currently control all electronic and print publishing rights.

All queries must be made by filling out their easy to use submission form. You must also attach a sample excerpt that is under 1,500 words in length.

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](#).

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](#).

Joffe Books

Joffe Books is an independent publisher based out of London. They were founded in 2013. They originally focused on publishing new e-books and making classic books and short stories available electronically.

They started out publishing almost any genre, although over the last year they really focused in on crime and mystery fiction. In fact they bill themselves as “one of the UK’s leading independent publishers of best-selling crime and mystery fiction.”

They prefer manuscript submissions in the following genres: Mysteries, Crime Fiction, Psychological Thrillers, Detective, Thrillers, and Suspense. They do imply that they are open to some fiction outside of that focused area.

This is actually a good sign. Usually when a press goes from publishing a broad range of work to something more focused and specific it is because they figured that genre out and are better at selling that genre of book than others.

Another good sign is that many of their books now have print versions available as well.

Originally they were run entirely by the founder, Jasper Joffe, but in the last year or two they seem to have expanded significantly to include other editors.

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](#).

Level Best Books

Level Best Books publishes an annual anthology of Crime Stories set in New England each November, as well as various other anthologies throughout the year. Well-regarded by readers and reviewers, stories published by Level Best have won the Agatha, Anthony, Macavity, Derringer and Robert L. Fish (Award for Best First Short Story presented at the Edgar® banquet) Awards and have been recognized as “Distinguished Mystery Stories,” by the editors of the Best American Mystery Stories series. Level Best also publishes the winning story from the Al Blanchard contest every year.

Level Best Books has been in publishing for over a decade, focusing exclusively on mystery anthologies. On March 1st, with a new editorial team on board, they opened their doors for the first time to agented and unagented manuscript submissions. So well Level Best Books has been around a long time it is also clear that they are trying new things with a mostly new team of editors.

The good news is that all the editors have experience and you can learn more about them on the [website](#).

They are interested the crime fiction in the following categories mystery, thriller, suspense, historical, traditional, and contemporary. They are not interested in publishing any other work.

To submit, email the first 75 pages (roughly, do not break a chapter) and a brief synopsis of your completed novel. Do not submit samples of unfinished manuscripts. They are not in interested in previously published work.

When you submit please do the following:

- Please indicate if the work is a standalone novel or part of a series (completed or planned)
- Include your name, address, phone number, email, title of your novel, total word count of your novel, and a brief summary of your publishing experience (if any) in the body of the email
- Please paginate your submission (format page numbers in either the header or footer of the document)

Make sure the subject line of your email is NOVEL submission.

There is a turnaround time of six weeks. To learn more, visit their [manuscript submission guidelines](#). If you are more interested in submitting a short story to their anthology you can learn more [here](#).

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](#).

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](#).

Albert Whitman & Company

Albert Whitman & Company has been around since 1919. I grew up reading a series the best-known series that they have published The Boxcar Children. Over the past few years they have started to focus on publishing a larger number of books each year. Their goal is to be publishing 150 new books a year by 2020.

They publish middle grade fiction, picture books, and young adult novels. They consider proposals and unsolicited manuscripts in all of these categories. They publish fiction and non-fiction picture books.

Albert Whitman & Company handles their own distribution and sales to the trade, school, and library markets. They are now focusing more on the trade aspect. They have a new Young Adult Book imprint that has done well so far.

All submissions should be made via email. Although under certain circumstances they will review materials sent through the postal mail. These materials include self-published books and unusual formats that cannot be sent electronically. But you must query them through email first.

If you have not heard from them in six months assume that your work is rejected. If they are interested in seeing more of your manuscript they will respond within six months.

Follow their submission guidelines carefully. They have specific guidelines for each of the categories they publish. To read them in full visit their web page [here](#).

If you want to learn even more about them, there is an interesting article up at the [American Booksellers Association Website](#). Some of the information in this review was learned from that article.

Andersen Press

Andersen Press is a British book publishing company that specializes in Children's books. They also have an American branch. It was founded in 1976 by Klaus Flugge, and was named after Hans Christian Andersen. Random House has a holding in the company and has a strong association with Andersen.

Andersen Press is open to unsolicited manuscript submissions from authors of picture books and queries from authors of chapter books.

They publish picture books that are approximately 500 words in length (maximum 1000), juvenile fiction for which the text would be approximately 3-5000 words and older fiction up to 75,000 words.

They have good distribution and excellent covers.

All submissions must be made to their London offices through the mail. They try to respond to all submissions within three weeks.

I will say that there was one negative report on the website Glassdoor about working with the US branch of Andersen Press, as an editor. But that was the only bit of negative information I was able to turn up in my digging.

To learn more visit their submission guidelines [here](#). As always, review their submission guidelines carefully before submitting.

Arthur A. Levine Books

An imprint of Scholastic Inc. Arthur A. Levine Books was founded in 1996. They publish hardcover literary fiction and nonfiction for children and teenagers (and discerning adults). They have published many award winning and nominated books, as well as a number of very well known and respected authors (including J.K. Rowling).

They are open to submissions of picture books as long as the full text accompanies a query letter. For novels they want you to submit a query letter, the first two chapters, and a synopsis.

If you are not already familiar with Arthur A. Levine Books it is very important to review [the catalog](#), and perhaps check one or two of their books out of your local library.

This is very important to note - if you are met with the message "There are presently no open calls for submissions," they have reached their monthly limit on queries. Please wait until the first day of the next month to submit your query. In that way they are able to stay open to submissions year round. Expect a response from them within six months.

They accept all submissions through the submission manager Submittable. They respond to all queries, even if it is just with a form rejection letter. They used to have a reliable quick response time, but they have not been reported as responding to submissions since early this year. So please take that into consideration.

To read all of their submission guidelines, visit their website [here](#).

Blaze

Blaze is a new print and electronic publisher focusing on publishing fiction books for young adults and middle grade readers. 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 book they published, *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.

They have also continued to publish books on the schedule they set for themselves and they have clear marketing strategies, such as Goodreads giveaways for forthcoming book.

There is a warning sign, that successful first book is written by the editor of Blaze. Also, they are very new. This is just their second full year of being in business. But so far they seem to be doing well.

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](#).

Boyd's Mill Press

Boyd's Mill Press is owned by [Highlights for Children](#). They are an award winning publisher of children's books.

The best way to get a feeling for what they publish is by reviewing their [catalog](#). If you are considering submitting a picture book review the picture books. If you are considering submitting a book of poetry, review their poetry selection. Their catalog is organized by category. I would also encourage you to check a book or two of theirs out from your local library.

Their books have wonderful covers. Most of the books they sell are sold to classrooms or libraries, and there is a section of their website designated for teachers and librarians.

They accept unsolicited submission and respond to each in the order that they received them. If they are not interested in your work they will send out a form rejection letter. They do try to respond within three months, so if your submission has not been responded to after three months, you can query about the status of your submission.

They have a number of imprints. When you submit to them your work will be considered for all of their imprints too.

They publish picture books, collections of poetry, middle grade fiction, and non fiction. All submissions must be made through the post. They do not accept email submissions. Include a self addressed and stamped envelope with all submissions.

For picture books and books of poetry they will only consider full manuscript submissions. Only submit the first three chapters for middle grade fiction.

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

Capstone Publishing

Capstone Publishing's motto is "Loved by kids. Trusted by librarians." This is for a reason: For a long time they have been one of the most trusted publishers in terms of helping children learn to read and learn to love reading. They have been focused on this specific market for over twenty years. It is easy to find their books in libraries and schools. They also publish trade books that are available in bookstores, but their primary focus is the educational market.

The books they publish are aimed at kids and teenagers, mostly those who struggle to engage with reading. Much of what they publish for teenagers are educational graphic novels.

If you are serious about submitting to them it is important to make yourself familiar with their back catalog which you can do [online here](#), or at your local library.

Their submissions work a little differently than most other publishers. This is what they have to say about it:

Capstone is keenly interested in meeting authors and illustrators. Most of their titles are conceptually developed in-house and written and illustrated by freelance writers and artists. They are interested in receiving authors' manuscripts and writing samples, and reviewing artists' portfolios.

They accept unsolicited submissions from non-fiction and fiction authors and non-fiction and fiction illustrators.

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

Charlesbridge Publishing

Charlesbridge publishes high quality books for children and young adults with the goal of creating lifelong readers and lifelong learners. In 2010 Charlesbridge acquired Imagine Publishing which expanded what they were able to offer. They now have extensive audio offerings. They also publish adult nonfiction, cookbooks, and puzzle books.

Charlesbridge is still best known for their children's books which are widely available at bookstores and libraries. They have published a number of beloved and well reviewed children's books. In order to submit a children's book to them you must submit it via the post. They are only interested in complete manuscript submissions. Illustrators are also encouraged to submit, separately.

Please review their catalog online to see what kind of children's books they have previously published before proceeding.

Charlesbridge is just now starting to publish young adult fiction. They accept email or postal submissions of young adult fiction. They are only interested in complete manuscripts.

Imagine, their adult imprint publishes 8-10 new titles per year, primarily in the areas of history, women's studies, gender studies, multicultural studies, politics, nature and the environment, as well as cooking, health, and wellness. All non fiction submissions should be made via email

In all categories they only respond to submissions that interest them. So do not include a self addressed and stamped envelope. However they expect all submissions to be exclusive submissions for three months. You should state

“Exclusive Submission” on all correspondence. However after three months has passed, feel free to submit elsewhere.

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

Clarion Books

Clarion Books is an imprint of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books, a publisher you have almost certainly heard of, as they are established, and have published many classics. None of Houghton Mifflin's other imprints are open to unsolicited submissions, just Clarion.

Clarion publishes books for children. They have published many classic children's books, both in terms of picture books and novels. To get a better feel for what authors they have previously published, you can visit [this page](#). They publish about 50 books a year.

They are accepting unsolicited novels, non-fiction, and picture books. However, they are not responding to submissions they are not interested in. If you have not heard from them after 12 weeks assume rejection. In the past they have published a number of previously unpublished authors who submitted via the slush pile.

They are asking for submissions of complete manuscripts for both picture books and novels. For non-fiction submit a synopsis and some sample chapters. All submissions must be made through the mail. It is also worth noting that they accept submissions from illustrators, and not just for the Clarion imprint but others as well.

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

Dial Books For Young Readers

Dial Books For Young Readers publishes hardcover books aimed at children of all ages, including young adults. They are an imprint of Penguin that accepts unsolicited submissions. The catch? They do not respond to unsolicited submissions unless they are interested in the book. That means don't expect a rejection from Dial, personal or otherwise. If you have not heard from them in four months, they have rejected your work.

Dial publishes around 70 new books a year. Many of the books they publish are picture books. It has published a huge number of New York Times bestsellers. It was one of the first places to publish quality board books in the US. Dial has published a lot of character driven middle reader and young adult books by authors like Marilyn Nelson, Catherine Fisher, and Holly Goldberg Sloan.

The books they have published have gone on to win most of the major awards for children's books, including the Caldecott Medal and the Newbery Medal.

All unsolicited submissions must be made via the post. Do not include a self addressed and stamped envelope as you will not hear from them unless they are interested in your manuscript.

If you are submitting a picture book, submit the entire manuscript. If you are submitting a longer work only submit the first 10 pages. They are not interested in original artwork, audio cds, or marketing plans. Please do not query them if you do not hear from them.

You can learn more about Dial on their Penguin web page [here](#). But their submission guidelines are actually a one page PDF that you can download [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."

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](#).

Flux

Flux is an imprint of North Star Editions that publishes exclusively young adult fiction. Their motto is "Where Young Adult is a Point of View, not a Reading Level". Most of the books they publish focus on the older end of the young adult market. They publish edgier, darker stuff, than other young adult publishers. They publish all sub genres of young adult from realistic life stories to sci fi. They are established, have good distribution, and have published many books that have sold well.

Submitting to them is easy and done via email.

To have Flux consider your book for publication, please provide the following two items:

- A query letter (in the body of the e-mail) including:
 - A brief 1-2 paragraph plot synopsis
 - A short bio mentioning your previous publications and writing credentials
 - 3-5 comparative books published within the last 5 years with an explanation of how your book both ties into a trend in the Young Adult genre and offers something unique
 - Your e-mail address and phone number
- The first three chapters of your book in an attached Word document

By reviewing [their recent releases](#) it is easy to figure out what kind of work they publish.

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

Free Spirit Publishing

Free Spirit Publishing is an established publisher with good distribution. They publish primarily non-fiction, mostly curriculum based, where they have a number of niche focuses.

They do publish fiction but only in the form of board books (aimed at infants to 4 year olds) and picture books (for ages 4 to 8) that focus on social skills and getting along, early learning, character education, self-esteem, and other topics related to positive early childhood development.

They are also open to non-fiction board and picture books with the same subject matters.

Their areas of focus in non-fiction include the following topics: Gifted & special education, bullying prevention & conflict resolution, character education, leadership & service learning, educational games, posters, & jars, counseling & social-emotional learning. More information about what specifically they are looking for is available on their [submission guidelines page](#).

If you are interested in submitting you must first submit a proposal.

It is important to note that they do not write rejections. If you do not hear from them after six months or so, consider your proposal rejected. They always contact authors whose work they are interested in. This is a particularly frustrating considering the fact that they do not accept electronic submissions. All submissions must be made through the post.

If you are submitting a proposal it must include the following:

- A cover letter briefly outlining your project, the intended audience (including age ranges), and your relevant expertise
- A current résumé
- A market analysis with a comprehensive list of similar titles and a detailed explanation of how your project differs from available products
- A detailed chapter-by-chapter outline
- At least two sample chapters (if a full manuscript is available, you may send it) ***Note:** For early childhood submissions, the entire text is required for evaluation. Bracketed art suggestions are appreciated, though illustration samples should not be sent unless professionally competent.*
- A description of your personal promotion plan for the proposed book (including both in-person and social media outreach)

To learn more about Free Spirit and see the books they have previously published, visit their [website](#).

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](#).

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. They initially published a wide range of genres for adults, children, and young adults.

However in the past year or so they have started to focus only on middle-grade and young adult books. They especially want books showcasing strong voices, unique stories, and diverse characters. The reason they stopped publishing adult books appears to be that North Star Editions bought them out around a year ago.

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 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.

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

Little Pickle Press

Little Pickle Press is a publisher in the process of re-branding to become March 4th, INC. This name change might have something to do with the fact that they are growing their business outside of publishing and are working in other media as well now. Although it is a little confusing it does not appear to be a bad sign. No matter what you call the press, it is based out of California and they have a reputation for being particularly environmentally friendly. The press is a B corporation ([you can learn more about what that means here](#)).

One of the ways to learn more about Little Pickle Press is to read the interview with the founder [here](#). Little Pickle started out as a self publishing imprint but it has grown a lot since then.

Even though they accept submissions of picture books and books aimed at younger readers, the press is currently focused on finding more manuscripts aimed at middle graders and young adults. The subjects that they are most interested in are as follows:

- Kindness—the power of it
- Dare To Be Different
- Choices: It's Not All Black And White; Most of Life is Gray
- Racism—the deleterious effects of it
- Refugees
- Adoption
- Complex Family Structures

- Anti-Princess Themes
- Creativity—the importance of it, fostering it, etc.
- Leadership and/or Entrepreneurship
- Divergent (vs. Convergent) Thinking
- [Systems Thinking](#)
- Responsibility/Accountability/Moving Beyond Gen M Thinking
- Taking Care of Yourself and Your Community/Planting the Seeds of Being a Locavore

They are open minded in terms of genre. They really want books aimed at children; they are not interested in hidden messages for the adults.

All submissions are made on the new submission platform authors.me. To learn more about how to submit, visit their website [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

These publishers publish Christian books covering a wide range of categories from academic to children's books. There are a few other publishers that publish Christian books listed in the romance section.

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. The cover art is very uneven.

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](#).

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, although they will be closed to unsolicited submissions for the rest of this year.

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 weeks a new romance publisher sprouts out of the woodwork.

This extensive but incomplete chapter manages to cover a lot of ground. In this chapter 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](#).

Black Lyon Publishing

Black Lyon Publishing is a small but established publisher of romance novels, eBook and printed, out of Oregon. Some of their books also have audio versions.

They just recently started to publish works of non-fiction. The non-fiction categories they are interested in are as follows: Politics & Government (Opinions or satire, American History); Self-Help and Spirituality; How-to; True Crime; and Biographies or Autobiographies.

The books I have seen tend to be well edited. I am not huge fan of the covers or of the design of the website, but that is a matter of personal taste.

They are a rather small publisher so they do expect their authors to do a lot of self promotion. They publish a range of romantic fiction and they provide more details in terms of what they are specifically looking for on their website [here](#).

When you query them do not attach any material. It will not be opened. Do not submit any manuscript over 90,000 words in length. They have a response time of three months. A history of previous publications does not seem to be particularly important.

The body of your query email should contain your name, manuscript title, the type of novel/nonfiction book, word count, a 1-2 paragraph blurb similar to what you might imagine the back cover of your book to read, and the first three paragraphs of your manuscript.

They are not interested in a synopsis so do not include one. Nonfiction queries should also include a table of contents.

They are not open for submissions for the rest of 2017, but I included them because they seem to be on track to reopen in early 2018.

To learn more read their submission guidelines [here](#). You can visit their main page here to have a better idea of what kind of romance books they [publish](#).

Blushing Books

Blushing Books started out as a romance print publisher in the 90's. It has since shifted entirely into the eBook market. Books are released to all major distributors, including the Barnes and Noble Nook, Kobo, Apple, All Romance Ebooks, and Smashwords.

They have a newsletter with over 15,00 subscribers, so they are focused on selling books and not just on recruiting authors. It is easy to find their submission guidelines on their website, but it is much easier to find a book to buy, which is a good sign. I noticed a number of typos on the website. Also, the organization of the site was confusing and the information it provided was occasionally contradictory.

The cover quality varies, but seems pretty typical in terms of romance books.

Endings must be happily ever after or happy for now. They are more interested in Erotic Romance than Erotica.

They are open about their royalty rates. They offer a 50% royalty rate that increases to 60% for authors who write for them exclusively. They offer advances on well-written novels longer than 40K words, with a strong romantic story line.

They are open to previously self published books under certain circumstances: "We are no longer accepting or interested in looking at books that have been self-published or released with another publisher in the last 12 months unless you are offering us additional titles, or it's part of a series, and you are offering us additional books in the series."

They try to respond to all submissions within two weeks. They try to publish all titles within three months. Do not simultaneously submit to them.

To learn more visit their extensive submission guidelines [here](#). To get a better feeling for their website go to the main page [here](#).

Boroughs Publishing Group

Boroughs Publishing Group is an e-publisher that focuses on publishing romance novels, novellas, and short stories. They now also publish a fair amount of women's fiction.

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 a former imprint of Adams Media, that was bought by Simon & Schuster, this year.

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](#).

Forever Yours

Forever is the romance imprint of Grand Central Publishing. Grand Central Publishing is an imprint of the Hachette Book Group, one of the big five publishers.

Forever Yours is the digital sister of Forever, they focus on publishing unagented authors, and often publish authors without a publication history. They publish eBooks, but they an option to print on demand any book over 50,000 words in length.

Forever Yours is a way to get your foot in the door of a major publisher. They also give you the advantages most eBook only publishers don't, thorough editing, and a marketing team,

Their website is well organized and easy to navigate. I personally don't love reading all that red on white text, but I don't generally read romance novels, so I am not the target audience.

They do not offer advances. Their royalties are 25% of net. They try to respond to all submissions within 6-8 weeks of receiving a submission.

Forever Yours accepts romance submissions from all subgenres, including but not limited to: contemporary romance, new adult, category romance stories, romantic suspense, western, historical, inspirational, paranormal, time-travel, and erotica.

To submit to them send them an email that includes a query letter, a detailed synopsis of your novel, and your completed manuscript formatted to be a RTF file.

They accept novellas as well as novels. The shortest works they publish are 12,000 words, the longest are 100,000.

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

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](#).

ImaJinn Books

ImaJinn Books is a print and electronic publisher of a wide spectrum of romance novels. They publish everything from new adult to contemporary to fantasy. Their print books are published on demand, and they seem to sell most of their books through Amazon, so don't expect a distributor.

However, many authors do stick with them for a long time, either publishing different novels with them, or a full series. This is usually a good sign. A long time ago they filed for bankruptcy, but they survived that and now have been established for over a decade.

Their covers are all over the map to me, but I am not a romance reader, and therefore not their target audience.

Their website is easy to navigate and focuses on selling books, not recruiting authors. My only complaint is that at least three of the links to buy novels on Amazon were broken, which is not ideal.

They are interested only in full length novels from 50,000-90,000 words. Submit a query email with the full manuscript attached in .doc or .rtf form. Attaching a detailed synopsis is also appreciated, but not required. They try to contact all authors via email within six months of their initial query.

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

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](#).

Loveswept and Flirt

Loveswept and Flirt are Random House's digital only imprints focused on romance and women's fiction.

They are accepting queries for submissions in contemporary romance, erotica, historical romance, paranormal romance, women's fiction, and new adult.

There is no strict word count limits for submissions. But work must be at least forty thousand words in length.

If your book does well as an eBook they will publish a print version of it at a later date. The great thing about publishing digitally with Random House is that your book still gets the same serious consideration in terms of editing, marketing, and designing that their traditionally published books do, but no agent is required.

Although, if they accept and publish your book, it would be much easier to get an agent, moving forward.

Both Loveswept and Flirt are open to books that have been previously self-published or traditionally published. You just have to own the rights to the books before submitting them.

Royalties are split between the author and the publisher 50-50. No advances are offered. It is important to note that their contract was initially very controversial, and was modified. There are still points of contention, but there are fewer. You can read more about that [here](#).

All submissions must be made through their easy to use form. All submitters must be 18 years of age or older. I would encourage you to edit the

information you are putting into the form elsewhere before submitting it, as you could easily lose it in the form itself and it is harder to edit in that format.

To learn more visit their website [here](#). The FAQs are easy to miss but very helpful, so make sure to read those before submitting.

Lyrical Press

Lyrical Press is an electronic only imprint of Kensington, a large independent publisher. Kensington and Lyrical both publish mainstream novels and seem to put a fair amount of pressure on the author to promote their books. They publish a large number of books per year.

Lyrical publishes books in all romance genres (specifically suspense and historical novels with unique settings), compelling psychological suspense fiction, thrillers, women's fiction, new adult, and cozy mysteries. They publish novellas, serials, and novels – all in eBook format.

I have heard mixed things about Lyrical, but many authors have had good experiences with them and have worked with them for years, not just for one book but for several, which in and of itself is a good sign. They work with agented and unagented authors.

I do not love the way their website is laid out, but it is easy to buy books on it, which is ultimately the most important thing.

When you submit to Lyrical you have two submission options. One is to submit through the submissions manager Submittable. The other is to submit directly to an editor via an email query. All of the editors have information about what they are looking about [here](#), so that you know which editor to submit to, if you go that route. They have eight different editors working for them at this time.

If you do not hear back about your query in three months, consider your manuscript rejected. From what I have heard they do often offer personal rejections. To learn more, 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](#).

St Martin's Press

St Martin's Press is an imprint of Macmillan, one of the big 5 publishers. SMP Swerve is the digital first romance publishing imprint of St Martin's.

'Digital first' is a term applied to publishers and imprints that initially publish eBooks and then depending on the success of the book, or sometimes other factors stated in advance by the publisher, a print version of the book is released.

One of the advantages of publishing a digital first book with a major publisher is that it is a great way to get a foot in the door. They also offer an experienced marketing team to help promote your book, and other perks such as excellent copy editing.

SMP Swerve is open to all sub-genres of romance. The length of your manuscript must be between 25 thousand and 100 thousand words. All books must end happily ever after, or, if the book is part of a series, happily for now.

Heat level (how explicit the romance in your book is) and other factors vary from category to category, so review all the categories and their guidelines before submitting. They are seeking diverse authors and characters, including LGBTQ.

They respond to most submissions within 12 weeks. So wait at least that long before querying them about the state of your manuscript.

SMP Swerve uses Submittible to handle all of their submissions. They accept work that has been previously published or self published as long as you retain all rights to it.

To learn more please visit their website [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 ready to submit, [this article](#) can really be helpful. It covers the three steps you need to follow in order to make sure that your manuscript is ready to be sent out to agents or publishers.

Once you are sure that 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 that information can easily 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 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 publishers 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 books.

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 non fiction 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 start ups, 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 non fiction. 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. Editor's 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 can not 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.

About Emily Harstone

Emily Harstone is the pen name of a writer and submission advisor. Her work has been published internationally in a large number of journals and anthologies. You can follow her on facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/emilyharstone/>