

GETTING READY TO PUBLISH

The pre-publish checklist (because you have a book to get published).

TKG Publishing · tkgpublishing.com · Publishing is hard. Writing is harder.

THE BOOK ITSELF

- Manuscript finished, edited, and reread until the story is just right.
- Interior typeset. Typesetting is invisible until it's bad—so get it right.
tkgpublishing.com/blog/typesetting-in-code.html
- Manuscript finalized and page count locked. The cover is waiting on this.

ISBNs

- Go to Bowker and buy your own ISBNs—**you** own them. The bundle deal is pretty good.
myidentifiers.com
- Paperback, hardcover, ebook—three formats, three ISBNs.
- Configure each ISBN to the book you are publishing, and BAM!

THE WEBSITE

- Own. Your. URL. Buy it from a registrar, not from the place hosting your website.
namecheap.com
- Whois protection: a must if you write under a pen name.
- Build the thing. A builder app *will* get the job done; go custom if you are feeling adventurous.
- A static site (pure HTML and JavaScript) is free to host on Render.
render.com
- Connect the URL to your hosted site (your builder has step-by-step instructions).

PRINT-ON-DEMAND

- Set up IngramSpark: the cheapest 'author printing' costs, and where brick-and-mortar stores and libraries order.
ingramspark.com
- Returns turned ON? A store can buy 100 copies and send back 80—you are charged for that return. Hard to budget.
- Set up KDP: sell to readers, better royalties, no return nightmare.
kdp.amazon.com
- Publishing to both? Don't select IngramSpark's global distribution network—KDP's direct royalties are better (as of right now).
- Selling direct from your website? A third-party service (Stripe) handles the transaction; you do the packing and shipping.

- Ebook? Consider Kindle Unlimited for more reach.
- Own your own ISBN? You can print at both locations.

THE COVER

- Wait until the manuscript is finalized—spine width differs based on page count.
- Download the PDF the print company provides.
- Add positioning boxes set to the exact dimensions of the spine and covers.
- Center everything. A misaligned spine is most noticeable.
- Delete the positioning boxes and upload it how the print company wants it.

COPYRIGHT

- Keep digital receipts so you can prove the day you set it in its medium.
- Register the copyright with your finalized manuscript.
copyright.gov
- Retain a copy of your official filing manuscript.
- Not legal advice—find a lawyer if you have real questions.

THE FINAL SPRINT

- Triple-check the proof PDF the printing company provides—every page and the cover design.
- Hit print and get your proof copy.
- Don't open the box immediately. Hold it in your hands. Feel the weight.
- Read the entire proof—your last time reading it before you send it off into the world.
- Fix the things, order another copy, spot-check what you fixed.
- Know the pipelines: IngramSpark reviews *before* you print; KDP can take three days (or longer) *after* you submit.
- Wait until the right day and *then* hit publish. Prove it.

YOUR ITEMS

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