

Authors Publish

**The 2021
Guide to
Manuscript
Publishers**



230

**TRADITIONAL
PUBLISHERS**

No Agent Required

Emily Harstone

Authors Publish

The 2021 Guide to
Manuscript
Publishers

230 Traditional Publishers

No Agent Required

Emily Harstone

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Introduction

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

All of the reviews in this book were originally published in our magazine. The reviews 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. Particularly during the pandemic year(s) where many presses have altered their submission policies.

Sometimes the changes that occurred with a publisher were minor; others were not.

Over seventy publishers have been removed since the first edition of this book was published five years ago, because they either started charging submission fees, tried to redirect submitters to their hybrid or vanity imprint, closed to unsolicited submissions, or went out of business entirely.

One of the biggest developments to happen this year is [that the big 5 will become the big 4](#), or maybe it has already, depending on when the sale of Simon & Schuster to Random House fully goes through. Not that it's a sure thing, but it seems likely.

The good news is that after years of seeing almost a dozen romance publishers closing every year, there were only two romance publishers that closed their doors this time around.

In other good news, book sales overall are up significantly.

This is the seventh annual edition of this guide. This is also the first year where I did not see a dramatic increase in traditional publishers starting a vanity imprint.

Although, there was a marked increase in aggressive and misleading behavior from vanity presses, and an increase in fake agencies. One of the ongoing issues is scammers taking Big Five publisher's names, which you can learn more about [here](#).

Still, 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). We will update their review to include an explicit warning about the practice. We had to do this in 2021 with a Canadian press.

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.

Unfortunately, because of COVID-19, more publishers than usual are closed to unsolicited submissions, but gratefully most of these closures so far have been temporary, and the publishing industry as a whole appears to be more stable than people anticipated it would be at the outset of the pandemic. I've heard lots of people complaining that presses closed because of the economic situation, and while I think fewer new presses opened their doors, fewer presses closed this year than in the past.

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.

Usually, the best place to go for third party feedback about publishers is [the index of agents, publishers, and others](#) at Absolute Write. However, unless things have changed since I last checked earlier today, the forum is still down and the above link will not work. What was supposed to be a week-long closure has now gone on for over two months.

Still, I am mentioning this resource here because, it seems like they have taken steps towards re-opening it - You can learn more [here](#) as they've been posting updates on their FB page.

If it does re-open it is important to note that it is a forum and the “popular and unpopular publishers threads” are often lively and active places. A lot of speculation occurs in the forum, so take unverified information with a grain of salt. It is important to note that because they rely on forum member contributions, some publisher's threads are woefully out of date, although others are up to the minute.

If any link in this book doesn't currently work it is likely because this forum is still down.

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, 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: nonfiction 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 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 and Australian publishers. I have put together a list of publishers with geographic limitations on submissions that you can read [here](#).

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 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.

We also receive helpful feedback from readers that act as sources, informing our reviews and allowing them to be as honest and up to date as possible.

We always wait at least a year (often two) before reviewing a company, so that they can publish a few books and have a track record. Even if we list a publisher as new, they are at least a year old.

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.

All of the publishing companies we review are open to agented submissions as well. Although a number of publishers—particularly in the science fiction genre—prefer that you do not have one.

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.

It is also important to note that I review one manuscript publisher per week for Authors Publish on an ongoing basis, which means that all our subscribers receive one new manuscript publisher review a week throughout the year. If you are not already a subscriber you can become one for free [here](#).

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 works they are interested in publishing varies wildly. Some are only interested in academic work, others are interested in 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 section of this book. Some of the publishers in the multi-genre section of the book also publish nonfiction books.

Arcade Publishing

Arcade Publishing is an imprint of [Skyhorse Publishing](#), a large independent publisher with a number of imprints. They have good distribution, and while there have been complaints about their behavior in the past, over the past two years they seem to have cleaned up their act. To learn more about Skyhorse as a whole, please read this [review](#). In this review I am only focusing on the Arcade imprint. Arcade publishes fiction and nonfiction.

They accept proposal submissions. If you are submitting nonfiction, your book does not need to be complete in order to submit it. If you are submitting fiction your manuscript must be complete, even though you are only submitting a partial one. They accept work in the following categories:

- Adventure and Travel
- Fiction
- History
- Literary Nonfiction
- Military History
- Business
- Memoir
- Arts
- Nature and Science
- Food and Wine
- Current Events

It is a good idea to get a feel for what they publish by browsing their catalog [here](#). To learn more about Arcade as an imprint [go here](#).

When you submit make sure to include a brief query letter, a one to two page synopsis, an annotated chapter outline (for nonfiction, I don't think this is for fiction), market analysis (this should be more in-depth for nonfiction proposals), a sample chapter or two, and your CV or Bio including a list of all your previous publishing credits.

All submissions must be made via email. If they are interested in seeing more, they should contact you around the 4 week mark. If they do not respond to your submission within 6 weeks, assume rejection. Do not query.

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

Agate Publishing

Agate Publishing is a small press located in Evanston Illinois, a suburb of Chicago. They started in 2002 with their Bolden imprint and initially published only African American authors before expanding from there.

They have good distribution within the United States. They are only open to queries, which means that you can only send your query letter and not a partial manuscript. They accept all submissions via email and they ask that you do not phone them to follow up on your manuscript.

Their covers are generally well designed and attention catching and their books authors have become more established over time.

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

Agate is open to queries in select areas. Their Surrey imprint is open to nonfiction submissions about food, cooking, and nutrition. Their B2 imprint is open to business related nonfiction. Their initial imprint Bolden is open to fiction and nonfiction, including memoirs, by African American writers. Their Midway imprint is open to books on Midwestern topics or by Midwestern authors.

You can learn a little more about submissions [here](#).

Allworth Press

Allworth Press is a non-fiction imprint of [Skyhorse Publishing](#). They have major distribution, and while Skyhorse's past reputation has been a little mixed, they seem to be doing well for a while now.

They have good distribution, decent cover design, and marketing.

Allworth publishes books in the following categories:

- Graphic Design
- Business
- Performing Arts
- Interior Design
- Art
- Theater
- Web Design
- Book Arts
- Photography
- Crafts

It is worth looking through their back catalog and their recently [published sections](#) of their website to get a good idea for what they are looking for.

You must submit a proposal to them initially. Your proposal should include a brief query (cover) letter, a one-to-two page synopsis, an annotated chapter outline, and market analysis, including competitive research, up to two sample chapters and your CV including all previous publishing credits.

Outside of the CV the proposal information is pretty standard for a nonfiction publishers.

If they are interested they respond within 4-6 weeks. If they are not interested they do not respond at all.

They do make one curious statement, "please refrain from submitting unfinished novels.", because they are not currently accepting novels at all and it is very common for nonfiction books to be submitted while still incomplete.

All proposals must be made through email. You can learn more, or submit, [here](#).

Artisan

Artisan focuses on publishing visual heavy books nonfiction books. The visuals themselves vary between photography, illustration, or graphic design, but the idea is that these books communicate ideas and lessons because of their strong visual components. Most of the books, including Artisan's first bestseller *The French Laundry Cookbook* by *Thomas Keller*, include all three components. They are best known for their cookbooks, which continue to be bestsellers by famous chefs and food critics. But they also publish books about a wide variety of other topics including design, clothing, storytelling, current interest and kid crafts.

Reviewing their [catalog here](#) will give you a good picture of the wide range of books they publish. I encourage you to browse through at least three pages before deciding to submit, their range is that broad and surprising.

They are an imprint of Workman Publishing, and unlike many of the other imprints they were founded in 1994 by the company itself. They try to respond to all proposals within three months. They stress that the more information you can give them about your project, the better. Unlike the other imprints of Workman, they only accept submissions via post. Please do not email them submissions, they will not be read. Submissions made by post should be printed copies, never original work. They are based out of New York City. I do believe they offer advances although nothing is explicitly stated on the website about that.

To read their full submission guidelines [go here](#).

Beacon Press

Beacon Press is an established publisher of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. However they are only open to direct submissions of nonfiction proposals. Works of fiction, poetry, and self help, will not be considered.

Beacon Press was established in 1854. They have published a number of bestsellers and seminal works. They've published a number of respected authors including James Baldwin, Martin Luther King Jr, and Mary Oliver.

If you want to know more about their history, you can read [this PDF](#) they put together as part of their 150th Birthday celebration.

Their current current program emphasizes religion, history, current affairs, political science, gay/lesbian/gender studies, education, African-American studies, women's studies, child and family issues and nature and the environment. They are a department of the [Unitarian Universalist Association](#). They have excellent distribution.

The mission of Beacon Press is "to affirm and promote these principles: the inherent worth and dignity of every person; justice, equity and compassion in human relations; acceptance of one another; a free and responsible search for truth and meaning; the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process in society; the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all; respect for the interdependent web of all existence; and the importance of literature and the arts in democratic life."

You can learn more about the specifics of what they publish by starting off on their [home page](#) and accessing their list on the upper left corner of the banner.

Please do not submit a query to them unless it seems like a good fit within the parameters of what they currently publish.

All queries describing proposals must be made via email. They can be no longer than 250 words in length. They will respond to you within three weeks if they are interested in seeing your full proposal.

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

Amberley

Amberley is a UK based publisher that focuses on publishing historical books. They only publish nonfiction. The books they publish include regional history, specialist history and general history. They have published well over 2,000 titles.

Their distributor is Casemates, and their books are widely available, particularly in the UK.

They offer writers an advance, but it is not particularly generous, considering the amount of research that goes into this kind of nonfiction.

They are open to submissions local history and sport, but these have to be by historians that focus on the UK. It's not explicitly stated in their submission guidelines but it is very clear based on what they have previously published. They ask that you submit an 1,000 word outline of the book along with 4-6 sample images.

They are also interested in specialist history (transport, industry, collectables, pastimes), this too focuses on the UK. They want at least 4-6 sample images along with an outline of the planned book.

They also publish general history, including biographies. The submission guidelines for this are very broad. They ask that you send an outline of no more than 3,000 words about the planned book. This outline should include a summary of the subject, your approach to it, a contents list if possible, and also the target readership.

You can get a good feel for what they publish [here](#).

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

Big Sky Publishing

Big Sky Publishing is an Australian based publisher that focuses on publishing nonfiction books for adults. They also publish children's books, although they are only open to children's book submissions at certain times.

They focus on publishing manuscripts focusing on the following areas: History, Military History, Self-help, Autobiography, Business, Careers, Environment, How to/Practical Guides, Health, Humour, Lifestyle, Indigenous Studies, Women's and Men's Interest, Corporate Publications.

They insist that everyone who submits indicates their market and the key differentiators of their manuscript.

Their covers are very hit and miss to me. Some are good, most feel dated, and some are very generic. They are one of the rare nonfiction publishers that don't consider incomplete manuscripts.

I couldn't find anything out about their distribution but I suspect they are limited to Australia. Their corporate and bulk sales link on their website wasn't working — their link for school discounts was, however.

Their website was geared towards readers, not writers, which is generally a good sign. I couldn't find out very much about the editors, the owners, or the history of the company, which was frustrating. The website did imply that most of the editors they worked with were freelance.

They accept submissions only via email. They only respond to submissions they are interested in. They have detailed submission guidelines you can review on their website. You can learn more [here](#).

Carrel Books

Carrel Books is a non-fiction imprint of [Skyhorse Publishing](#). They have major distribution and while Skyhorse's past reputation has been a little mixed, they seem to be doing well for a while now.

Carrel Books was founded in 2014. It's an unusual imprint because, while its books are available for purchase from the public, they aren't distributed in brick and mortar stores the way most other imprints of Skyhorse are. Instead, their focus is on selling to libraries.

This is what the publisher of Skyhorse Tony Lyon shas to say about the Carrel imprint on their website -- "We appreciate the support we've received from librarians and the wholesalers that supply them. Without their support, our recent growth would have been impossible. With an imprint whose editorial and marketing team focuses on the needs of librarians and library patrons, we expect further growth and an even closer working relationship with the library community."

Carrel Books focuses on being authoritative, well-written, and accessible.

The subjects they cover include the following:

- Sports (Team and Individual)
- Outdoor Sport (Hunting, Fishing, and Camping)
- Adventure and Travel
- Health and Fitness
- House and Home
- History
- Humor
- Military History
- Business
- Games and Gambling
- Horses
- Pets and Animals

- Nature and Science
- Food and Wine
- Aviation
- True Crime
- Current Events

To learn more about what proposing to them involves, please visit their website [here](#). They try to respond to submissions within 6 weeks, if interested. If they are not interested, you will not hear from them.

Chelsea Green

Chelsea Green is a non-fiction publisher that focuses on publishing books that promote the “politics and practice of sustainable living.” Chelsea Green was founded in 1984. As of 2012 they are employee owned. Their books have won numerous awards, and you can learn more about their history [here](#).

To get a better feel for what they have published in the past, go [here](#). They have excellent distribution, good marketing, and well designed covers.

They are not interested in any work outside of that market. On average they receive over 800 submissions a year, and publish only 30 (give or take).

Books that do not follow their guidelines will not be considered or acknowledged.

They accept via email and post. They accept based on queries and proposals.

They have very detailed submission guidelines that include specific details about what they do and do not publish, and what they expect all proposals to include. You can read their full guidelines [here](#).

Chicago Review Press

Chicago Review Press was founded over 40 years ago. They are an established independent publisher of literary fiction, non-fiction and memoir. They also publish books for children (but not picture books). They are only open to non-fiction in terms of unsolicited submissions.

They were founded by Curt Matthews and his wife, Linda Matthews. Curt was the former editor of the literary journal the Chicago Review.

What was once a basement operation is now large and established. They publish about 60 books a year under a number of imprints. They employ a number of publicists as well as editors.

They publish print and electronic editions of all of their books. Their website is easy to navigate. Their books have good distribution, which is not surprising because they own the distribution company.

Their submission guidelines are both very extensive and very helpful. They go into details about how their publicists work. What their authors are expected to do, and what they are not. They also have information about their various editors. They are very specific about what they are interested in. You can read their submission information [here](#). Please review it carefully before submitting.

They stress the submission of a very specific proposal instead of a query. They outline what the proposal must contain on their site.

It is very helpful to visit their website and browse the books that they have previously published. You can visit their website [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 guidelines](#) in order to learn more.

Chelsea Green

Chelsea Green is a non-fiction publisher that focuses on publishing books that promote the “politics and practice of sustainable living.” Chelsea Green was founded in 1984. As of 2012 they are employee owned. Their books have won numerous awards, and you can learn more about their history [here](#).

To get a better feel for what they have published in the past, go [here](#). They have excellent distribution, good marketing, and well designed covers.

They are not interested in any work outside of that market. On average they receive over 800 submissions a year, and publish only 30 (give or take).

Books that do not follow their guidelines will not be considered or acknowledged.

They accept via email and post. They accept based on queries and proposals.

They have very detailed submission guidelines that include specific details about what they do and do not publish, and what they expect all proposals to include. You can read their full guidelines [here](#).

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 bestselling 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.

At the time of publishing they are closed to unsolicited because of COVID-19 but they have made it clear that they plan to re-open. 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](#).

The Experiment

The Experiment is an independent publisher which was launched in 2008. Since 2011 they have been distributed by Workman Publishing. They publish a range of nonfiction focusing on practical things, such as food (one of the bestsellers they have published is the *Forks over Knives Cookbook*—including food), health and fitness, psychology and personal development, parenting, relationships, sexuality, and nature. They say "We're called The Experiment because every book is a test of new ideas—and because we're motivated by the same curiosity and wonder that drive every scientific experiment. Our books enlighten, empower, and entertain readers with new or freshly presented ideas."

They publish both narrative and practically oriented nonfiction. They preferred emailed submissions. They do accept postal submissions as long as they don't include any original material.

It is important to browse their [back catalog](#) to get a good feeling for what they publish, as they are clearly successful in their chosen niche. I would say most of what they publish is very much in tune with current trends and areas of interest.

Submission guidelines are detailed. They make it clear that they want both a title and a subtitle, as well as a one paragraph overview and a brief author biography, a thorough assessment of closely competing books, and an annotated table of contents. It is also important to include a sample chapter.

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

ECW Press

ECW Press is an established Canadian publisher. They accept poetry, fiction, and non-fiction submissions from Canadians. They only accept non-fiction submissions from international submitters. I cannot stress this enough – if you are not a Canadian, you can only submit non-fiction to them.

Within Canada, ECW Press has good distribution. They also have excellent covers.

To learn more about what they have previously published, [review their catalog](#). In terms of non-fiction, they lean towards books that focus on some aspect of pop culture. But they also publish memoirs, including *Jersey Tough: My Wild Ride from Outlaw Biker to Undercover Cop*. The novels they publish range from literary to genre, including fantasy.

They accept submissions by post and email, but much prefer to receive submissions through email.

If you have not heard back from them in three months, assume rejection. They have clear detailed submission guidelines that they cover on their submission guidelines page. When you submit to them, they do not want full manuscripts, just sample chapters and poems.

To learn more about their submission guidelines, go to their website [here](#). They include information about their acquiring editors at the bottom of their submission guidelines page, and I encourage you to read through that information before submitting.

Equinox Publishing

Equinox Publishing is an independent academic publisher based in the UK. They publish books and journals for an international audience in the humanities and social sciences.

They publish an average of 40 new books a year, and they have a back list of around 500 books across the subjects they specialize in: archaeology, linguistics, popular music and religious studies.

They have good distribution internationally.

There is two types of books you can propose/submit. One is a title that will fit in within a series that they already publish. The other is a book that exists outside of their current series options, but is still about one of the subjects they specialize in.

Submit a proposal with sample chapters or draft manuscripts. These are peer reviewed. They sometimes offer contracts just on proposals.

They pay royalties annually, but don't offer much more details than that. They offer some marketing support, but expect authors to play a role.

To learn more about work they've previously published, [go here](#).

As always, only submit if you feel like your work is a good fit for them. Follow all of their submission guidelines.

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

The Feminist Press

The Feminist Press was established as an independent nonprofit literary publisher in 1970. The Feminist Press is the oldest women's publishing house in the world. They are open to submission from female/female identifying, and non binary authors. They publish literary fiction and works of nonfiction.

It is easy to get a feel for what they publish by visiting [their new releases section](#), although it can be helpful to note what was published as a result of a contest and what was not. It is also helpful to read [their mission statement](#). They host a number of contests every year, as well as being open to submissions on an ongoing basis. They are only interested in complete manuscripts.

They accept digital and mailed submissions, but prefer digital ones. All digital submissions must be attached in the form of a PDF.

They ask that you submit a proposal, which includes a synopsis of your work, three sample chapters (or at least 50 pages), a short author bio, and a brief marketing plan, along with your contact information

They receive hundreds of submissions a year and only publish 15 books a year. They don't say how long response times are, but they imply that they are considerable.

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

They are also open to picture books, fiction and non-fiction books for kids and teens that help them deal with grief and loss, health and wellness, depression as well as other mental illnesses, stress, social skills and friendship, anger management, LGBTQ issues, manners, family, self-confidence, and more.

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](#).

Gill Books

Gill Books is one of Ireland's leading publishers of content in terms of both the Primary and Secondary schools market, but they also publish nonfiction for adults. They accept proposals for adult nonfiction and children's books.

They are a division of Gill Education and are based out of Dublin. They have good distribution within Ireland, and they do focus on books with Irish interests in mind, although they also publish books outside of that scope. They also have a committed marketing team and editorial staff.

To get a good feel for what they are currently publishing, please visit their [catalogue](#) here. Do not submit unless you feel like your book fits within their larger catalogue.

They ask that all proposals include the following components:

- A descriptive outline or synopsis of the work highlighting any unique features (not more than 500 words)
- A table of contents or chapter outline
- Two sample chapters
- A brief biography of you the author, with reference to your qualifications for writing the book and the connection to your potential audience
- Phone and email contact information

Proposals are preferably submitted by email but can also be sent by post. They try to respond to all submissions within three months.

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

Haymarket Books

Haymarket Books is an established nonfiction publisher with excellent distribution. They are interested in publishing manuscripts that are accessible to a wide range of progressive and radical political activists. These books should also be useful to an academic audience. They do not publish dissertations.

They have published very established authors, including the journalist Naomi Klein, the novelist Arundhati Roy, and the activist Rebecca Solnit.

It's a good idea to browse their [back catalog](#) to see what they've published in the past.

They use Submittable for all unagented submissions. They ask that you submit a cover letter explaining your proposed topic and its relevance to their audience. They also want a 1-2 page outline and summary of the book, and 1 or 2 (maximum) sample chapters, and a brief annotated list of the existing literature on the topic as well as the political work you hope your book will perform. They also want a timeline for completion of the manuscript and any relevant experience you have in terms of writing or activism.

They do not respond to submissions they are not interested in. But they do find a lot of their books this way.

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

Hohm Press

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

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

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

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

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

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

Inanna Publications and Education Inc

Inanna Publications and Education Inc is a Canadian feminist press that was founded in 1978 and is open to international submissions, they publish fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, and essay collections. Some of what they publish is academic, but much of what they publish is not.

If you are curious as to how they define the word feminist this is what they have to say about it -"While we do not restrict our always-expanding sense of what makes a contribution "feminist" — we strive for a presentation of different perspectives — we will not publish writing that is sexist, racist, homophobic or in any other way discriminatory or harmful to women."

To get a good feeling for what they publish it's helpful to browse their catalog [here](#).

They are an established press and appear to have good distribution within Canada. I'm unsure of their international distribution.

Their website is geared towards readers not writers and their book covers are generally excellent.

They respond to all submissions, even if they are rejecting the work, but they ask that you don't check on the status of your submission. They have a turn around time of approximately six months.

They ask that you tell them if you are simultaneously submitting your work elsewhere, and they ask that you alert them if your work is accepted for publication elsewhere.

They have different detailed guidelines for fiction and non-fiction submissions so please follow them closely. All queries should be made through email. If they are interested in seeing your complete manuscript you should send a hard copy as well as a digital one.

To learn more or to submit go [here](#).

Jessica Kingsley Publishers (JKP)

Jessica Kingsley Publishers (JKP) is an established UK Press (with a US office) that was purchased by John Murray Press/Hachette UK in 2017. You can read more about this acquisition [here](#). JKP focuses on publishing high quality books for professional and general readers on a variety of subjects.

They are best known for their books on the autism spectrum, social work, arts therapies, mental health, counseling, palliative care, practical theology and gender diversity. They also publish graphic novels that cover these subject areas, and books for children, on issues including depression and anger.

Their Singing Dragon Imprint focuses on Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine Aromatherapy Fertility, Pregnancy & Birth Nutrition, as well as Yoga & Bodywork.

The authors who work for them generally seem happy with the experience. JKP helps with marketing and has good distribution. The majority of their authors are unagented. They much prefer submissions be made via their submittable portal, although they allow mailed submissions.

To learn more about what kind of content they are seeking, visit their website [here](#). To learn more of the details of their submission process, go [here](#).

Laurence King

Founded in 1991 in London, Laurence King focuses on publishing books and gifts on the creative arts. They have international distribution and recognition.

They are open to proposals for books or gift products for adults, students and children. They focus particularly on the following areas: art and design, architecture, fashion and beauty, film, photography, practical art including painting and drawing, music and popular culture, nature and popular science.

They look at all proposals that are submitted to them, but they only follow through if they are interested. So do not query them if you do not receive a response.

I've shared their general proposal suggestions below.

"It's helpful if you can begin with a one-sentence summary of your idea, then follow this with:

- a one-page overview of what will be contained in your book/gift product, including an outline of the proposed structure. (Will it be divided into chapters/sections? How much text/how many images will it contain? If it's a gift, what elements is it made up of?)
- what you consider to be the outstanding features of the book/gift. What makes it unique?
- who is the market for the book/gift? Who do you see as your readership/purchaser?
- a summary of competing works: what other books/gifts are there already on the market that are similar to your idea? Please give details of publisher, publication date and price. What makes your idea different to/better than these?

- a brief biography/short paragraph about you. If there will be other contributors, please include a list of names.
- sample visuals if appropriate."

Details for proposals for their student line are available [here](#). There are a few additional details about what they are seeking in terms of Children's books [here](#).

To get a good idea of what they publish go [here](#). To learn more about their submission guidelines go [here](#).

Measure Press

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

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

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

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

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

Microcosm

Microcosm is a Portland-based publisher that specializes in nonfiction DIY (Do-It-Yourself) goods that focus on the reader and teach self-empowerment. They are on Powell's [24 of Our Favorite Small Presses](#) list. .

The authors they publish have to have expertise and lived experience in the subject area they write about.

They are looking for work with strong visuals and leftist leanings, so if that is not for you, read no further (we review a wide variety of publishers, not every publisher is suited for every person).

They publish work in the following areas according to their website:

- **Magick How to** (Witchcraft, Paganism, Herbalism, and the like)
- **The Good Life** (DIY, how-to, self-care, hands-on skills—anything from how to make or do something to parenting)
- **[Scene History](#)** (what made a time and place into a unique climate for creativity, social justice, gender, sexuality, struggle, or a different way of thinking?)
- **Building the Bicycle Revolution** (nonfiction about the promise of the bicycle to change society with a clear, new perspective on a familiar topic)
- **Queer Erotica** ("romance" with trans and/or queer representation)
- **Travel** guides (what makes a place truly special without costing a lot of money?)
- **Punx** (the hidden stories of the musical style that became a social movement to fix shit up)
- **[Comics Journalism](#)** (book-length nonfiction graphic novels that tell powerful stories. "We do not pair writers with illustrators but we do perform full developmental edits for books that we publish. We'll sign a book based on your idea and portfolio alone and can help you workshop it together.")
- **Gift** (humor, animals, fun but educational)

They also publish zines and they say "If a book does not have a reachable audience of at least 5,000 people or if the subject matter does not require 100 pages, we'd suggest submitting your proposal for a zine (and you would not be required to list comp titles)."

They accept pitches through their website's "send a note" feature. The initial pitch should be very short. It should stress the benefit(s) of your books to readers and you would tell them why you want to write this book and how it is unique. Make sure to include a sentence about your expertise and lived experience that relate directly to the work. Focus on the practical and emotional payoff that would come from reading your work. Also compare it to three titles they have recently published.

They stress the importance of following submission guidelines to the letter, so please review all of them on their website before submitting.

This is particularly helpful because they give examples of successful pitch letters and really guide you through the steps of submitting to them.

To learn more and review their submission guidelines, go [here](#).

New Harbinger

New Harbinger is an established publisher of self-help books that focus on psychology, health, and personal growth. The books they publish are grounded in science, research, and clinical practice. They have been around for over 35 years.

They publish self help books, psychology workbooks, professional books, memoirs, and gift books, all focused on mental health. Many but not all of their books are based on the cognitive behavioral approach.

Their books are trusted by professionals and often recommended by therapists. They act as their own distributor but their books are widely available in big box bookstores. They have a focused marketing department.

They are very upfront about the numbers of books they plan on selling. On their website they say "the average New Harbinger book sells 7,000 plus copies the first year and then reaches steady sales of 4,000 to 10,000 copies in succeeding years. Books we published six years ago have now sold 60,000 copies, and they will continue to sell at steady rates for years to come."

They don't focus on just selling books in the States. They attend major events in other countries and make connections that way. Their submissions page is very much geared towards attracting a certain kind of professional author. They very much pitch it as New Harbinger versus The Big 5.

They have very specific submissions guidelines so make sure to follow them closely. They accept electronic and postal submissions.

To learn more please 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](#).

The O'Brien Press

The O'Brien Press is an established and respected publisher that is based in Ireland. They favor Irish voices, but are open to international submissions. They publish nonfiction for adults, and fiction and nonfiction for children.

If you are submitting to them from outside of Ireland, I would make sure to spend even more time with [their catalogue](#) and buy and read a book or two to make sure you are a good fit.

I cannot stress this enough, but please do not submit, particularly if you live outside of Ireland, unless you feel like your work is a particularly good fit. We have had a number of presses close to direct submissions because of mass submissions recently. Mass submissions rarely, if ever, result in your manuscript being accepted.

They are particularly looking for work from diverse backgrounds (BAME, LGBTQ+, authors with disabilities, etc.) and New Irish voices.

They have good distribution within Ireland and internationally. They are usually only open to postal submissions but at the time of writing this, because of COVID-19 they are only accepting submissions via email.

They usually respond within 8-10 weeks but under current circumstances these goals are less likely to be met. They ask submitters to be patient.

They ask that you send a cover letter, synopsis, and full manuscript via email. To learn more please visit their website [here](#).

Owl Canyon Press

Owl Canyon Press is an independent publisher based out of Boulder, Colorado. They were founded in 2011. They publish fiction, nonfiction, young adult fiction, and works in translation. It's easy to get a feel for what sort of work they publish by browsing [their catalog](#).

They have local distribution, but outside of Colorado, I suspect you have to order online, based on the information available online and browsing my own local bookstore.

The covers are a solid mix. None are terrible, but most are not great. The website is aimed at readers not writers, which is always a good sign. They don't reveal much in the way of staff or staff experience, which would have been helpful.

They do have contact information for someone to contact in regard to foreign rights, which makes sense as they have a partnership with Aiora Press, which is based in Athens, Greece.

They ask that you query first with sample chapters rather than submit a full manuscript. Your submission should include answers to an extensive list of questions that they share on their website. One of the more unusual aspects of the list is they want you to share endorsements, which would be blurbs by other more established authors supporting you. I have not seen their contract.

Make sure to follow their submission guidelines. They try to respond to submissions with 3 months, 6 at the longest, if you haven't heard from them by month 7 they encourage you to query about the status of your submission.

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

Princeton University Press

Princeton University Press is an established academic press with excellent distribution.

Not only are they currently open to proposals but they just started a [Supporting Diverse Voices Development Grant](#) hoping to support historically excluded scholars from around the world with the grant. This is how the grant will work: "In close partnership with four book coaches, the grant will offer direct support and coaching to scholarly authors preparing to draft a book proposal. The grant will cover all associated costs of this process, with grantees able to select which coach they wish to partner with."

The first round of funding is focusing on [Women, transgender, and gender expansive authors in Science and Mathematics](#). It opened for submissions from February 15th and ran until April 1st. They plan to open a different focused round in the fall.

They are also open to general proposals on a wide variety of topics. You can see their [catalog here](#). You can read their full guidelines [here](#). Please follow all of the guidelines very carefully.

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.

They allow emailed queries and mailed queries, but prefer emailed.

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.

Schaffner Press

Schaffner is an established press with distribution through IPG. They publish literary fiction, short fiction collections, and crime fiction. They also publish a wide variety of non-fiction including memoir, autobiography, biography, journalistic expose or narrative, true crime, art, culture, pop culture, world history, current events, science, and music.

Schaffner Press is owned and managed by a former literary agent.

They publish a lot of work by established writers, but they do work with new authors as well.

Their website is easy to navigate and the book covers are generally excellent. The focus is on selling books. It's easy to get a feel for what they are interested in publishing by browsing [their catalog](#).

They consider manuscripts between 60,000 – 100,000 words.

If you are submitting you must query first via email. If they are interested they will contact you and ask you to submit the full manuscript via the post. They try to respond to submissions quickly if they are interested.

Their full submission guidelines are [here](#).

Skyhorse Publishing

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

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

More recently they've focused on publishing work by controversial figures, politically or personally. They've also long received allegations of being a less than ideal workplace and Vanity Fair recently published a comprehensive article about their behavior, which is very much worth reading if you are [considering submitting](#).

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 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](#).

SmartPop Books

SmartPop Books is an imprint of [BenBella Books](#), an established and respected non-fiction publisher.

According to their website, SmartPop is "actively looking for smart, quirky, engaging non-fiction titles on television, books, and film." They are open to anthologies, as well as single author titles. The work could be an official, authorized guide, or an unofficial one.

One of the great things about publishing with SmartPop is that they have a focused audience already and they truly understand marketing within the niche they have found. They have an excellent distributor, Perseus Distribution.

They have worked with well known and established authors including Cory Doctorow, Lawrence Block, Dennis Lehane, and Jane Espenson.

You can get a good feel for what they have previously published by visiting their catalog [here](#).

They are looking for work that contains an intriguing idea, with a targeted subject that already has fans (such as board game, a TV show, a band). They also want the author to bring special knowledge, training, experience and or a relationship (in terms of the subject or other members of the fan-base).

The work must also be written in accessible way. They are not seeking work that's unapproachable or academic.

You can submit a proposal or a query directly via email. To learn more visit their submission page [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 often 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](#).

Storey Publishing

The founders of Storey Publishing, John and Martha Storey bought the publishing arm of Garden Way. They initially named their new business Storey communications before renaming Storey Publishing. Their mission was to provide practical information that encourages independence in a way that is harmonious with the environment. The books they publish encourage and instruct readers of all ages of ways to enrich their lives through hand-on activities and experiences. All of what they publish is nonfiction and they covered such varied topics as home reference, crafts, beer & wine, raising animals, homesteading, and mind/body/spirit.

Storey became a part of Workman Publishing family in 2000. Storey's offices are located on the campus of the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art (MASS MoCA) in the Berkshire Hills of Western Massachusetts.

It is easy to get a feel for what they publish by visiting their back catalog [here](#).

They try to respond to all submissions within three months. They ask that all submissions include:

- A letter of introduction.
- A one-paragraph description of your book.
- A brief statement explaining why you think your book is needed and describing the potential readers of the book.
- A list of recent books (if any) similar to your own, with a thorough explanation of how yours will be different.
- A table of contents, including a brief description of each chapter, including a complete list of projects, if appropriate.
- Your thoughts about the length, format, and photographic/illustrative requirements of the book.

- A bio with a focus on your credentials for writing the book and your ability to promote it to a wide audience.
- A sample chapter from the proposed book.
- For craft books, please include photographs or samples of a few projects.

They prefer emailed submissions but postal are allowed. To learn more visit their guidelines [here](#).

Thames & Hudson

Thames & Hudson was founded in 1949 by Walter and Eva Neurath. Their goal was to create a 'museum without walls' and it is named after the rivers flowing through London and New York. They have over 2,000 titles in print. They publish high-quality books in the following categories: the arts (fine, applied, decorative, performing), architecture, design, photography, fashion, film and music, archaeology, history, popular culture and Children's books. Their head offices are in London.

They are open to suggestions and submissions from authors, photographers, designers and illustrators with new proposals.

If you want your work to be considered by them, first spend some time on their website in the [category of work you wish to submit](#). On their website they state "Art, Architecture, Photography, Design, Fashion, Popular Culture, History and Archaeology are the best known areas of our adult list and we also have a highly successful children's list".

They also say that you should "make sure that you are contacting us with a proposal for a book rather than an inquiry about T&H commissioning photography or illustration. Unfortunately, we don't have time to respond to emails from illustrators or photographers offering portfolios of work and their services."

All proposals should be submitted digitally and the details of what they should contain are outlined [here](#).

Timber Press

Timber Press was founded in 1978 and publishes work about the natural world by experts in the fields of gardening, horticulture, and natural history. They were bought by the Workman publishing group in 2006. Timber Press is recognized internationally as a leading gardening publisher and their books have received awards from the American Horticultural Society, the Garden Writers of America, the Garden Media Guild, and the National Garden Club of America. They have published a number of bestsellers including Marta McDowell's *Beatrix Potter's Gardening Life*. They are based out of Portland, Oregon.

You can get a good feel for what they publish by visiting their catalog [here](#). Their books are very visually impressive, and they receive excellent distribution.

They have very clear requirements for all of the proposals they review. All must include an overview, a table of contents, author information, sales and marketing considerations, competing/comparable titles, and manuscript length and illustrations. If you already have a professional photographer attached to the project explain why they are well suited to the project and include a link or sample image of their work.

They accept emailed and postal submissions.

To read their full submission guidelines go [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. They publish a variety of books aimed at children and teens. Occasionally they publish fiction for adults.

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](#) and their submission guidelines [here](#).

UNO Press

Uno (the University of New Orleans) Press publishes fiction, non-fiction, and academic work that focuses on, but is not limited to, the southeastern region of the United States.

It is easy to get a feel for what they publish by visiting their [store](#). I do not know who their distributor is, but most university presses have at least good regional distribution.

They publish primarily non-fiction work of the academic and non-academic variety, but the literary fiction they publish seems compelling, but at least based on their website they really publish very little fiction; a book every couple of years. This means that they are much more likely to accept non-fiction submissions.

Their covers are a bit of a mixed bag. I like the covers of their non-fiction better than their fiction and poetry covers (they are not open to poetry submissions currently).

To submit to them a proposal containing a one-page description of the work, a table of contents, and biographical information about the author. Do not send full manuscript unless requested.

They accept online submissions via email as well as postal submissions. It takes them between six and eight months to respond to submissions. Do not query before eight months has passed. They do not say anything about accepting or not accepting simultaneous submissions.

To learn more or to submit go [here](#).

Workman

Workman Publishing is a large independent publishing company that now includes a number of separate imprints (most started out as their own companies and were purchased by Workman). The imprints include large established companies like Algonquin Books (which is no longer open to un-agented submissions). The original Workman imprint is open to un-agented submissions. They focus on publishing exclusively nonfiction books for children and adults, as well as calendars. They do not accept unsolicited picture book submissions.

To get a good idea about what the Workman imprint publishes, visit their page [here](#). They have good distribution and I recognized a number of their covers from the display case at my local bookstore which is always a good sign. Some of the famous books they have published in the past (they have been around a long time) include the "What to Expect" series (best known for the Book *What to Expect When you are Expecting*).

They prefer to receive all submissions via email. Any hard copy submissions must be of copies. They do not want original work and will not return original work. Please specify if your book is for the Children's department.

They have clear submission guidelines and the entire proposal should not be longer than 30 pages, this includes the first chapter. Read their submission guidelines carefully, because it is important to follow them.

They do respond to all submissions, but it generally takes them around 5 months. Please do not query them before that.

To learn more go to their submission page [here](#). The submission guidelines for the Workman Imprint are up first on the page.

Literary Fiction Publishers

The following publishers all focus on publishing literary fiction,

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.

404 Ink

From now through the 31st of October, 404 Ink, an Edinburgh based publisher, is open to direct submissions of full length manuscripts of fiction, nonfiction, short stories, and poetry. They are a small press that has different reading periods every year, so if you are reading this after 2020, please check [their website](#) for the latest submission period.

404 Ink was founded in 2016 to support new and emerging writers. The press itself has won a number of awards. Books they have published have received press in major publications. You can learn more about the team and board behind 404 Ink [here](#).

Outside of their full length manuscript submission window, they are also currently open to nonfiction proposals for their pocket book series, tentatively titled Inklings. More information on that series is available [here](#).

To get a feel for the full-length manuscripts they've previously published, go [here](#). Do not submit to them unless you feel like your work fits within their larger catalogue. Consider buying a book or two to verify that it does indeed fit.

They have good distribution within Scotland, and I like their covers, although they all have a very similar feel.

Their full submission guidelines are listed [here](#), and it's very important to follow them.

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.

Able Muse

Able Muse is a small literary press that has one free reading period every year, from 1st May through 15th July. They also publish a literary journal, and they host a number of contests every year. They publish poetry and fiction primarily, and they will consider non-fiction as long as you query first. Most of the fiction they publish is short story collections and unlike other small presses, some of what they publish is genre work.

Scanning through their online catalog [here](#) can give you a good feel for what they generally publish. Their covers are usually well designed and appealing, but the layout and design of their website leaves much to be desired.

They also don't have an "about us" page, which I always find frustrating, and I was unable to find the names of the people who actually operate the press. However, they have been around for a while and that is a good sign.

Literary presses as a general rule leave promoting up to the author (there are exceptions, like Tin House and Copper Canyon Press) and Able Muse seems to fall firmly into the self-promotion camp.

They accept submissions through their online submission system (preferred) and also via email. Be careful to follow their instructions and always just submit a single manuscript.

They take around nine months to respond to all submissions. Simultaneous submissions are allowed, as long as you notify them if the work is accepted elsewhere.

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

Acre Books

Acre Books is an imprint of [The Cincinnati Review](#). They focus on publishing literary fiction and poetry. They are interested in novels and short story collections. They are not accepting submissions of full manuscripts. They ask that authors query first.

While Acre Books is still new, they are an offshoot of the well respected and long-established literary journal, The Cincinnati Review. Their website focuses on selling books, not on recruiting authors. The books they have published so far are great and have wonderful covers.

All submissions must be made through their online form. They respond to most queries within three months.

The poetry and fiction editors both give detailed information about what they are interested in publishing. The poetry editor is particularly looking for distinctive voices. The fiction editor says craft is paramount to her. Reviewing [their catalog](#) is a very good way to get a feel for what they are interested in publishing.

In order to be considered by either editor you have to submit a brief description of your manuscript along with 10 sample pages, using their online contact form.

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

Ad Lumen Press

Ad Lumen Press was founded at American River College in Sacramento, California in 2013. The founder is author and professor Christian Kiefer. They are the only university-style press based out of a community college in the United States.

Because they are part of a college, the press is actually used in part as a tool to further students' education. Unsolicited submissions are initially read by students in the Literary Publishing class, the final class for the school's Literary Publishing Certificate. The students come up with four of the books to forward to the faculty-based editorial board. You can learn more about this process [here](#).

I do not know if they have distribution but the books they publish have excellent covers. They only publish a few books a year.

They have an open reading period every year where they accept submissions of previously unpublished, full-length literary novels and memoirs from authors. No full length publication history required, but a track record of publication in literary journals does help.

They accept simultaneous submissions and try to respond within 3-8 months to all submissions. Even though they open to submissions on May 15th, they don't start reading submissions till August 15th, that's when the 3-8 month wait time starts. Their goal this year is to respond to all submissions by December 20th. All submissions must be made through Submittable.

To learn more or to submit go [here](#).

aunt lute

aunt lute is a multicultural women's press. Their priority is to publish work by women, both transgender and cisgender, particularly women of color. They publish both fiction and nonfiction. They also publish poetry but only as part of an anthology or a larger prose work. They were founded in 1982.

They are distributed by Small Press Distribution. I've seen some of the work they've published in local bookshops. They have published a number of well-known authors including Audre Lorde and Alice Walker.

aunt lute is based out of San Francisco. Their website is well organized and easy to navigate. Their book cover design varies widely. To get a feel for what they have previously published, you can browse their catalog [here](#).

They do not accept submissions via email. All submissions must be mailed to them. They ask that you include a cover letter, synopsis, a table of contents and two sample chapters of your work (or approximately 50 pages). Don't staple pages together and make sure your name and the page number are on top.

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

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](#).

Bellevue Literary Press

They are currently closed because of the COVID-19 Pandemic, but plan to re-open.

Bellevue Literary Press publishes works of narrative nonfiction and literary fiction geared towards a general readership. They are open to unsolicited submissions of both kinds of work. The work they publish explores the intersection between arts and science. Many of the characters in the fictional work that they publish are doctors and scientists, but many of their books also focus on the natural world. They seem to publish about four novels for every work of non-fiction they publish.

They are based out of Bellevue Hospital and are part of the NYU School of Medicine. But they are different from most academic presses, as their focus is work with literary merit that is mostly read outside of the classroom context.

They have a large experienced staff and a board, which many literary presses do not have.

Their books have good distribution and they are frequently reviewed by revered publications such as *The New Yorker* and *The New York Times*.

All submissions must be made via email and you must follow their clear guidelines to submit.

Only submit full, completed fiction manuscripts for consideration.

Notably, for their non-fiction submissions, there does not necessarily need to be a full manuscript or synopsis. But in the absence of a full manuscript, there must be a comprehensive proposal.

To learn more or submit, go [here](#).

Clash Books

Clash Books started in 2015, they also publish Clash Magazine and the literary journal Trash Panda. They publish fiction, nonfiction, and poetry.

Clash Books is a small press but they attend major conferences like AWP and they host readings. They also offer wholesale discounts and they have provisional distribution via Ingram Spark.

Their submission guidelines are very bare-bones and are as follows:

"We are looking for strong voices & POV's in any genre. Fiction, nonfiction, & poetry. Especially looking for unique voices of female identifying & POC from all over the world. CLASH Books is about global perspectives, contrasts, & juxtapositions. "

All submissions must be made via email.

They have published an eclectic mix of books and the covers are generally excellent. If you are considering submitting to them I highly encourage you to look through [their catalog](#). It's very easy to figure out what work they are interested in and what they aren't.

They are much more focused on publishing books than recruiting authors on the web page. The staff page on the website is not particularly informative.

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

Coffee House Press

Coffee House Press (CHP) is a respected literary press with a great reputation. They are only open for short submission periods. You have to sign up to be notified of the next submission period [on their website](#). These periods are capped at 300 submissions, so submit early. During the last open period they had reached 300 submissions on the first. Coffee House Press publishes emerging and midcareer authors. They do not focus on bestsellers, but their books are often taught in academic settings and available in libraries and independent bookstores.

All CHP authors have had works published in literary magazines or other publications and they explicitly state on their website that a resume, including a list of prior publications, can strengthen your submission. They publish literary novels, full-length short story collections, poetry, creative nonfiction, book-length essays and essay collections, and the occasional memoir, and are not interested in genre or children's fiction.

They are very interested in community involvement and increasing accessibility to books. To this end they have a number of community outreach programs. For example since 2011, CHP has donated 12,000 books to the [Little Free Library](#) program and CHP's books have been distributed in over 40 countries because of this.

They have a small staff and publish 18 books a year, so it is a very competitive press. All submissions must be made through Submittable. Do not send queries, they are only interested in full manuscripts. They really publish a specific kind of book, so it is advisable to either buy one of their books or borrow it from a nearby library. In any case, spend some time with their online [catalog](#). If none of the books in it appeal to you, your book will most likely not appeal to them.

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

Dalkey Archive Press

Dalkey Archive Press specializes in the publication and re-publication of avant-garde works of poetry, fiction and translation. They are not interested in traditional prose or poetry; their focus is on publishing literary fiction of a modernist or post-modernist bent. The National Book Critics Circle has awarded many of their authors and translators over the years, and in 2011, the Press itself was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award from the NBCC.

Dalkey Archive Press has good distribution, offices in three countries, a great reputation, and a well-organized website. Their books are often taught in universities.

They receive around 12,000 submissions a year. They have a year turnaround time in terms of responding to unsolicited manuscript submissions. If you have not heard from them after a year, you can query, but not before.

It is key that you get a good feel for what they have previously published. A good place to start is by browsing their [catalog](#).

They primarily publish literary fiction. They are less likely to publish poetry and nonfiction. They have separate submission guidelines for scholarly work.

You can read their [submission guidelines](#) as a whole here. Make sure to follow their submission guidelines when submitting.

Deep Vellum

Deep Vellum is a press based in Dallas. They describe themselves as the "heart and soul of the Dallas literary community". They were founded in 2013 and initially just published works in translation. Now they publish fiction, non-fiction, poetry in English and works in translation that fall into any of the previous categories. As of 2020 about half of that work is by international author and half is work originally published in English.

Deep Vellum is non-profit, and they explain why using these words: "Instead of selecting a book for publication exclusively because of its sales potential, our nonprofit status allows us to choose books for their artistic and social value. We are dedicated to publishing socially engaged literature that fosters cross-cultural dialogue, breaks down barriers between communities, and promotes empathy." You can [donate](#) to help support them, you can also [subscribe](#).

They also run a for profit "sister" bookstore which is located in Dallas.

The books they publish are diverse and eclectic and lean towards literary. You can get a good idea for what they publish by visiting their catalogue [here](#). Only consider submitting if you feel like your manuscript is a good fit, based on thoroughly reviewing their catalogue. The books they publish have wonderful covers and their website is well designed.

They ask that you to contact them via a submission form first. They ask that you link to the manuscript when submitting. The link could be to a dropbox, or a google doc. They don't have many guidelines in terms of submitting. Most of the language they use is vague. They say that they respond to all submissions as soon as possible.

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 nonfiction 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](#).

époque press

époque press is an independent publisher based between Brighton, Dublin and New York. They publish literary fiction, and only literary fiction, but it can be novel length or in short story format. They published their first volume in 2018.

They also run an online é-zine. So if you want to test the waters before submitting to the press as a whole that can be a good place to start.

You can learn more about the é-zine [here](#) and you can read it [here](#) and get a better feel for what they are interested in. Their issues are generally published around a theme.

You must follow their submission guidelines or your submission will be filtered out. You can learn more about their submission guidelines [here](#).

They ask that you submit your full manuscript plus a one page synopsis.

Only submit if your work is polished, has been thoroughly edited, and is a good fit. It's easy to get a feel for what they publish by visiting their booklist [here](#).

It's hard to get a feel for their current distribution. I suspect it is limited because no distributor is listed on the site. But their covers are good, as are their blurbs, and some of their books have been reviewed by respected publications.

Fairlight Books

Fairlight Books is a publisher of literary fiction based in Oxford. They were founded in 2017 and started publishing in 2018.

The company is run by an ex-energy chief, Louise Boland. Their goal is to promote literary fiction, particularly by new authors, in the UK. You can learn a little bit more about that [here](#).

On record, Boland has said, "As well as working with agents, we're happy to continuously take submissions direct from authors, and we offer a nurture program for talented new writers, where we work with them on their manuscripts and help develop their writing ready for publication."

Fairlight has a large, although mostly inexperienced in publishing, staff. They also have good distribution within the UK and excellent covers. They do not disclose royalty rates.

As well as publishing manuscripts they also have a literary journal. At the time of writing this, their literary journal is open to submissions of short fiction.

They are currently open to submissions of literary novellas (between 25,000 and 50,000 words) and novels. They accept submissions via email and post, but prefer emailed submissions.

For both novel and novella submissions they ask that you submit the first 10,000 words along with a query letter and a synopsis. Make sure to review their specific guidelines before submitting.

They are open to previously self-published work, which is rare.

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

Flashpoint Publications

Regal Crest Enterprises historically specialized in publishing books of interest to lesbian readers but now their focus has expanded to include gay readers. As of January 1st ,2021 they have re-branded as Flashpoint Publications and they are now focused on publishing LGBTQ+ work. They mostly publish popular fiction, but they have also published short stories, essays, and anthologies. They have a non-fiction imprint as well. Writers who have worked with them have generally good things to say, particularly about the editing and cover design process. They have been around a long time now and they have a reputation for always paying their royalties promptly.

They do not do much in terms of marketing, but it helps that they have such a specialized niche, because readers often follow the publisher when they know what to expect. Their website is outdated in terms of appearance, but it is reader friendly and it is very well organized. It is a good idea to get a feel for what they publish [here](#).

They do not accept simultaneous submissions although they try to have a reasonably fast turn-around time. Their submission guidelines are very thorough and detailed so make sure you review them and double check your submission before submitting. They are now accepting submissions of novella length stories which they were not earlier.

To learn more or to submit, visit their site [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 honors 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](#).

Ig Publishing

Ig Publishing is a New York based small press that focuses on publishing literary fiction and progressive political nonfiction. The books they've published have won or been honorable mentions for many major awards, and are frequently mentioned on "best of" year end lists.

While they are not open to unsolicited manuscripts they do accept unsolicited queries, although they ask that they be made via email. This means that you can send them your query letter directly, but not your manuscript or an excerpt of it. They will only get in contact with you if they are interested in seeing more.

You should only submit your query after thoroughly investigating the site and seeing if it is a good fit for your work. [Reviewing the titles](#) they have most recently published can be the most helpful in terms of that.

They have excellent distribution, terrific covers, and a well laid out website. The books they have published have been featured or mentioned in most major North American news sources.

To learn more, go [here](#).

Jaded Ibis

Jaded Ibis press allows international submissions from women, writers of color, writers with disabilities, queer writers, as well as other marginalized and disenfranchised writers. They currently publish prose, both in terms of fiction and non-fiction. They want work to be well written and also contain ideas that contribute to the progress of social justice. This is very much a niche focus.

Jaded Ibis has been around for over a decade, but under new ownership since 2016. The owner/editor before that gave an interview with [Entropy](#) while the press was in the process of going under.

Going with a niche press like this one has risks but also rewards. The previous press had a lot of community support and their back list is still available under the new ownership.

Their publishing interests are also clear, both in terms of their guidelines and also based on what they've previously published. You can view their catalog [here](#). They have published five books so far under the new ownership.

The covers are fine but not particularly inspiring. The website is easy to use.

They offer author royalties of 40% net profit on book sales.

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

McSweeney's

They are currently closed to submissions, and have been closed to submissions for longer than expected during COVID-19 (on 3/1/20 they announced that they were closed to submissions for only a few months, but have not re-opened). I am not removing them from the guide because they appear to be in a position to re-open in the next six months.

McSweeney's is one of my personal favorite publishers. They publish literary fiction, non-fiction, and poetry. I own a large number of the books they have published in the last decade.

McSweeney's was founded in 1998 by Dave Eggers. They originally started out publishing a literary magazine, and now they are responsible for a number of publications, online and off, as well as podcasts, and books. They are based out of San Francisco.

In 2014 they began transitioning to a [nonprofit](#). But I could not find any updates about that, although I know the first fundraiser did extremely well.

At McSweeney's it is not just the cover design that is good but the whole look and feel of the book. They care about presentation and it shows. Getting a digital version of a McSweeney's book means missing out on an important part of the experience.

McSweeney's also has excellent distribution. I often see their books in libraries and bookstores. Because they publish a very specific kind of book, I highly recommend reading one of their publications before submitting. You can get a feel for what they publish by browsing their website [here](#). Do not submit to them unless you think your book would be a good fit.

They have very slow response times for submissions. It takes them between six months and a year. They also have a very low acceptance rate.

All submissions must be made through their Submittable account, except for poetry submissions which are made via email.

To learn more about their submission guidelines or to submit, 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, 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 to 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](#).

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](#).

Soho Press

Soho Press is an established and respected literary independent publisher based out of New York. They also have two imprints, Soho Crime and Soho Teen, neither of which are open to un-agented submissions at this time. Soho Press is open to unsolicited submissions of literary fiction. They focus on publishing bold voices and original perspectives. To learn more about what they have published in the past, [their catalog](#) is a good place to start.

It is important to note that they also publish the occasional memoir, although they do not comment on whether they are open or closed to memoir submissions at this time.

Soho Press has a great website, wonderful covers, and it is easy to navigate. They have also published a number of really well-known authors including Alex Shakar, Edwidge Danticat, Matt Bell, and Paula Bomer. They have excellent distribution through Penguin Random House and I regularly see their books at local bookstores and the library.

They do not accept electronic submissions, all submissions must be made by post. Please send three chapters (or fifty pages) and a cover letter to:

ATTN: Acquisitions Editor

Soho Press

853 Broadway

New York, NY 10003

If you want your work returned to you after they have read it, please include a self-addressed and stamped envelope. They are not interested in query letters without accompanying sample chapters. To learn more about their submission process, go [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](#).

Tramp Press

Tramp is a literary press based out of Ireland that has great distribution. Within Ireland they are distributed by Gill & Macmillan. Throughout the rest of the world they are distributed by Macmillan.

Tramp published their first book in 2014 and since then the authors they have published have gone on to win the Irish Book Awards, the Rooney Prize, and a Lannan Fellowship. They have also received nominations for the Guardian First Book Award, the Edinburgh First Book award, the Dublin Literary Award and lots more. Tramp Press won the David Manley Emerging Entrepreneur Award in 2015, in the arts category.

They publish literary fiction and collections of short stories. They only publish a few books every year. You can get a better feel for what they publish by reviewing their catalog [here](#).

They try to reply to submissions within a month, but from August 2018 till March 2019 they will be taking longer.

At the top of their submissions guidelines they say,

We're always looking for exceptional new works of fiction: if you're an exceptional writer, we're looking for you.

If you're a person of colour, we're particularly looking for you. If you identify in any way with a group that has been under-represented in literature, we're looking for you.

They only accept submissions through email. They have an extremely helpful FAQ section that you can see by scrolling down on the submission page.

Writers should submit 50 pages or 10,000 words worth of work, along with a cover letter and a synopsis.

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

Unnamed Press

Unnamed Press is an independent publisher of literary fiction and nonfiction, based in Los Angeles and founded in 2014. They have excellent distribution, their books have been reviewed in most major publications, and they know how to promote the books they publish.

The books they publish focus on challenging conventions and assumptions. They've published a number of well-known prize winning authors and their books have been nominated for major awards. The covers for their books are excellent.

Unnamed is the kind of press that publishes a very specific kind of book, both in terms of fiction and nonfiction. Many of the books they publish have ties to Los Angeles, for example. The best way to get a feel for what they publish is to thoroughly browse [their catalog](#), and perhaps even buy a book, if one seems along the same lines as yours.

Authors must query with a letter first before proceeding. If they are not interested in your submission, they will not respond. If you have not heard from them in two months, assume rejection.

To learn more about submitting to them go [here](#).

Waywiser Press

Waywiser is a small independent press based in the UK. They host a yearly contest called The Anthony Hecht Poetry Prize, but they charge a fee for that. They seem to focus on literary prose and poetry. They publish fiction and nonfiction, including essay collections. Unfortunately, the only way to submit poetry manuscripts to them is through the contest.

They only publish a few books a year and they do not seem to have distribution. This is the sort of press where self-promotion is key if they publish your book. Waywiser appears to be open to submissions year-round. They try to respond to all submissions within four months.

If you are submitting prose, do not submit your entire manuscript. They just want a synopsis of no more than 500 words and the first two chapters. Follow the submission guidelines carefully. All submissions must be made through the mail.

It is easy to get a feel for what they have published in the past by viewing their [back catalog](#).

To learn more, go to 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 but don't fit in any other category very well.

There are some unusual publishers in this section. I have included one publisher who is only interested in Bizarro fiction 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.

Alcove Press

Alcove Press is a new imprint of the established publisher [Crooked Lane](#) (which is owned by Bookspan). Usually we don't review publishers that have not been actively publishing for over a year and Alcove released their first book in September 2020, but because they are an imprint, and one that is clearly being invested in, we are reviewing them now.

Alcove Press is focused on publishing upmarket Book Club fiction that "explores family, friendship, and community". They are actively trying to publish debut authors as well as established ones. You can see the books they've published so far [here](#). You can learn more about their launch in [this Publishers Weekly article](#).

They are distributed by Random House. They have also partnered with Dreamscape Media, to produce and distribute their titles as audiobooks.

Unlike most publisher websites they are not focused on selling books, because they are distributed through Random House, you actually have to buy their books elsewhere online. Instead they share detailed information about their editors and what each editor is seeking. You can learn [more](#).

The editors all bring a great deal of experience to the table and that inspires trust as well. It's very easy to get a feel for what they are looking to publish because of the detailed information involving what each editor is drawn to.

As always, only submit if your work seems like a good fit.

Alcove Presses submission email address is [here](#).

Agora Books (UK)

Agora Books (UK) is linked to the established literary agency Peters, Fraser & Dunlop. It is very important not to confuse this Agora Books with the one based in Canada, which is a vanity press we do *not* recommend.

Agora Books is a digital first publisher of fiction and nonfiction. They were established in 2015 and originally named Ipsos Books. They have excellent covers and good focused marketing. You can get a feel for what they publish [here](#).

They are currently only accepting fiction submissions. They are not interested in YA or children's fiction, poetry, nonfiction, novellas or essays. They are interested in a wide range of fiction, in terms of genre.

They are focused on selling books, not on recruiting authors, which is always a good sign. They publish a lot of reprints, but are not open to direct submissions of reprints.

Authors that sign with Agora also sign with the Peters, Fraser & Dunlop Group as part of that. Peters, Fraser & Dunlop had a rough patch in 2007 but they appear to have fully recovered from that. But you can learn a little more about that [here](#). Agencies getting into the publishing business has become rather common. It's not always appropriate but it seems to work in this situation.

Authors receive 50% of what Agora gets from the retailers, which is a good royalty rate.

They only publish 6-8 new books a year (that isn't counting backlist/reprints), so they can really focus on editing and promoting those books.

To submit please send them an email including the 50 first pages of your manuscript and a synopsis. Make sure to review their guidelines carefully before submitting.

To learn more or to submit go [here](#).

Allen & Unwin

Allen & Unwin is a large independent Australian Press that is open to submissions on a wide range of topics. They have won a number of Australian publisher awards. They accept based on pitches, and have a system known as the "Friday Pitch" which insures that at least one editor reviews each unsolicited pitch.

Allen & Unwin has great distribution in Australia and has published a large number of best-selling books on a wide range of topics. One of their focuses is Australian memoirs (although clearly that is only open to Australian authors). They also run a prestigious literary contest that is focuses on launching Australian authors. They also have a nonfiction division focus on New Zealand (that only accepts submissions from that country). Outside of these focused areas they seem open to pitches from authors of other nationalities.

All pitches must be made through their electronic submission system. One of the things I like about their guidelines is that in each of the categories they mention an example of a book (or books) that has done well after being accepted through this system. Some of the areas where they are currently open to submissions include their children's and young adult division (which publishes about 80 books a year), as well as literary and commercial fiction (although not in all genres) and nonfiction for adults.

To learn more, please go to their submission guideline page [here](#). All of the pages have detailed information and you should read all the guidelines carefully before submitting.

Andrews McMeel

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

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

In recent years one of the areas they have had a great deal of success in is poetry books. They have published some bestsellers including *Milk & Honey* by Rupi Kaur.

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

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

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

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

Arsenal Pulp Press

Arsenal Pulp Press is a Canadian small press based out of Vancouver. They have won the Jim Douglas Publisher of the Year Award (from the Association of Book Publishers of British Columbia), and they have been a finalist for Small Press Publisher of the Year (awarded by the Canadian Booksellers Association) five times. They have good distribution in Canada and on the West Coast. I've seen a number of their books in stores in the Pacific Northwest. They also regularly host and promote events for their authors, and that is a good sign as well.

They have 400 titles currently in print. The books they publish cover a wide range of topics and genres. They publish literary fiction and nonfiction, and the topics they cover range from gender studies to cook books. They also publish graphic novels.

Below are the topics they are currently considering submissions in:

- Books by BIPOC authors
- LGBTQ fiction and non-fiction, including young adult and children's
- Literary fiction and non-fiction (no genre fiction, such as mysteries, thrillers, or romance)
- Political/sociological studies
- Cultural studies
- Regional non-fiction, in particular for British Columbia
- Graphic novels
- Youth culture and young adult literature
- Books for children, especially those that emphasize diversity
- Craft books

Please only submit books that are in the above listed categories. If you're not sure your work fits, it probably does not, but browsing their [catalog](#) might help give you a better feel for what they actually publish.

They have very specific submission guidelines, that you have to follow in order to submit. They have separate submission guidelines for Canadians and non-Canadians. You can read their guidelines [here](#). Please follow all of their guidelines.

They only allow postal submissions. Simultaneous submissions are considered as long as you alert them of that. They take about six months to respond to most submissions.

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 one to two 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](#).

Bad Dream Entertainment

Bad Dream Entertainment is a small press that focuses on publishing dark fiction, horror, science fiction, and humor. They were founded in 2013 by Brett Reistroffer. Early on Reistroffer self-published his first book through the press, and he continues to edit the anthologies they publish, but he has branched out since then to publish full-length work by others.

Bad Dream Entertainment has published five books over all, which is not much of a track record, but it is something. You can view their catalogue [here](#).

Each time they re-open to submissions they generally have a specific call. They generally seek new submissions in the fall.

They allow simultaneous submissions, which means work can also be submitted elsewhere, but not multiple submissions, which means you can only submit one manuscript to them.

Instead of an advance they have a different system that is described below.

"Bad Dream Entertainment pays \$600-800 (depending on manuscript length) for a six-year exclusivity to the publishing rights plus a percentage on sales; this is not an advance (i.e. a loan paid back through sales), but is a fee for the publishing rights. Rights purchased will be world-wide exclusive in print and digital but for English language only (rights-reversion optional after licensing term). Royalties will be based on gross sales since we operate on a POD distribution model and are usually 20-30% depending on the agreement."

They are closing to submissions once they find an appropriate manuscript. They try to respond to all submissions within 2-4 weeks.

Their detailed submission guidelines are available [here](#).

Bancroft Press

Bancroft Press is a small press that publishes a wide variety of work, both nonfiction and fiction. They publish memoirs and legal dramas and everything in between. They usually publish between three and five books a year, so while they are open to a wide range of work, they actually publish very little.

Their website is geared towards readers, not writers, and the general quality of the covers is good (not great). They say they are open to children's books and young adult books, but they have not published very many of either. I would lean towards submitting to a publisher that specializes in these categories.

They have been around for 23 years. They even mention how unusual that is to pull off without a niche on their about page [here](#).

They try to respond to all submissions within six months. They only accept submissions via email or an electronic submissions manager. They ask that all authors submit full manuscripts.

Bancroft Press has got in trouble in the past which [you can read about here](#), but it is in the very distant past.

You can learn more or submit [here](#).

Bella Books

Bella Books is a press focused on publishing stories about women-loving-women, and they are interested in acquiring manuscripts that involve these stories across all genres, including romance, mystery, thriller, paranormal, etc.

They are based in Tallahassee, Florida. The press is currently owned by Linda Hill who also owns Spinsters Ink and Bean Pole Books. They were founded in 2001 by Kelly Smith, and they have over time acquired a lot of the back catalogue of other presses. They have around 300 books in print, and publish between 24-30 new books a year. More than a hundred of their titles have won Lambda Literary Awards or Golden Crown Literary Society awards.

They focus on publishing books that reflect and celebrate the diversity of the lesbian, queer, bisexual, and gender non-conforming community.

It is easy to get a feeling for what they publish by viewing their [catalogue here](#).

They have detailed submission guidelines that are available [here](#). Please be careful to follow all of their requirements while submitting. They ask for a synopsis, a cover letter, and your full manuscript.

Once you submit they let you know if they are interested in your work within 90 days. They do not allow simultaneous submissions.

Biblioasis

Biblioasis is a literary press based in Windsor, Ontario. They publish poetry, fiction, and nonfiction. They publish short story collections and translated works. The books they publish have beautiful covers. Within Canada they have good distribution.

Unlike most Canadian presses they accept international submissions, however they use the term "select". If you are submitting internationally, I would be very careful before submitting to make sure that you meet their needs. You can do that by reviewing their [catalog](#) carefully and preferably ordering a book.

They publish between 16 and 20 works each year, but 8 to 10 of those titles are pre-selected by their board. They receive hundreds of submissions every year for those remaining slots.

At this time, it is unlikely that any fiction they accept will be published till 2021, so please take that into consideration.

They accept submissions online and via post. They ask that you submit the entire manuscript. You can read their submission guidelines [here](#).

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 are an established publisher; among the many books they have published is the “Scots” edition of the first Harry Potter Book.

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 unsolicited manuscripts that are nonfiction and they are -re-open to fiction submissions during certain times of the year. 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.

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

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

Black Scat Books

Black Scat Books is a small press based in San Francisco. They are an independent press focused on publishing books of sublime art & literature— absurdist fiction, dada, surrealism, pataphysics, erotica, and works in translation.

They regularly publish anthologies, so that is a good way to start submitting to them. The one they are seeking submissions for now is a sequel to their 2017 anthology, [Le Scat Noir Encyclopaedia](#), Entries must be no longer than 300 words in length. You can learn more [here](#). The deadline is December 1st 2020.

They are also collecting submissions for the next two issues of the Black Scat Review, which are both themed. If you scroll down [here](#) you can find out more about submitting to their literary journal.

They ask you not to submit unless you have read an issue. The back issues are for sale [here](#).

Right now they are only open to queries for their **NEW URGE** imprint. They are interested in full-length erotic novels, collections of short fiction, and translations their Pocket Erotica series. All submissions must be made via email. The sparse details are at the [bottom of this page](#).

If you are serious about submitting, I encourage you to [buy](#) one of their books first.

They appear to have a lot of local support but do not seem to have distribution.

Blind Eye Books

Blind Eye Books publishes science fiction, fantasy, mystery, and romance novels featuring LGBTQ protagonists. They are a print publisher and their book covers are beautifully designed and really stand out. The books they have published have won and been nominated for a number of awards including the Lambda.

Most of what they publish is between 70,000 and 150,000 words. They do not list a distributor on their website but they appear to have a lot of community support and many of their works get great blurbs.

Unlike most publishers they are not interested in queries. They have very specific outlines for what information they are seeking, in terms of personal information, which they make clear [here](#). The editor also includes a complete list of tropes they are very much over so that is also worth reviewing. It's on the same page, you just have to scan down.

They ask that you submit your whole manuscript, and a short synopsis of the work when you submit.

To get a better feel for what they've published in the past, visit their website [here](#).

Blood Bound Books

Blood Bound Books is a publisher of dark fiction, they are best known for publishing extreme horror novels but they also publish supernatural and crime fiction, and most other genres that can be categorized as dark.

They publish eBooks and paperback/hardback editions via print on demand. I don't think they have distribution, but they do have an email list and send out regular promotional emails as part of that.

Their covers are very hit and miss, and most of the books appear to sell ok, but not great on Amazon.

They offer authors 50% of royalties. Although they don't specify if the royalty is net or gross, and it is important to clarify (gross is much more preferable).

They are currently only open to submissions in their Red Line Imprint. They opened to submissions on December 1st 2019 and will close on March 31st 2020.

The Red Line imprint focuses on publishing novellas under 50K words. The work can be in the following genres: bizarro, erotica, splatterpunk, body and extreme horror genres, dark fantasy and sci-fi, supernatural thrillers, and neo-noir. All stories submitted to the Red Line should contain a strong element of the taboo.

They are not interested in work that has been previously published. You can submit simultaneously but you must inform them that you are doing so.

Along with the general call for submissions for the Red Line imprint they are also seeking submissions for a new series within that imprint called "Rural Exploration"

which you can learn about more if you scroll down [here](#). This series will be read by editor John McGuiggan.

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

Bookouture

Bookouture is a digital publisher that was purchased in 2017 by Hachette ([you can learn more here](#)). Bookouture was extremely successful in their own right. They started out in the UK but they have outposts in a number of countries now. As of 2018 they've sold over 8.5 million copies. They focus on publishing commercial fiction. They primarily publish women's fiction, romance, thrillers, and chick lit.

Writers that publish with Bookouture receive good royalties (although it's not clear on the website if it's off net or gross). Many authors continue to publish with them for a long time and they have a track record of having somewhat negotiable contracts.

I find their website a little scammy and off putting. It's geared towards authors, not readers, and a lot of the graphics they use are a little confusing or misleading. But they have a great track record of selling books. They know they don't sell them on their website so they don't focus on that.

Their website has a [what we are looking for section](#), [a submission guideline section](#), and [a submit your manuscript section](#). To learn more or to submit your manuscript, go there.

Brother Mockingbird Publishing

Brother Mockingbird Publishing is a small independent press committed to discovering writers from the American South, but they are also open to good fiction, regardless of where the author is based. They recently celebrated their two year anniversary, so they are a new press.

They publish a wide range of genres including women's fiction, historical fiction, romance, mystery (including thrillers and cozies), upmarket, thriller, suspense, science fiction, fantasy, horror, supernatural, and young adult. They also publish children's fiction but are currently not open to submissions of that genre through the end of 2020.

You can get a good feel of what they've published in the past by going [here](#).

They have a detailed staff page, which is always a good sign, although none of the staff is particularly experienced.

The royalty rates they offer depend on the amount of editing the work requires but are generally within the 20-40% rate, of net, not gross.

They have distribution with Ingram, which is not ideal, but they do advertise and offer incentives for bookstores to carry their books, which is a good start. They do not have a sales team or marketing department.

The submission guidelines ask that you submit a query letter, synopsis, first chapter, and an author biography that includes relevant social media links. Everything should be in the body of the email. No attachments.

Brother Mockingbird has a three month turnaround time in terms of reading submissions. If you have not heard from them at that point, you are encouraged to query.

All edits to manuscripts should be compliant with the Chicago Manual of Style.

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

CamCat Books

CamCat Books is a small independent publisher that was founded in 2019. Since that time they have published 22 titles, and they have a number of titles already scheduled as coming soon for 2021. This is a lot of titles for such a new company.

They were founded by Sue Arroyo, an entrepreneur who sold her previous business, Trident Technologies, to start CamCat. I am unsure of the size of the company, but a business manager and sales and marketing manager are listed on the site. No mention of additional editors. They do not seem to have a distributor.

Initially they were supposed to launch an imprint named Equinox (not to be confused with the UK education publisher). It's mentioned [here](#) and on their Facebook page, which isn't very active. All the links to the imprint are dead, and I wasn't able to find very much out.

CamCat does seem to be reader orientated, and they have a once a month reader survey with a hundred dollar prize. Their covers are inconsistent. Some are great, some are awful (in my personal opinion, of course).

CamCat Books publishes novel-length genre fiction aimed at adults as well as young adults. They'll consider most works of fiction aimed at these age groups but they are most interested in publishing in the following genres:

- Mystery, Thriller, and Suspense
- Science Fiction & Fantasy
- Romance
- Historical
- Paranormal
- Horror
- Adventure
- Westerns

They only consider polished and complete work that is between 65,000 and 125,000 words in length. It must be formatted to meet standard guidelines. They do not consider simultaneously submitted work or previously published work. Agented submissions get priority consideration. Although based on the authors they've previously published and their FAQ, the majority of what is submitted to them is direct from authors.

All work must be submitted through their Submittable portal. It's very important to note that it's an extensive form and they won't let you file it without various website links (for goodreads, etc) that they ask for at the end. So scan down and make sure you have those before you start the process.

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

They also have an extensive list of FAQ [here](#).

Camel Press

Camel Press is the genre imprint of Coffeetown Press, which in turn is owned by Epicenter Press. Camel Press publishes genre work, focusing primarily on mystery, including the following sub-genres: suspense, cozy mystery, mystery thrillers, and romantic suspense. They also publish romance, both contemporary and historical and will consider general fiction, historical fiction and westerns, particularly if the author has a strong promotional plan.

Camel Press has distribution in the Pacific Northwest, but it seems to be limited to that region. However, they've been around for over twenty years and most of the books they publish seem to receive positive reviews and sell a fair number of books on Amazon.

The website is geared towards readers, not writers. The book covers are hit or miss, but genre appropriate.

Epicenter Press also owns and manages a vanity press company, but they do not seem to redirect authors towards it. If you are redirected, please send us an email at support@authorspublish.com.

They have detailed and thoughtful submission guidelines. Please read and follow them carefully. They are open to submissions from established authors who have had books fall out of print, as long as these books are not available online. They are not interested in reprints under any other circumstance.

They ask that you submit the first fifty consecutive pages of your novel, a biography, and a synopsis, as well as strong promotional plan.

Their PDF outlining submission guidelines is [here](#).

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

Cemetery Gates Media

Cemetery Gates Media was founded in 2015 by longtime friends John Brhel and Joe Sullivan and focuses on publishing fantasy and supernatural fiction. Cemetery Gates Media is based in Binghamton, New York.

They have published a number of anthologies that seemed to do well, and they have paid all contributors. The anthologies reflect a wide range of work.

It's important to note that the novels and short story collections they've published in the past have all been self-publishing endeavours, which is to say they published their own work. This is their first call for novel length work by an author that is not Brhel or Sullivan.

They have excellent covers but they do not mention a print distributor, which usually means they do not have one.

They are currently seeking submissions for 40k+ word manuscripts from authors who've never published a novel. Unfortunately they do not list a deadline for submissions. They say that they will continue to read submissions till they sign a contract.

Their goal is to release one novel per year in this series.

Even though the author must not have published a novel, one of the requirements for submitting is that **the author must have at least 2 paid horror writing credits.**

Authors are still eligible if they have published novellas and short story collections.

If you do not have 2 paid horror writing credits, do not submit.

They are offering a \$500 signing bonus and a \$500 advance upon publication. The royalties are split 20% (publisher) / 80% (author), but they do not mention if this is on gross or net, which is a big difference.

Interested writers should submit 1 finished, unpublished 40k+ work manuscript. Also include a synopsis of your story, your Twitter, author website, two writing credits, and a brief bio.

It's a good idea to review their back list [here](#), because they are looking to publish work in a similar vein.

They are not interested in dystopian science fiction or dark fantasy.

To learn more or to submit [go here](#).

City Owl Press

City Owl Press is a publisher of Adult and New Adult Romance and Speculative Fiction. They publish the following sub genres: Contemporary Romance, Historical Romance, Paranormal, and Sci Fi Romance, as well as Romantic Suspense, Time Travel Romance, Dark Fantasy, and Urban Fantasy.

They are explicitly not interested in work in the dystopian, gaslamp, steampunk, or contemporary fantasy genres.

The publisher was founded in 2014 and initially had some growing pains. You can read the thread about it [here](#). While they still pay on net rather than gross, most of the other complaints have been dealt with. They no longer offer marketing packages (which was always done through a separate submission process), and they have a larger and more experienced staff. You can learn more about the staff [here](#).

They are now also a member of the Romance Writers of America. You can read more about that [here](#).

The covers are very genre, but generally good. They don't specify distribution so I suspect they do not have any. I have not seen their contract so I cannot comment on it.

The novels that are interested in are at least 50,000 words in length. They consider novellas that are between 20,000 and 50,000 words.

All unsolicited submissions must be composed of a query and the first ten pages. Manuscripts should be pasted into the body of the email. Formatting is not a concern. The manuscript you are submitting must be complete. Only submit to one editor at a time. They have a response time of under two months.

They also answer some very helpful frequently asked questions [here](#). They accept previously published work as long as the rights belong to you.

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

Coffeetown Press

Coffeetown Press is a literary and non-fiction imprint owned by Epicenter Press. They primarily publish non-fiction, as well as memoir, literary fiction, and historical fiction.

They have good local distribution in the Pacific Northwest where they are based, but outside of that region their distribution is more limited.

Their books do tend to sell well online and receive positive reviews. It's good to get a feel for what they publish by visiting their website [here](#). I do not generally like the appearance of their book covers, but this may be a matter of personal preference.

Epicenter Press also owns and manages a vanity press company, but they do not seem to redirect authors towards it. If you are, please send us an email at support@authorspublish.com.

For memoir and nonfiction they ask for an introduction, outline, and the first consecutive 50 pages. For literary and historical fiction they ask for the first 50 consecutive pages, a biography, and promotional information.

They will not consider work that has been previously published unless it was published by a traditional press, and has gone out of print. If that is the case they have additional guidelines to follow. Please check the website.

They prefer manuscripts to be between 70,000 and 100,000 words in length, but books between 50,000 and 70,000 words will still be considered.

Their PDF outlining submission guidelines is [here](#).

They accept submissions via email and have submission guidelines that you should be sure to follow. You can read the full guidelines [here](#).

duopress

duopress is a publisher of innovative non-fiction books and gift books. They publish a large variety of non-traditionally formatted books for children, including board books that fold out, flash cards, and sticker books.

They also publish more traditional books for children, including local books (such as *Portland Baby*). Most of what they publish is aimed at the very young (two and under).

The books they publish for adults tend to lean towards the non-fiction side of things, although they do generally have a humorous underpinning such as "*Never Cook Bacon Naked*" and *other words of wisdom for the home cook*.

It is a good idea to review [their catalog](#) to get a good feel for what they have previously published.

They are an imprint of Workman Press and they have excellent distribution.

You can submit via email or mail. You must submit a cover letter that outlines the materials included in the package as well as a proposal with an outline, introduction, art list, and sample text as well as sample illustrations or photographs (no originals). They also want a market analysis of the potential readership for your book.

They also want an author bio and relevant conditionals. To learn more about submitting, go [here](#).

Encircle Publications

Encircle Publications is a small press that focuses primarily on publishing mainstream fiction and mystery novels. But they also publish some other genres including poetry. They've only been around since 2016, but they've published a fair number of books at this point.

They started out only publishing mystery novels, but one of the owners is a long-time editor of a poetry journal. You can find out more about the staff, which is small, [here](#).

The covers are a mixed bag, some are polished and appealing, others are dated and amateurish. You can get a feel for what they have published in the past [here](#).

The website is focused on recruiting readers rather than writers which is a good sign, but there's no information about distribution, which is frustrating.

It's important to note that they also offer Author Services that involve a fee. This is completely separate from their publishing company. If they try to charge you money or redirect you towards the service side please report them to us right away by emailing support@authorspublish.com.

They are open to queries of 1,000 words or less. It's important to follow their submission guidelines. All queries should be made electronically through their submission manager which you can find [here](#).

Eraserhead

Eraserhead Press is a small publisher based out of Portland Oregon that focuses on publishing Bizarro Fiction. If you are not familiar with the genre, you have to be before submitting. They are not interested in any work cannot be categorized as Bizarro. They are a print and e-Book publisher.

Eraserhead Press was established in 1999. They have a specialized niche; they know their readership and they connect with them. Bizarro fiction isn't for everyone, personally I am not a big fan, but readers that love it, really love it. Review [their catalog](#) to get a better feeling for what they publish. They've published many authors multiple times, which is always a good sign.

They publish novellas and novels that are between 20,000 and 100,000 words in length. They are looking for darkly absurd books that balance plot and character and have a strong emotional core. They do not want authors to experiment with form.

Their covers are well designed and reflect the genre well.

They are open to submissions from April 1st through June 1st most years, but always check on their website for updates. All submissions will receive a response by July 31st. They do not allow simultaneous submissions, but you can submit more than one manuscript to them for consideration.

All submissions must be made by email. In the body of the email include your author bio and a 4-5 sentence summary. If your work is targeted at a certain audience, say vegan punks, mention it there. Submit your manuscript as an attachment, with a full page synopsis.

Remember to follow their submission guidelines. To learn more or to submit go [here](#).

Familius

Familius is a newer publisher, established in the last few years, but the head editor is established and has a good track record of working at other publishing companies.

They were also recently acquired by the established publisher Workman, which already has a number of other imprints in this market. Workman has excellent distribution.

Familius publishes ebooks, apps, audiobooks, videos, and more.

The books they publish cover a wide range of topics and are for varied audiences. They publish nonfiction for adults, often aimed at healthy eating, and family values. They also publish fiction and nonfiction for children of all ages including young adults.

You can get a good feel for the range of work they publish by viewing their catalog [here](#).

The books they publish tend to focus on families, although the books they publish acknowledge and reflect the fact that no two families are the same, and different families have different components.

Their [submission guidelines](#) are detailed and it is important to follow them exactly. They accept online and postal submissions but they only respond if interested.

GemmaMedia

GemmaMedia is an independent publisher that has managed to get a fair amount of distribution. GemmaMedia focuses largely on literacy, and improving reading, which includes publishing work for Hi-Lo readers.

They are not interested in books outside of these genres.

GemmaMedia has been around for 10 years now. They appear to operate on a very traditional contract based system, however how much they would offer a writer in terms of royalties is unknown.

The covers are well done and many of the books are burbled by established writers and academics which is a very good sign. Most books they publish appear to be between 150-250 pages in length. They seem to publish around 8 or so books a year, which means that they only accept a very limited amount of manuscripts.

They are currently only open to submissions for their open door series for adult and young adult literacy. All the books in this series appear to be fiction. There requirements for this series are as follows.

- topics of relevance to adults and young adults improving their reading
- 10,000 words or fewer
- clearly identified narrative. Tell a story!
- second- to fourth-grade reading level (We can help.)
- short sentences and frequent chapter breaks

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

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

Flame Tree Press

Flame Tree Press is an imprint of Flame Tree Publishing. Flame Tree Press focuses on publishing speculative fiction, science fiction, fantasy, horror and crime fiction. They have been around for a couple years now and have good distribution in the US and the UK. I have seen their books at brick and mortar bookstores on numerous occasions.

Their covers are generally excellent. Their website is a little overwhelming and difficult to navigate. Some parts of the submission guidelines are confusing and contradictory. They mention having a viewable contract, but the link to it links to the website as a whole, and I was not able to find one.

This is particularly important because the contract has some issues, which you can read [about here](#), but hopefully they are being resolved. Approach with caution because of that.

They are looking for novels that are between 70,000 and 120,000 words in length. While they do prefer previously unpublished work they will consider previously released titles (self published or traditionally published), as long as all rights belong to the author.

They ask that you submit your whole manuscript. They have detailed submission guidelines you can see [here](#). You can see what fiction they've published in the past [here](#).

Gibbs Smith

Gibbs Smith is an established publisher with good distribution and a focus on cook books, interior design and architecture books, and board books for children. They have published a number of bestsellers, including a board book version of *Pride & Prejudice*. Gibbs Smith is primarily a non-fiction publisher which is just now entering the fiction market for adults and middle readers.

For small children they publish activity books, picture books, and board books. They have already had a fair amount of success in this genre. They are currently accepting submissions in a genre which is new to them, historical fiction for adults and middle grade readers.

They were actively seeking historical fiction stories set at least 40 years in the past, when we first reviewed them, but have since closed to all fiction not aimed at small children. The information that was previously on their site about launching a historical fiction series in 2018 was also removed.

They accept all submissions via email, and do not accept any mailed submissions. They have different email addresses for different categories of submissions and have specific requirements for each one, so please read carefully about the category you are considering submitting to. Some categories require full manuscripts, others partial.

They do not respond to submissions they are not interested in. If you have not heard from them in 12 weeks, it is safe to assume they are not interested in your manuscript.

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

Gill Books

Gill Books is one of Ireland's leading publishers of content in terms of both the Primary and Secondary schools market, but they also publish nonfiction for adults. They accept proposals for adult nonfiction and children's books.

They are a division of Gill Education and are based out of Dublin. They have good distribution within Ireland, and they do focus on books with Irish interests in mind, although they also publish books outside of that scope. They also have a committed marketing team and editorial staff.

To get a good feel for what they are currently publishing, please visit their [catalogue](#) here. Do not submit unless you feel like your book fits within their larger catalogue.

They ask that all proposals include the following components:

- A descriptive outline or synopsis of the work highlighting any unique features (not more than 500 words)
- A table of contents or chapter outline
- Two sample chapters
- A brief biography of you the author, with reference to your qualifications for writing the book and the connection to your potential audience
- Phone and email contact information

Proposals are preferably submitted by email but can also be sent by post. They try to respond to all submissions within three months.

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

Golden Antelope

They publish poetry, short stories, novellas, novels, plays, and works of creative nonfiction. They are a small press. They were founded in 2008 but initially, the founding editors Neal and Betsy Delmonico mostly published family and friends. Publications were sporadic. That shifted in 2017, and since then they've been progressively publishing more work.

At the top of the submissions page, the date is 2016 which was when the page was first established, but it has been updated since then. They re-opened to submissions recently (the scheduled date was October 18th, but the actual opening was delayed by two weeks).

I find their website hard to navigate, and I wasn't able to find that much about their company elsewhere online. Their distribution is through Ingram, which is not a particularly good sign (it means brick and mortar bookstores could order it for a customer directly, but are unlikely to do so for the shelves).

One of the poetry books they published in 2019 was recommended by Ms. Magazine. They mention that one of their 2020 books, *The Shadows of 1915*, was liked by NPR's *Fresh Air*, but this was in fact three sponsored spots.

They ask that you submit a query letter and a sample. They don't mention any strict limits in terms of the sample.

This is what they have to say about marketing --

"You should know that we are a small press with a very small promotional budget. We send out 10-15 copies with press releases to various newspapers, journals, and magazines for review; we get the book into our distributor's catalogue, and maintain a

web presence. But we depend on the authors to do any further PR. Several have done amazing jobs in promoting their work, organizing readings and signing events at their local libraries or bookstores, reading their works on radio shows or at other public events, getting their works reviewed in local papers or literary journals. Authors do get 20 free copies to use for promotion or to show or just give to friends."

They also have an unusual royalties system, and one I'm not entirely comfortable with. But they are up front about it, which is a good sign. According to their website they only start paying royalties once the "distribution threshold" has met -- which is to say after they've sold 200 copies in most cases (including eBooks).

Royalties start at 25%, but books with higher sales numbers increase royalty percentages. They don't specify if it's of gross or net (gross is always preferable).

Please only submit if you feel like your work fits within the parameters of their current catalogue, and follow their submission guidelines carefully.

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

Head of Zeus

Head of Zeus is a UK based print publisher that was founded in early 2012. They publish a wide variety of work including non-fiction, literary fiction, general and genre fiction. They have a number of imprints and have good distribution in the UK. A number of the books they have published have been subsequently picked up by American publishers.

They have a large staff and are fairly established. The covers of their books are generally rather good. Their website is clean and could be better organized but is clearly geared towards readers, which is always a good sign.

It is important to note that they have their own submission management system that they open and close depending on how many submissions they received and how backlogged they are. While they are currently open to submissions at the time I am writing this, it is possible they will close due to an influx of submissions from subscribers. If this happens please wait a few weeks and check back. They appear to be open to submissions the majority of the time.

It is also important to note that you have to log in to or create an account in order to read their submission guidelines. Once you log in or sign up the submission guidelines are actually under the submission form (which is a little confusing).

It is good to get a feel for what they publish by looking at their current titles [here](#). It is important to note that they are not interested in anything not in English, unfinished work, poetry, plays, screenplays, short stories and children's books (0-12).

They say they are not rigid about genre, but do make it clear which genre you think your work is in your cover letter. They both want a short description (elevator pitch,

1-2 sentences) and a long description (more like what you would find on the back of the hardcover).

They have specific uploading and formatting guidelines so make sure to follow those. They respond to all submissions.

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

Handheld Press

Handheld Press is a UK-based press that is currently open to submissions of reprints (books that were traditionally published but have since gone out of print), and works of research-based nonfiction. They plan to reopen to contemporary fiction and personal nonfiction in 2021, so if you are reading this review at a later date, you can check to see if they've reopened.

You can get a good feel for what they publish [here](#). They have good distribution in the UK, and their books can be purchased internationally online.

They have specific forms that are PDF formatted to download and fill out, in terms of submitting your research-based book, or reprint. Make sure that the work you are submitting meets all their carefully outlined requirements. Do not submit your work if it does not meet their requirements.

They respond to most submissions within three months and you are welcome to query after that.

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

HellBound Books

HellBound Books is an independent horror press that publishes books and anthologies. They often have [open calls for anthology submissions](#) if you want to get a feel for them as a press before committing to submitting a full manuscript.

HellBound Books publishes novels and novellas that fall into the following genres: Horror, Bizarro, Erotic Horror, and Dark Erotica. They are not interested in books outside of those genres. They are based in Austin, Texas.

Their books are wildly available online but their brick and mortar availability is limited. They have a focused niche and publish a large number of anthologies each year, and a fair number of books.

They speak of having a focused marketing team but their FB and Instagram posts don't seem to gain much traction. But a number of the books seem to sell very well on Amazon and are well reviewed there and on Goodreads.

I couldn't find much about them from other sources online, but based on their site they seem to be focused on transparency. Royalties are 25% of net. They claim to offer extensive editing.

They are looking for full length novels between 60,000 and 120,000 words in length, and novellas between 30,000-60,000 words in length. They are open to series concepts as well. They are only interested in complete manuscripts.

Their full submission guidelines are [here](#) and they have additional details [here](#). They try to respond to all submissions within 12 weeks. Querying is encouraged after that point.

Hera

Hera is a new female-led, independent digital publisher. They focus exclusively on publishing commercial books, including works psychological suspense, police procedural, and thrillers, to romance, and glamorous contemporary fiction.

They were founded in 2018 and published their first book in January 2019. Their books generally have excellent and engaging covers.

Hera is based in the UK and run by Keshini Naidoo, formerly of Avon (HarperCollins UK) and Bookouture, and Lindsey Mooney, who has worked on digital strategy at Hachette and Random House, and has worked directly with a number of eBook companies.

They are currently seeking crime and thriller, romance, saga, and general fiction.

Do not submit the following because they are not interested in it - non fiction, young adult or children's fiction, poetry, or science fiction and fantasy.

Please respect and follow all of their submission guidelines.

They offer all authors 50% royalties on net. Authors receive detailed edits, as well as website and social media support.

They ask that you send a one-page synopsis, the whole manuscript as a Word document, and contact details via email.

They promise to respond to all submissions they receive and they try to do that within 12 weeks.

To learn more or to submit go [here](#).

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](#).

Legend Press

Legend Press is a UK based independent press open to direct and agented submissions. They publish contemporary fiction and crime fiction (largely psychological and political thrillers). They do not publish any work that falls outside of these genres. You can get a good feel for what they publish by visiting their website [here](#).

Years ago Legend Press was linked with a vanity publishing outfit that had issues with payment and distribution. This is clearly not good and you can learn more about it [here](#). All this happened over five years ago, but it is important to take into consideration.

All submissions must be made via email. Your submission must include the following, according to their website:

- Why you think Legend Press is the right publisher for you
- Details of any previous publications
- Details of any competition successes
- At least two comparable titles i.e. books that have been published in the last five years that are similar in style, subject matter and/or readership
- A detailed synopsis
- The first three chapters of your manuscript (as an attachment)

They take up to six months to respond to a submission. They ask that you only contact them during this time if you sign with a literary agent or receive an offer from another press.

To see their submission guidelines go [here](#).

Literary Wanderlust

Literary Wanderlust is a Denver based independent publisher. They were founded in 2014 and they publish print and digital books. They publish a wide range of books, from chick lit to short story collections. You can get a feel for what they [publish here](#). They do not publish books aimed at children.

They pay higher royalties than the big 5 publishers, according to their website, but they do not specify how much. They expect authors to help promote their book, and they speak of publicizing work as a partnership. They do however have a publicist listed on staff, and that is a good sign. You can learn more about their staff as a whole [here](#).

Most of the books have well designed and appealing covers. The website is focused on selling books to readers rather than recruiting new writers, which is a good sign.

I was not able to find who their distributor is.

Submissions must be made through their electronic submission manager. You can learn more about their submission process [here](#).

Do not submit books that have been previously self-published.

Nobrow Press and Flying Eye

Nobrow Press is a respected publisher of graphic novels and Flying Eye is their children's book imprint. Flying Eye publishes both fiction and nonfiction picture books. Nobrow Press and Flying Eye are both different from what we normally review because they are looking for either an author/illustrator or an already formed author-illustrator pair with a book to pitch. They do seem to make exceptions, but for the most part they are not interested in matching illustrators with authors.

Nobrow Press and Flying Eye are both known for their wonderful covers, attention to detail, and great illustrations. Reviewing their [catalog](#) should give you a good idea of what they are interested in publishing.

For picture books, they require a brief synopsis of the story. They accept submissions for picture books between 24 pages and 32 pages in length. Children's non-fiction books can be up to 90 pages. They require that you send the complete first draft of your text. If you are an illustrator/author or part of an illustrator and author duo, you should include two finished double page spreads.

For graphic novels, they require a full synopsis of the story. If you are illustrator/author or an illustrator and author duo, please send a minimum of 10 finished pages of the book.

All submissions must be made through email.

Read their submission guidelines [here](#).

The O'Brien Press

The O'Brien Press is an established and respected publisher that is based in Ireland. They favour Irish voices, but are open to international submissions. They publish nonfiction for adults, and fiction and nonfiction for children.

If you are submitting to them from outside of Ireland, I would make sure to spend even more time with [their catalogue](#) and buy and read a book or two to make sure you are a good fit.

I cannot stress this enough, but please do not submit, particularly if you live outside of Ireland, unless you feel like your work is a particularly good fit. We have had a number of presses close to direct submissions because of mass submissions recently. Mass submissions rarely, if ever, result in your manuscript being accepted.

They are particularly looking for work from diverse backgrounds (BAME, LGBTQ+, authors with disabilities, etc.) and New Irish voices.

They have good distribution within Ireland and internationally. They are usually only open to postal submissions but at the time of writing this, because of COVID-19 they are only accepting submissions via email.

They usually respond within 8-10 weeks but under current circumstances these goals are less likely to be met. They ask submitters to be patient.

They ask that you send a cover letter, synopsis, and full manuscript via email. To learn more please visit their website [here](#).

Owl Canyon Press

Owl Canyon Press is an independent publisher based out of Boulder, Colorado. They were founded in 2011. They publish fiction, non-fiction, young adult fiction, and works in translation. It's easy to get a feel for what sort of work they publish by browsing [their catalog](#).

They have local distribution, but outside of Colorado, I suspect you have to order online, based on the information available online and browsing my own local bookstore.

The covers are a solid mix. None are terrible, but most are not great. The website is aimed at readers not writers, which is always a good sign. They don't reveal much in the way of staff or staff experience, which would be helpful.

They do have contact information for someone to contact in regard to foreign rights, which makes sense as they have a partnership with Aiora Press, which is based in Athens, Greece.

They ask that you query first with sample chapters rather than submit a full manuscript. Your submission should include answers to an extensive list of questions that they share on their website. One of the more unusual aspects of the list is they want you to share endorsements, which would be blurbs by other more established authors supporting you. I have not seen their contract.

Make sure to follow their submission guidelines. They try to respond to submissions with 3 months, 6 at the longest, if you haven't heard from them by month 7 they encourage you to query about the status of your submission.

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

Pan Macmillan Australia

Pan Macmillan Australia is open to direct submissions. They are the Australian imprint of Macmillan, one of the big five publishers. This is the only way to submit to Macmillan directly. They have excellent distribution in Australia. They publish commercial fiction including women's fiction, romance, thriller, crime, historical, humor, paranormal, fantasy, as well as literary fiction and nonfiction, children's and young adult books, and commercial non-fiction ranging from memoir to diet.

They used to only be open to submissions on the first Monday of every month, but they are now open to submissions year round, though there is no guarantee this will remain their policy.

They ask that you send the first 50 pages of your manuscript, along with a synopsis that is no more than 300 words in length, as separate Word or PDF documents. You can submit multiple manuscripts as long as they are not in the same series.

They have additional questions outlined on their form, and you can see and review the questions at any time. The form does not only appear when they are open to submissions.

All submissions are made through their easy to use submission manager. To learn more go to their website [here](#).

The Permanent Press

The Permanent Press is an established small press. They only publish adult fiction with a focus on mystery and general/literary fiction. They have published a number of successful, ongoing mystery series. They are run by a husband and wife team, Judith & Martin Shepard.

The covers of the work they publish range from good to dated. The prices of their books is higher than average. The website is well laid out, easy to navigate and very up to date.

The books they publish are featured in and reviewed by major, respected, publications.

They do not have traditional distribution, instead they have a page focused on bookseller interactions. I have seen books they have published in a number of bookstores, which is very unusual for a press that doesn't have traditional distribution.

Browsing through [their catalog](#) will give you a better idea of what they publish.

They ask that all authors submit the first 25 pages through the post. They do not accept electronic submissions. I get the impression that they do this to keep their slush pile down and to make sure that most of the submissions they receive are serious. Based on what I have heard, I believe they have about a six month return time.

To learn more or to find their address to submit to, go [here](#).

Polis Books

Polis Books is an independent publisher of fiction and nonfiction, founded in 2013. Their focus is on publishing new voices. They are a technologically driven company. They publish print and digital books.

Polis Books was founded by Jason Pinter. Mr. Pinter had over a decade of experience in editorial, marketing and publicity for a variety of publishers including Random House, St. Martin's Press, and The Mysterious Press.

Polis Books offers a small advance to every author they publish. They negotiate royalties on a book by book basis. They have good distribution and I have seen their books in brick and mortar bookstores.

In terms of fiction they are currently accepting mystery (including cozies, thrillers, procedural, and suspense books), science fiction, women's fiction, contemporary literature, horror, romance, and erotica. They also publish YA.

In terms of nonfiction they are open to submissions of humor/essays, memoir/biography, sports, and pop culture.

They are not interested in submissions outside of these categories. They ask that authors submit the first three chapters of their work along with a query letter. If you have not heard from them after 12 weeks, it is safe to assume rejection. They only email authors if they are interested in reading more. This is unfortunate but becoming more of a standard practice across the publishing industry.

The query letter and the chapters should be word attachments and not placed in the body of the submission email. All submissions must be made via email.

You can read their full submission guidelines [here](#). You can learn more about the company as a whole [here](#).

Propertius Press

Propertius Press is a small non-profit press located in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. They have been around since 2014 and have a large staff listed but everyone appears to be mostly part-time. They publish paperbacks and electronic books.

They will consider all genres including action-adventure, urban contemporary, biography, memoir, and women's literature, children's stories, young adult, satire, mystery, historical fiction, thrillers, humor, philosophy, and educational works. Keep in mind that they are currently open to just some of these genres.

They do have specific guidelines about what does and doesn't interest them, which you can read [here](#).

They publish less than 1% of what they receive, and publish a few dozen books a year.

They are actively seeking works by BIPOC authors, and they have BIPOC on staff.

I like how clear they are about what they offer authors in this section:

"We are able to offer very competitive terms to our authors, including professionally-designed covers, editing, formatting, and distribution to online outlets as well as availability to any bricks-and-mortar bookstore through Ingram.

Our general publishing terms are to release within 12 months of signing a contract to publish, in both eBook and paperback formats. We offer our authors 40% of net proceeds, paid annually, free copies of their published works, and generous discounts."

Their covers are hit and miss and I get the impression that most of the marketing would be on the author, even though they explicitly ask that you don't submit a marketing plan.

Their only distribution they have is through Ingram, which isn't good, but it is something. Their website is focused on selling books over recruiting authors. You can see their "bookstore" [here](#) to get a feel for what they publish.

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

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 submitter's 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](#).

Santa Monica Press

Santa Monica Press was established in 1993 and initially focused only on publishing non-fiction with a focus on regional books.

They've since expanded, and they now publish within the follow categories:

Biography & Memoir, California, Film, Theater, & TV, Humor, Music, Pop Culture, Reference & Social Sciences, Sports, Travel as well as Young Adult Fiction (Historical Fiction only), and Young Adult Narrative Non-Fiction (both Contemporary and Historical Narrative Non-Fiction).

They are not interested in submissions outside of these categories. Get a good idea for what they've published within these categories by browsing their catalogue [here](#).

In the US they are distributed by Publishers Group West, and in Canada their books can be ordered through Publishers Group Canada.

They try to respond to all proposals within two months. They accept proposals via mail or email, although they have separate mailing guidelines for international submissions which you can read as part of their [full submission guidelines](#).

When you submit please include a query letter, a table of contents or outline, two sample paragraphs, sample illustrations or photographs (if applicable), a brief list of similar titles, a marketing/publicity plan or ideas for one, description of your books target audience, biographical information that makes it clear why you are the right author for the proposed book, plus contact info.

Complete submission guidelines are available [here](#), and must be followed closely before submitting.

Sapare Books

They are accepting submissions of crime fiction, mystery, thrillers, romantic fiction, women's fiction, historical fiction, history, and historical biographies, as well as action and adventure books. You can submit unpublished manuscripts or out-of-print titles.

They are a digital only publisher with a focus on thorough editing, good covers, and a fair royalty rate. They say that they have an individual marketing plan for every book they publish, but their more recent publications don't have as many reviews or sales on Amazon.

Still they seem to do a good job in terms of editing (from the samples I've read), and covers. Their website is focused on selling books, not recruiting authors, which is always a good sign.

It's good to get an idea for what they publish by browsing their back catalog [here](#). They also have detailed information about employees [listed here](#).

Thanks to a wonderful reader finding [this article](#), I now know they were founded in 2018.

They ask that you submit the first 10,000 words of your work, which is a lot longer than the standard first 20 pages.

You can learn more and [submit here](#).

Shadow Mountain

Shadow Mountain is an imprint of [Deseret Books](#). Both publishers have their roots in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, but Deseret Books focuses more on producing faith-based content. Shadow Mountain publishes primarily fiction and they have published a number of New York Times bestselling books. Because the company is run by members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, books have to be approved by in-house censors in order to be published. They are very firm about publishing "clean books only". However the authors need not be members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Only the Ensign Peak imprint of Shadow Mountain focuses on books that are religious in nature. Even the Ensign Peak books are intended for a general, nondenominational audience.

While they publish general fiction and nonfiction books for all ages, a lot of what they sell is aimed at middle grade readers, or could be categorized as clean romance.

They are not interested in considering books in the following genres: business and finance, family histories/personal journals, religion, or poetry.

They have a [special section](#) of the site devoted to their New York Times Bestselling books and it is easy to see that the majority of them are middle grade fantasy books. They have good distribution, a good website, and good covers.

Shadow Mountain uses Submittable to manage their submissions. All submissions must be made through them. They try to respond to all submissions between 12 and 16 weeks.

Submitters must query first and then only submit a full manuscript on request. Learn more [here](#).

Skylight Press

Skylight Press is a small, UK-based publisher. They publish 12 books every year.

They publish serious esoteric and occult books (focusing on things like paganism, and Arthurian/Grail traditions), as well as literary fiction, and non-fiction with a history or horticultural focus. They also consider literary analysis, although they do not publish much of it. They publish poetry but are currently not open to poetry submissions.

This is a small press. They have UK, US, and Australian distribution, but they don't say through who. They also list the specific bookshops that carry their books in London. They have also been around for a while, which is a good sign. Their covers are generally well designed.

The website is easy to navigate and focused on recruiting readers not writers, which is also a good sign. Unfortunately, they don't have a general catalog page and you have to browse books by category. It is worthwhile to spend some time reviewing what they have already published before submitting to them.

They strongly prefer emailed submissions. Fiction should be between 40,000 and 90,000 words. Skylight Press does work with agents, but primarily their authors are un-agented.

They have very detailed submission guidelines that you should read and follow before submitting. To learn more or to submit, go [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](#). You have to scroll down to the submission guidelines which download as a PDF.

The Story Plant

The Story Plant was founded in 2008 by two editors with industry experience, Lou Aronica and Peter Miller. In 2013 they were acquired by Studio Digital CT, LLC, a limited liability company headed by Lou Aronica. It is now run by Aronica and Mitchell Maxwell.

The Story Plant focuses on publishing commercial fiction. They have published a number of USA bestsellers and they cover a whole range of genres, from romance to sci-fi, to mainstream fiction. The covers also vary in terms of quality. Some are very well done, while others struggle. To get a feel for their catalogue go [here](#). Authors do seem to work with them repeatedly, which is generally a good sign. It is important to note that The Story Plant has published Maxwell's (one of the editor's) work.

They are distributed by the National Book Network.

There are a number of articles about the press, and you can read them [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).

Queries should be made via email, and you can learn more about that [here](#). Please only submit if you think your work is a good fit.

Tell-Tale Publishing

Tell-Tale Publishing is a small press founded in 2009. They seem to focus primarily on eBooks but they also have print options (largely print on demand). They publish six imprints which include Dahlia (Romance, and various romance subgenres), Stargazer (fantasy, steampunk), Nightshade (horror), Casablanca (mystery), Thistle (middle school, YA, New Adult), and Deja Vu (reprints for all genres).

All of the genres have separate, detailed submission guidelines, so review those before submitting. Many also spell out their expectations in terms of genre and subgenre.

They have an active Facebook page with a fair number of followers and their website seems geared towards readers. That said, I find their website to be poorly designed and the font colors they have chosen to use on particular pages ([about us](#) for example), beyond confusing. I don't find the website or the writing on it to be professional or appealing.

Their covers are mixed, leaning towards not very good, but they are mostly in genres I don't read, like romance and horror. I am not really the covers' target audience.

On their website there is evidence that they don't believe in the Oxford comma, and I found that off-putting. Although they say they believe in them in their style guide, much of their website does not reflect that.

They do however have a style guide on their submission page, and submissions are made online through an easy to use form.

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

Text Publishing

Text Publishing is an Australian press that has published a wide variety of best sellers. They have won the small publisher of the year award three times. You can get a feel for what they publish [here](#). One of their biggest hits in recent years is the internationally bestselling novel *The Rosie Project*, by Graeme Simsion (the first in a series of Rosie novels).

They are open to a wide variety of submissions but they do not consider poetry or plays. They don't publish picture books or early readers. They do publish middle grade readers and books aimed at young adults.

Text Publishing has excellent distribution in Australia. Their covers are wonderful, and their website is well organized and intuitive to use.

They are open to direct submissions and try to respond to all submissions within three months, although according to the notice at the top of their submission guidelines they are taking longer to respond at the moment. All submissions must be made through the post.

All they want to be mailed to them initially is a one page synopsis of the novel and the first three chapters. Work should be 1.5 or double spaced and preferably double sided. The manuscript must contain full contact details.

To learn more, go [here](#).

Three Rooms Press

Three Rooms Press is an independent press that is inspired by "Dada, Punk, and Passion". They were founded in 1994. They have good distribution.

As one can see by their tagline, they have a very clear sense of what they like and what they are interested in publishing. They publish fiction, nonfiction (including memoirs), and YA.

The fiction they are most interested in features diverse characters, settings, and writers across all genres. They also particularly want mystery novels with a strong female protagonist. They also like cyberpunk themed novels.

The nonfiction they are interested in includes memoirs of unusual lives, particularly LGBTQ+ memoirs. They also want biographies of spectacular women and recordings of oral history and memoirs of music scenes.

The books they are interested in publishing are over 65,000 words in length. I recommend reviewing [their catalog](#) before querying. They ask that all potential submitters query first.

If you have not heard from them in eight weeks assume rejection. They do not respond to submissions they are not interested in.

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

Tule Publishing

Tule Publishing started out as Romance 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 now have expanded into mystery. They have a new imprint that focuses on publishing mystery books (with and without romance elements). They publish everything from thrillers to cozy mysteries.

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 Kobo.

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](#).

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 turnaround 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](#).

Vine Leaves Press

Vine Leaves Press is an international press with staff in the United States, Germany, Greece, England, and beyond. They were founded in 2011 as a literary journal and started publishing vignette collections in 2014. Vine Leaves Press publish books in a variety of genres including memoirs, coming of age, literary and multi-genre novels, poetry and short story collections, and reference books. If you sign up for their email newsletter on their [landing page](#) you are sent a digital sampler of past publications.

They are currently open to submissions but their publishing schedule is currently full through mid 2022, so only submit if you are fine with a publication date after that point.

They have a very polished and well executed website. Personally I struggle a little with the video aspect of many of the pages and find it distracting, but I am sure it appeals to others.

They are print on demand with no traditional distribution. Their website is very much geared towards readers rather than writers and they are clearly actively trying to build their email list, which is always a good sign.

A number of the books they have published are in fact written by the Publisher, Publishing Director, and Publishing Associate. Still about 20% of the books they have published were written by people on the masthead of the press, although a number of these individuals were hired by the press after their books were published.

Their covers are a little mixed but mostly impressive. They offer royalties 40% of net which is preferable, but that might be minus distribution charge, which is presented in a kind of confusing way in the [FAQs](#). Although a percentage [of net is very much preferable to of gross](#).

They have very detailed [FAQ](#) and [submission guidelines](#) and all authors must be at least moderately active on a wide range of social media. They go into the details of why in the [FAQs](#).

Please follow all of their submission guidelines. To learn more, go [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.

A number of science fiction imprints and publishers closed or closed to unagented submissions this year.

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.

Aethon Books

Aethon Books is a print and eBook publisher that focuses on Science Fiction and Fantasy. They are open to all sub-genres within these genres including Hard Sci-fi, Epic Fantasy, Space Opera, Military SF, Alt/History, and Time Travel. This includes books for young adults, although they haven't published many yet.

One of their focuses is on the audio book market and getting good voice actors to record their stories. This is a good sign, as the audio market is rapidly growing and there are a lot of opportunities within it currently.

They print on demand, and even though they have a distributor, it's Ingram, so you aren't as likely find them in brick and mortar stores on the shelf, but it is possible to order their books.

Their covers are well designed and appealing within the context of genre. You can get a feel for what they have previously published [here](#), but they very clearly favor series. To learn more about the publishing team behind Aethon you can go [here](#).

They are only interested in publishing novel length work. They say they offer some of the highest royalty rates in the business but they don't say what their royalty rates are. They do not offer advances but they seem to have good clear marketing strategies, which is always a plus.

When you submit to them they want the first 50 pages of your manuscript, which is an unusual number. The manuscripts they publish start at 60,000 words in length although 80,000 plus is preferable.

To learn more or submit go [here](#).

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 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, as well as the Hugo, Prometheus, Aurealis, and Ditmar awards.

Angry Robot has one open reading period a year, where they consider unsolicited and unagented manuscripts. They have not yet announced when their open reading period will be but it is always listed on their website and on social media. Please monitor both if you are interested.

A number of the award-winning books they have published were discovered during previous open reading periods. They have not announced their next open reading period yet. When the founding editor Marc Gascoigne stepped down there was some fear that they would not keep the open reading period, but they have committed to it.

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.

Before you submit, make sure you read all their guidelines [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 that 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.

In 2020 Author Jason Sanford started investigating the situation at Baen's Bar, the private forum of Baen Books, after hearing that it was being used increasingly to advocate for political violence. [You can read his report here.](#) Baen has temporarily placed the forum on hiatus in a reaction to this report. But it is something to take into consideration if you are considering submitting.

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 with "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 Predator & Editor, and so they probably pay their writers at or above the market rate.

Baen prefers books to be between 100,000 - 130,000 words in length but they will consider books that are short than that. They prefer to not receive query letters and only ask that your manuscript is 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.

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

Chandra Press

Chandra Press is a digital first press that focuses on publishing science fiction. They do offer print versions of all their books. They have a [detailed staff page](#) that is very different than most publishers, because the focus feels so much like it's on the past financial success of the team. They don't have an about the press page, and they do not have distribution outside of Amazon. They have been around since early 2018, so they are still a young press.

The focus on the main page of their website initially focused on recruiting authors and not readers, which always makes me uncomfortable, but they have since switched tactics and the focus is entirely on selling books.

They also stress the importance of giving back and they say that 5% of its profits go towards non-profits.

Chandra has published thirteen books at the time this updated review was published. Most of them seem to be fairly well reviewed on Amazon. The covers are good but a little familiar (I recognized at least one as the being designed by an artist who contributes to stock image sites).

I have no idea how much they pay in terms of royalties or advances, but they do offer a traditional contract.

They've managed to sell a fair number of books according to Amazon, but the number 1 bestselling status of *Sword* is very tenuous considering it is in the subcategory of the *Dr. Who* series (which it is not in fact a part of).

To learn more or to submit [go 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. They are respected and very 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 3 months, your work can be submitted elsewhere. This is a recent improvement they made to their submission policy.

They have previously only accepted hard copy submissions but on December 31st, 2017, they transitioned to digital only submissions. They just reopened to submissions, now accepting only digital submissions through Submittable.

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

Edge

Edge is an established and well-respected Canadian publisher of science fiction and fantasy. They have a great distribution network within Canada and a good distribution network within the US. They are open to authors regardless of nationality. They publish YA but it meets all the same requirements of the adult books they publish.

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.

Excession Press

Excession Press is a small press focused on horror, science fiction, weird western, or dark fantasy with literary merit. The books they publish are between 30,000 and 60,000 words in length. They say they have a few hundred words worth of wiggle room on either end of that guideline, but that is it.

Excession Press has been actively publishing work since 2019 at the rate of one book per year. The books they have published have excellent covers. On Amazon and Goodreads they have a large number of reviews, and a fair amount of press.

Also, Excession Press is offering a \$300 advance on royalties, with 40% royalties on net revenue from print sales and 30% royalties on net revenue from digital sales, after that advance has been met. They are only open to submissions once a year.

On their website, they list the authors that they particularly like. The list includes Iain Banks, Katherine Dunn, Stephen Graham Jones, China Miéville, William Gibson, Jeremy Robert Johnson, Flannery O'Connor, Mieko Kanai, Chuck Palahniuk, Octavia Butler, Joe Hill, Brian Evenson, K. J. Bishop, and Philip K. Dick.

Authors are also given the ability to purchase their titles at wholesale rates. Their contract seems direct and straightforward, which always helps.

Their website is hard to navigate and a little disorganized, but they do not appear to have a distributor.

They allow simultaneous submissions but ask that you notify them if your work is accepted elsewhere. They are not interested in series of books or YA.

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

Future House Publishing

Future House Publishing is an imprint of Familius press, which in turn is an imprint of Workman. Future House focuses on publishing "adult science fiction and fantasy, as well as middle grade adventure books that embrace community, liberty, and family". All of the work is clean, free of excessive violence. You can get a feel for what they publish [here](#).

They prefer to work with authors that have plans for a series of 3 or more books. They are represented for TV and Film development by Kaplan Stahler Agency. Foreign Rights are represented by DropCap Rights Agency.

Future House has excellent distribution through Workman. You can read more about them in [Publishers Weekly](#).

They describe themselves as a "family-friendly publisher". This means that they do not publish anything with excessive profanity, sexual content, or graphic violence. They will not consider work with that sort of content. Adult manuscripts should be between 70 and 90 thousand words. Middle grade submissions should be between 40-60 thousand words in length.

They ask that you submit using a google docs form.

To learn more, go [here](#).

Jo Fletcher Books

Jo Fletcher Books is an imprint of Quercus Publishing, the only imprint that accepts unsolicited submissions. Jo Fletcher Books publishes science fiction, fantasy, and horror books for adults. They are not interested in children's or young adult books, or in short story collections or novellas.

They are established, have distribution, and have published a number of critically acclaimed authors. You can see their catalog [here](#) to get a better idea of what they have previously published. They seem to be interested in books that combine various components from different genres, such as science fiction with mystery elements. The covers are generally well designed.

Their website is well organized, although there are some redundancies. The focus is on selling books, not on recruiting new authors.

All submissions must be made via email. Send either the first 10,000 words of your novel or the first three chapters. They have formatting guidelines you must follow in order for your work to be considered.

Include a cover letter and a one-page synopsis as a separate document. If you have not heard from them six months after submitting, assume rejection. They do not respond to submissions unless they are interested.

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

Nightscape Press

Nightscape Press publishes horror, weird fiction, science fiction, and fantasy novels of at least 60,000 words and YA novels within the same genres of 40,000 words under the imprint Past Curfew Press. Nightscape Press was founded in 2012 but it was only active through 2014. They only recently re-launched this April. They are open to submissions for limited periods.

The fact that they had this period of "downtime" is not a good sign. Also there are sections of their website that are out of date and misleading. I would approach this press with caution.

However during the time they were active, they published a number of successful and award-winning books. The anthologies they published included contributions by the most famous authors in their fields including George R.R. Martin, Neil Gaiman, and Kevin J. Anderson.

Since re-launching they have published a number of books. The covers this time around seem better, more polished and well executed. The paperback edition of the short story collection seemed unusually expensive.

To learn more about Nightscape Press or to submit, go [here](#).

The Parliament House

The Parliament House is a small eBook and print press started in 2016. They specialize in fantasy, including paranormal, contemporary, and urban. Their website is well designed, and the covers are well designed and market appropriate. They seem active on social media and more focused on recruiting readers than writers.

The fantasy novels they tend to list as favorites are aimed at young adults, although they themselves do not say that they are a young adult publisher.

There are a few warning signs, besides being new, the staff behind The Parliament House Press has no real past publishing experience. Also, they have published a number of their own books through the press. They also really place emphasis on the author promoting their work. But they do say they design a specific and detailed marketing plan for each book they publish.

I wasn't sure about this line from their website "(your book) should have already gone through rounds of beta reading, editing, sweat, and tears. We will not accept the half-baked." What worries me about this is the implication that the publishing house will not provide additional editing. I do think all submissions to publishers should be edited and polished to be taken seriously, but that doesn't mean that the press itself should not further edit the work. They do not make it clear that they will do that.

They ask that all work be between 50,000 and 140,000 words in length.

They notably accept previously self-published books, which is rare. They ask that authors send a query letter along with the first three chapters.

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

Talos Press

Talos Press an imprint of the independent publisher Skyhorse is open to un-agented submissions of science fiction, fantasy, and horror. They have good distribution.

There have been problems with their parent company Skyhorse, which you can learn more about [here](#), but things seem to be improving, and the imprints never seemed as effected by these issues as the parent company.

They ask that your proposal to them includes:

1. A brief query (cover) letter
2. A one- to two-page synopsis
3. Market analysis, including research on competitive titles
4. A sample chapter or two
5. Your curriculum vitae (bio) including a list of any previous publishing credentials

If they are interested in seeing more than the first 50 pages, they will contact you. Electronic submissions are preferred, and they try to respond to all the submissions they are interested in after the first 4-6 weeks. If they are not interested in a manuscript they do not respond.

I would encourage you to spend some time browsing their [catalog](#) to get a better feeling for what they have previously published. Their cover art ranges from good to excellent, which is nice. They also publish a lot of book series which is a good sign, and they often even outside of a series publish multiple books by the same author.

They seem to have been struggling with a serious backlog. Nothing is listed under new releases and on the main page the most recent publication I saw was from 2018.

Yet under the coming soon list there were a number of books, some by famous authors, listed for release in 2021.

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

Tartarus Press

Tartarus Press is a small British publisher that opened in the 1990s. They specialize in publishing literary supernatural/strange/horror fiction. They are best known for their limited edition hardbacks with distinctive cream covers. They also publish paperbacks and eBooks. The press has won 5 World Fantasy Awards and 1 Stoker Award for horror.

They are currently open to submissions of short story collections and novels. This is what they have to say about subject matter and style:

We would like to receive literary strange/supernatural fiction. We are not interested in high fantasy, violent horror or young adult fiction. If you write within a traditional genre such as vampire or ghost fiction then please make sure that the more clichéd trappings of your genre are, at best, a very marginal part of your work.

They do not publish books aimed at children or young adults. They state that all payment rates will be negotiated, which is a little frustrating. It is much better when the publisher has the same policy in terms of rates with all of their authors.

They accept submissions via email or mail. To learn more, visit their website [here](#).

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.

They are currently closed to submissions because of COVID-19, but they plan to re-open.

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

Twelfth Planet Press

Twelfth Planet Press is a small electronic press focusing primarily on publishing novellas by women and other marginalized writers in the genres of science fiction, fantasy, horror and more recently, crime. They particularly hope to publish Australian writers, but they have no geographic limits on their current or upcoming submission calls. They really want to publish underrepresented voices. They appear to always offer advances, which is unusual for a small press.

Twelfth Planet Press's call for submissions vary regularly and often have themes. They are looking for a diverse range of authors, story settings, as well as time periods, cultural backgrounds and protagonists. For most calls they are open to most genres including the following: science fiction, fantasy, horror, crime, romance, and contemporary fiction.

The novellas they publish are between 17,000 and 40,000 words. They are not interested in previously published work.

They usually have a general novella reading period starting in September and extending through November.

You can learn more about Twelfth Planet Press [here](#).

Uproar Books

Uproar Books was founded in 2018 by Rick Lewis, who has a background in marketing, not publishing. Uproar books published its first book in early 2019. They only publish epic fantasy and science fiction for adults and young adults, and they are only interested in publishing series of books (although only the first one needs to be completed when you initially submit).

You can learn a bit more about their limited history [here](#). Their website was a little hard to navigate, but it was mostly well designed. My biggest issue is that they seem almost equally focused on recruiting writers and readers. It's a much better sign if a publisher focuses on recruiting readers.

It's also a little surprising because over and over on the website the focus is placed on the company's expertise on marketing, yet when I looked into the individual books, I couldn't find much marketing about them.

That's not the only warning sign. On the website they say "Uproar Books LLC. is the halfway point between self-publishing and a traditional publishing house," which is not a good sign, yet elsewhere on the site they make it clear that they don't charge authors and pay themselves only using royalties, which is what a traditional publishing house does.

They also have a page called [Our Services](#), which is usually a terrible sign, but in this case it outlines all the services they provide for free if your book is accepted.

One of the positive signs is they outline how much they pay their authors, 50% of the proceeds (with they define as including all the revenue received by Uproar Books minus production and shipping costs).

They also haven't been around for very long. At the time of writing this review, they have just met my requirement of having been actively publishing books for a year.

That said, I like that they are focusing on series, and they seem to have clear financial reasons for some of the decisions they made, and they share the reasoning with readers of the site.

I do think that a lot of my issues could also have something to do with the publisher not having familiarity with the industry at large, but I don't think that's the best sign in the long run.

After reading the website I had question about their distribution, and Rick Lewis, the editor answered them by saying "We have a sub-distribution partnership with [BPC](#), providing us with print distribution throughout the U.S., Canada, and the U.K. through their established channels, which include direct distribution, Ingram, Baker & Taylor, Bookazine, and others. We've recently secured an order from B&N for all four titles we've launched to date to be carried in their brick-and-mortar stores."

There's a number of specific things they are looking for in terms of submissions, so if you are interested in submitting I encourage you to review [their guidelines](#) carefully.

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

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 publishing mystery novels, usually focusing on a sub-genre or two, 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. Also, note that Carina Press, in the romance section, publishes mysteries of all flavors—from cozies to thrillers, with and without romantic elements

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](#).

Fahrenheit Press

Fahrenheit Press is a publisher that focuses on publishing thrillers and crime novels. They are not interested in any books outside of these genres. They are a print and eBook Publisher.

It is important to note that they don't mind re-publishing self-published books, as long as all the rights belong to the author.

They are based out of the UK. The editors have 25 years of experience in publishing. As they say on their website, "we figured it was time we created the publishing company we always dreamed of. We shoot from the lip and we call it like we see it - if that rubs people up the wrong way we can live with that". That attitude is all over the website. It actually overwhelms the submission guidelines. But that could be a good thing, because at least submitters know what they are getting into. You can read an interview with the [founder here](#).

Their website is mostly easy to use although I found that the graphics and dropdown menu didn't always work, or didn't look like it worked.

The covers of the books are generally excellent though. Much better than most standard genre covers.

One of the things I really like about them is that they are upfront about their royalty rates. They "offer a royalty rate of 50% on both eBooks & paperback editions for a 5 year contract."

To learn more visit 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 have just started to publish graphic novels and comics.

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](#).

Seventh Street Books

Seventh Street Books started out as the mystery imprint of the established nonfiction publisher Prometheus Books. But they were recently sold and are now an imprint of Start Media.

They publish only mystery and thrillers, but are open to a variety of sub-genres, including legal thrillers.

Seventh Street Books has a memorable tag line: "Where fiction is a crime".

Seventh Street Books 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. But it needs updating. It still lists that they are an imprint of Prometheus. It still lists that they are in their fifth year, when they are in fact in their sixth.

Also all of the titles they list as forthcoming have already been published, which is not a good sign. However, I looked up these books on Amazon and all seem to have sold a fair number of copies and have a decent number of positive reviews. Still, I see this as an indicator to proceed with caution.

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

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.

During the last year and a half, they have been slow to update their website and their most recent book release listed on their website was published in mid 2020, but on Twitter it's clear that they've published books more recently than that.

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

VERVE BOOKS

VERVE BOOKS is the new digital-first imprint of No Exit Press. No Exit Press is one of the top UK-based mystery publishers, and they are not open to direct submissions, but VERVE BOOKS is.

They will focus on publishing crime, thriller and commercial fiction genres, with the focus being on character driven stories.

Digital-first means that the book will only be in print via print-on-demand services. They are offering advances, personal marketing plans, as well as experienced editing.

Because VERVE BOOKS is so new they have yet to create a track record of any kind, [their website](#) is simply their very basic submission guidelines.

But it is easy to get a feel for No Exit Press which is part of the Oldcastle Books Group. No Exit Press won the CWA Dagger, Best Crime and Mystery Publisher award in 2019. To learn more about No Exit, please go [here](#).

VERVE BOOKS is one of the very rare presses that asks to see full manuscripts, when submitting. Make sure to follow all of their submission guidelines before submitting.

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. 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](#).

Albert Whitman & Company

Albert Whitman & Company has been around since 1919. I grew up reading 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.

Arbordale Publishing

“Our mission is to get children excited about science and math through fun-to-read picture book stories. We are primarily looking for fiction manuscripts with non-fiction facts woven into the story, although we will also consider some non-fiction stories. In every manuscript we look for a "cuddle factor" that will make parents and children want to read it together.”

This children's publisher focuses on science and math books that parents and children read together, meaning they offer family focused rather than school focused learning.

All of the books have a 2-6 page non-fiction section in the back that focuses on reinforcing the educational components of the book. The author does not have to create this section, but they have to provide facts that will be incorporated into this section.

All manuscripts must be less than a thousand words in length and meet the following criteria.

- Fun to read – mostly fiction with non-fiction facts woven into the story. We are NOT looking for pure "text-book" non-fiction
- National or regional in scope
- Must relate to science and math subjects taught at the elementary school level. Any manuscripts with a social studies connection (culture, history, geography) must also contain a math or science component.
- Must be marketable through a niche market such as zoo, aquarium, or museum gift shop

They are also open to bilingual texts in Spanish and English. They have a lot of other very specific requirements. Make sure to look over their submission page carefully before submitting. This is a really niche publisher that does have a marketing plan.

All submissions must be made via email. It is a good idea to browse [their catalog](#) to get a better feel for the books they publish.

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

August House

August House was established in 1978, originally it focused on publishing poetry but in the 80's their focus switched to folklore and after that to storytelling. They no longer publish poetry, instead they focus on publishing children's books, although many of these are influenced by folklore. They currently publish children's folktales, picture books, early-grade chapter books, and storytelling resource materials.

They were originally based in Little Rock, Arkansas, but in 2004 they were purchased and the headquarters were moved to Atlanta, Georgia. They also have an online imprint called [Story Cove](#) that focuses on global folk tales that work for classroom teaching. Their picture book imprint is called LittleFolk.

They have published a number of well-known authors and illustrators. I highly encourage you to explore their back catalog to get a better feel for what they have previously published. I think that will give you a much better feel for what they are interested.

They have redesigned their website since our original review and it now easy to use and visually pleasing. The new site is a huge upgrade.

To learn more or to submit go [here](#).

Barefoot Books

This Canadian publisher of thoughtful and well-illustrated Children's book is open to unrepresented submissions from authors and illustrators on a rotating basis. They focus on publishing diverse, inclusive, board books and picture books for ages 0–12.

You can get a feel for what they publish [here](#). They also read submissions through #DVpit, a biannual Twitter-based pitch event for authors and artists from marginalized and underrepresented backgrounds. You can find more about the event [here](#).

They only respond to manuscripts that they are interested in representing.

At the time of writing this, they are only open to submissions from illustrators. But you can check back regularly [here](#).

Boyd's Mills & Kane

Kane Miller was an award winning publisher of educational children's books. In 2019 they bought Boyd's Mills from Highlights and are now known as Boyd's Mills & Kane.

They have good distribution, their books are widely available at libraries, and they generally do an excellent job.

[Their website](#) is easy to navigate and there is a lot of content there, so I really encourage you to look through it before submitting to them.

They are open to unsolicited submissions and try to respond within 8 to 10 weeks. They ask that you do not query about the status of your submission.

They are currently focused on expanding their picture book list and are interested in stories with engaging characters. They specify that they are especially interested in those with particularly American subjects. They also consider board books, activity books, gift books, and series fiction. They are not interested in holiday themed books or any book that has been previously self-published.

They only accept submissions via email. They do not open any attachments so include all the requested information in the body of the email. They are also open to art submissions.

To read their full submission guidelines [go 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](#).

Cardinal Rule Press

A respected Children's picture book publishers that is only open to submissions during certain times of year. Their last submission period ended on Feb 1st 2021.

The work they publish hope to empower children by telling meaningful stories aimed at 4-11 year olds. The work they publish is realistic fiction which they describe as “a genre made up of stories that could happen in our world and society.”

That means they only consider work where characters are human beings living beings that are living in places that could be real, or are in fact real. Magic does not exist in real fiction. You can see work they've previously published [here](#).

They consider manuscripts to 1,000 words in length.

They also publish non-fiction books for parents and educators, which can be up to 70,000 words in length.

They only accept emailed submissions. They have specific guidelines that you should read in full [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 nonfiction 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](#).

Dawn Publications

Dawn Publications is a boutique print press focused on publishing books connecting children and nature. They were acquired in 2020 by Sourcebooks. They usually just publish six books a year. Their niche focus really seems to pay off; their books have gone on to win a wide variety of awards. Dawn was founded in 1979. The [Our Mission Page](#), although a little tricky to find without a direct link, is well worth the read. Their books have a clear goal, which is explained below.

Dawn’s “nature awareness” titles—almost always picture books—are intended to encourage an appreciation for nature and a respectful participation in it. We want to inspire children as well as educate them. An inspired child is a motivated child.

They accept submissions from authors and illustrators and have separate guidelines for both.

In 2019 they were purchased by SourceBooks but they still seem to be open to submissions.

They describe most of what they publish as creative nonfiction, and go into details about the kind they are seeking, below.

Dawn specializes in “creative non-fiction.” We suggest you read a short article on the subject, [How to Use Creative Nonfiction Picture Books in Support of Common Core and Science](#). Dawn generally does not publish “straight” non-fiction without some other feature that will capture a child’s attention. There may be a story such as *Eliza and the Dragonfly* or *Molly’s Organic Farm* that presents the opportunity to talk about nature. There may be a song as in *Over in the Ocean*. Or there may be cumulative verse as in *Under One Rock*. Or there may be an adventure such as may be found in nature every day, as in *The Mouse and the Meadow*.

For writers submitting stories, it is important to remember that the work be suitable to supplement a school curriculum in some way. Most of what they publish are illustrated children's books, but they do publish the occasional non-illustrated book aimed at middle grade readers.

They accept submissions by email and mail. To read their full guidelines, [go here](#). Make sure to review them thoroughly and examine their past publication catalogue before submitting work to them for consideration.

Deep Hearts YA

Deep Hearts YA is a new publisher of fiction for young adults. They focus on publishing LGBTQ+ stories, in all genres and sub-genres, including aro and ace lead characters. They are primarily a romance publisher, but romance does not have to be the main focus of the manuscript if self-empowerment or self-realization plays a central role.

Their covers are generally excellent, with a few exceptions. The website is easy to navigate, even if the logo leaves much to be desired. It does not disclose detailed information about the editors.

Deep Hearts YA releases between 2-4 books a year. They are an imprint of Deep Desires press, which publishes erotica and erotic romance and seems to have a different audience for the most part.

They ask for ebook, print, and audio rights from the author even though currently they only publish in ebook and print format. Contracts are for three years from publication, and renewed on a yearly basis after that.

They ask that manuscripts be between 50,000 – 80,000 words. Although there is some wiggle room outside of that and full details are given in their submission guidelines.

They ask that you submit by email, follow their detailed guidelines, and attach the complete manuscript.

Do not submit unless you think your manuscript is a good fit.

To learn more about submitting, go [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](#).

Entangled Teen

Entangled Teen is the YA imprint of the romance publisher [Entangled Publishing](#). Entangled Publishing is a newer company but they have had a lot of success in the genre of romance and they have sold a lot of books. They primarily operate on a digital first model, which usually means print runs only happen if/when the digital book has been successful.

They do publish a lot of work every month, which is a little intimidating, because one does not want their book to be lost in the shuffle. But the books generally have great covers and Entangled Publishing says that they make individual marketing plans for all their books.

It's worth noting that in 2019 they signed a controversial author duo that is banned on Amazon, and that created some ongoing bad press. You can read about it [here](#) (Scan down towards the bottom of the page) and [here](#). I think this raises serious questions and should be taken into consideration.

Entangled Teen has three separate imprints. The first called Entangled Teen is looking for romance novels, or novels with strong romantic elements that are between 70k and 120k words in length. The works they publish include contemporary romance, science fiction, paranormal, fantasy, historical, and romantic suspense and thrillers. You can learn more about what they are specifically seeking [here](#).

Teen Crave is looking for shorter work, between 45k and 65k in length in the paranormal/sci-fi/fantasy genre. The main characters of these work must be between 16 and 18 years in age. You can learn more about their specific submission guidelines [here](#).

Teen Crush is seeking work between 40k and 60k that is contemporary romance. They publish trope based stories featuring main characters between the ages of 16-18. You can learn more [here](#).

All of the teen imprints are open to f/m, f/f, and m/m pairings. In all the categories they helpfully list authors they love as well as tv relationships that they love. So, it is rather easy to get a feel for what they are looking for. All submissions are accepted online. You can learn more about overall submissions [here](#).

Eerdmans Books for Young Readers

Founded in 1911 and located in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company is an independent publisher of religious books. They have a large range, including academic books and reference works in theology, biblical studies, and religious history to popular titles in spirituality, social and cultural criticism, as well as literature. They are primarily a print publisher with excellent distribution. My local independent bookstore regularly carries a number of their titles.

They are very open about their philosophy, which I have quoted in full below.

William B. Eerdmans Sr., our founder, believed that responsible viewpoints from across the religious spectrum should be given opportunity for expression and that high literary and intellectual standards were of utmost importance. His publishing company continues to operate according to these beliefs. Thus, deeply rooted in the historic Christian tradition, ecumenical in spirit, open to emerging dialogue with other faiths, Eerdmans continues to commit itself to the life of the religious academy, to the church, and to the role of religion in culture.

They also have a popular imprint called Eerdmans Books for Young Readers which publishes a variety of books for children, including best-selling and award-winning titles. A book they published won the Caldecott, which was awarded to *A River of Words: The Story of William Carlos Williams* by Jen Bryant and Melissa Sweet. It is important to note that *River of Words: The Story of William Carlos Williams* is not overtly religious. They also publish books aimed at middle grade readers and young adults.

To read their complete submission guidelines for their imprint Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, please [go here](#). They do not respond to submissions of books that

they are not interested in, and only accept mailed submissions. They also accept submissions from illustrators.

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](#).

Holiday House

Holiday House is an established and reputable children's book publisher. 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 recently started accepting submissions via email. They also 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](#).

Immedium

Immedium was founded in 2004 and is led by experienced professionals, who have written critically acclaimed books, marketed print and digital media, and sold #1 nationwide best-sellers. *Aquanauts*, a series of books they published, was turned into a successful TV show for children.

Immedium is interested in three types of books, according to their website, and is specific about the kind of stories they want (and do not want):

1. Children's Picture Books:

The general format is 32-pages with color illustrations for ages 4-8 or 6-10.

2. Asian-American:

Contemporary viewpoints on our evolving national identity, and changes that have universal resonance.

3. Arts and Culture:

Cutting-edge commentary on the intersection of popular culture, social trends, and our modern lifestyle.

We seek writers, illustrators, and artists who have provocative tales to tell and the talent to convey them. A publisher's responsibility is to marry words with pictures to create a unique message. So please do not submit proposals that duplicate our existing books. Also do not submit children's picture books which you consider to be complete with "finished art", since we want the flexibility to help improve and refine your concept.

There were two things on their website that made me a little worried. The first is that they had a Kickstarter campaign for one of their forthcoming books. What I mean by

this is that they use Kickstarter, a crowd funding website to raise money to help publish their book. In exchange the individuals who help fund the book get rewards depending on how much they contribute. The reward details are outlined on the Kickstarter website but in the case of fundraising for books, the prizes often include copies of the book. So, in a roundabout way it can be a lot like pre-sales. Bestselling books and established publishers (like McSweeney's) have started to make using Kickstarter more common in publishing. However, it is still rather unusual for an established publisher to go this route.

The other is this sentence on their website: "Therefore our standard book contracts include royalties, though some projects may require work for hire compensation".

But that said their books looked wonderful and I recognized a number of their titles. They seem to do a good job promoting their books and understanding marketing.

They ask that all submissions include a cover letter, a proposal, and a resume, as well as a sample of your story or illustration.

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

Incentive Publications

World Book, the established publisher of encyclopedias and other works of nonfiction, is the parent company of Incentive Publications. Incentive is open to direct submissions and focuses on publishing work for children. They are only interested in educational books. The books they publish seem designed to use in classrooms, so that's important to keep in mind. They are very much a niche publisher, but worth knowing about if you work in their niche.

It is easy to get a good feel for what they publish by going [here](#). I found it most helpful to scan down to the shop by series and grade options on the right hand side. They don't publish very many books per year, but the ones they publish seem to have good distribution and support.

Their submission guidelines are some of the sparsest I have ever seen and are as follows:

Incentive Publications is always looking for talented authors and illustrators with a love of entertaining and educating children. If you have a manuscript that you would like considered, please email it to incentive@worldbook.com

I have not seen their contract, so please do keep that in mind.

To learn more or to submit, please 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.

Around six months ago North Star Editions purchased JollyFish. Since then things might have changed. In the past few months Authors have reporting unfair practices on [Twitter here](#) and you can learn more [here](#). So, I would offer a word of caution to anyone thinking about submitting to them.

You can learn more about the press and their staff, on the [about us](#) page. The information included in the acquisition editor 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](#).

Lavine Querido

Arthur A. Levine Books was an imprint of Scholastic Inc. that was founded in 1996 and as of 2019 they parted ways with Scholastic and since 2019 they have been Lavine Querido. 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.

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 their books it is very important to review [the catalogue](#), and perhaps check one or two of their books out of your local library.

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. .

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

To learn more go [here](#).

Maverick Children's Books

Maverick Children's Books is a UK based publisher of children's books. Their books generally have wonderful covers and illustrations, and are quirky. They publish a variety of books for children but only appear to be open to submissions in the picture book category. You can learn more about the team behind Maverick [here](#).

I do not know how good their distribution is, in the UK or outside of it.

They are open to unsolicited submissions and have [a video of tips for submitting](#) to them that they strongly suggest that you watch.

Books submitted to them can be no more than 650 words in length, and can be considerably shorter. No minimum count is mentioned. The manuscript must be submitted through email as a PDF, RTF or a Word document.

They want submissions that are not illustrated. In the subject heading of your email include your name and the name of the book. Multiple submissions are allowed (which is surprisingly rare). They just ask that you put it all in the same email. Also make sure to include a cover letter and your name in the email.

They have a six-month turnaround time and encourage you to fill out an inquiry form after six months have passed.

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

Nosy Crow

Nosy Crow is a UK-based publisher of children's books and apps aimed at children. They accept international submissions from all over, but everyone outside of the UK must submit via email (which is their preferred method of submission). They have wide distribution within the UK. The books they published are aimed at children up to the age of 14, although the bulk of what they publish is for children under the age of 12. The young adult books that they do publish are not issue-based, and should not involve drugs, sex, or violence. Most of the apps they publish are aimed at kids between the ages of 2-7.

Nosy Crow has mostly excellent covers and strong branding.

If you submit to them, it is important to note that they do not acknowledge receipt of submission. They try (but often fail) to respond to all submissions within 6 months. If you have not heard from them in six months, you should assume that your book was rejected.

They are willing to consider previously self-published work, as long as you have a track record of success.

For picture books please include the entire text, for longer books just include a short synopsis plus the first chapter. Make sure you include a cover letter for all submissions.

To read their full submission guidelines, go [here](#). To get a better feel for what they have previously published, go [here](#).

Recently they have been open to submissions only from BIPOC authors and illustrators. Please honor and respect their guidelines.

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](#).

Pelican Publishing Company

Pelican Publishing Company is a publisher based out of New Orleans. They have been around for a long time and they published William Faulkner's first trade paperback book. They have a back list of over 2,500 titles. They publish between 40 and 70 new titles yearly. They focus on publishing art/architecture books, cooking/cookbooks, motivational, popular history (especially Louisiana/regional), children's books (illustrated and otherwise), and social commentary. They also add that "We will consider almost any well-written work by an author who understands promotion."

They were purchased by Arcadia Publishing in 2019 but there have been no notable changes since that purchase, at this point.

Their website is outdated and visually overwhelming, but otherwise easy to navigate. I like that they clearly promote regular readings from their authors (on the left hand side of the page). I did think that many of the covers were also lacking visually, and looked dated. I think part of this comes from them being primarily a regional publisher, focused on the south.

I also think that before submitting you should read their [glassdoor reviews](#), which are not the most positive, but do have helpful, concrete information.

Browsing through their catalog does help you get a feel for what they publish, and what they say sells. You can access their catalog [here](#).

I do think that you lived in the southern United States, going with this publisher would be more beneficial to you than if you lived somewhere else. That is where their customer and knowledge base seems to be. Although they are open to submissions regardless of authors' nationality and current location.

They have very detailed submission guidelines that you should review thoroughly before submitting. They have separate guidelines for children's picture books, but all other books have the same guidelines.

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

Penny Candy Books

Penny Candy Books is a publishing company focused on children's picture books that was founded in 2015 by two poets who met in graduate school. It is a newer company but they seem off to a good start with interviews in various [established publications](#), most to positive reviews by places like Kirkus. Their plan from here on out is to publish 5-8 books a year.

Their mission statement is as follows "Penny Candy's mission is to publish children's literature that reflects the diverse realities of the world we live in, both at home and abroad. This means seeking out books by and about people and subjects that speak to a broad range of human experience."

On their submission page they go into further detail "In the spirit of penny candy, Penny Candy Books offers affordable, eye-catching children's books that promote the value of diversity—in authors, characters & stories, and readers. We believe children's literature *must* reflect the diverse realities of the world we live in. We're interested in complex stories that raise questions rather than simplistic stories with easy answers. Kids are too smart for the latter. "

Their website is beautiful, easy to navigate, and visually appealing. It is easy to buy books on the site, which is always a good sign. I have not been able to find out anything about their print distribution, which is the only potential warning sign I saw.

They accept all submissions through the submission manager Submittable. Their submission guidelines are clear but [brief](#). I really encourage anyone who is thinking of submitting to browse their [back catalog](#) to get a better feel for what they publish.

Princeton Architectural Press

Princeton Architectural Press is a small press that focuses on publishing books on architecture, design, photography, landscape, and visual culture. They also publish beautiful stationary and children's books. They are based in New York. In 2009 they were bought by McEvoy Group. They are now a sister company to Chronicle Books.

They have excellent distribution through Chronicle Books. The books they publish are available in libraries and in bookstores. Their work is always exceptionally designed and it really stands out. My daughter is a big fan of their children's books and we own a number of them.

They are open to direct submissions of nonfiction in the following categories: architecture, landscape architecture, urban planning, graphic design, visual culture, photography, craft, and gardening. Books can be aimed at a professional or general audience. They have clear proposal outlines posted on their website.

Princeton Architectural Press publishes under twelve children's books a year. They publish fiction and general nonfiction picture books aimed at children ages three to eight. Unlike most small presses it is important to note that they only consider submissions that include both text and illustrations. Do not submit without illustrations.

They also publish stationary and gifts.

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

Red Deer Press

Red Deer Press is a small press based out of Canada. They focus on publishing children's books. They publish books for a whole range of ages starting with picture books and culminating with young adult books. Their books have good covers, are generally well reviewed, and have good distribution.

Fitzhenry & Whiteside Ltd. is the parent press of Red Deer Press. Back in 2011 they got into trouble for issues stemming from a problematic contract with a Red Deer author. You can read details of this situation [here](#).

Since that time there have been no updates that I can find and no additional negative information. I assume that the situation was corrected and the contract was amended, but I think that any contract should be closely examined, and you should keep that in mind when approaching this publisher particularly. But it is also good to remember that this situation happened seven years ago at this point, and the individuals involved may no longer even be with the company.

They accept submissions through mail and email only. They ask that all authors only submit one manuscript at a time. Picture books must be submitted without original art. Picture books should be submitted in their entirety. For fiction they ask that you submit a query letter or three sample chapters (which is unusual, most presses want both of these things). For non-fiction submissions, submit a query letter or sample chapters with outline.

To learn more go [here](#).

Sleeping Bear Press

Sleeping Bear Press is a well regarded publisher of board books, picture books, middle grade readers, and young adult fiction. They offer advances to some authors. They have good regional distribution in the Midwest and ok distribution in North America. Their books have won a wide variety of awards, all of them are listed [here](#).

Their website is easy to use and focused on selling books. They do offer teachers' guides for many of their books, which is a good sign. Also you can read all of the editorial reviews of their books [here](#), which is a wonderful and can give you a good idea about the details of what they publish. Their catalog is also very helpful. It is organized by age group and you can see it [here](#).

I thought it was worth noting that while they published a lot of board books, picture books and middle grade readers, their [young adult fiction selection](#) was rather sparse, having less than a dozen books in it (not counting blank diaries). Perhaps it is a newer area of publication for them, or just not their focus.

They are open to submissions on a rolling basis, which means they can open and close to submissions without notice. Please check back at their website regularly if they are closed, they appear to be open the majority of the time.

All submissions must be made through post or email. They only contact submitters if they are interested in the book they submitted. They do not respond to queries regarding manuscripts. They also don't give estimated response times, but a good rule of thumb is if you have not heard from a publisher in six months (and they don't post response times), assume they are not interested. Learn more [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](#).

ThunderStone Books

ThunderStone Books' motto is global education for young minds. They focus on publishing children's books with an educational aspect. The attention is particularly on books exploring a new language/culture in a fictional setting. Their area of primary focus is Mandarin Chinese (language, culture, setting and/or mythology). But they are open to other languages and other subjects, including science and math. They also consider fiction without a strong education focus, but that is not their forte.

They publish picture books and chapter books. ThunderStone Books appears not to have a distributor. Their website seems aimed at parents and teachers, which is a good sign. The cover art quality varies wildly.

ThunderStone Books has only published seven books so far, which is not much of a track record, but it makes it easy to get a feel for what they publish. They are a very small company run by a husband and wife team and you can learn more about that [here](#).

They accept all submissions through email. If your manuscript is less than 50 pages in length, they ask that you submit it all. If your manuscript is more than 50 pages in length, they prefer that you only submit a query letter.

They try to respond to all submissions quickly, but it can take up to six months. If they are taking longer than six months to respond to your submission, please feel encouraged to query about the status of that submission.

You can visit their website and review their full manuscript submission guidelines [here](#).

Tilbury House

Tilbury House is a press based out of Maine that publishes children's and adult non-fiction books. Their focus since the early 90's has been primarily on children's books with a message about the environment, social justice, nature, and cultural diversity. They are often published along with teacher's guides. Most of their books are aimed at children between the ages of 7-12. 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 have a focused message involving a social issue.

Tilbury House still publishes books aimed at adults, primarily regional non-fiction 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, 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, 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, although their website is now beautiful. If you are interested in learning more or submitting, please visit their [website](#).

Tradewind Books

Tradewind Books is a small publisher of books for children and young adults located in British Columbia, Canada. They publish beautifully illustrated books, chapter books, books for middle grade readers, and for young adults. They publish primarily fiction but also some poetry. They are not interested in nonfiction. It is important to note that they cannot accept novels by non-Canadian authors unless they are chapter books that require illustrations. They can accept submissions for picture books. If you are not Canadian, only submit books that require illustrations. All other books will not be considered.

The books they publish have been awarded and shortlisted for numerous prestigious awards. The company has been around since 1997.

They have good distribution in Canada and you can see the details about their distribution in other countries (including the US, the UK, Australia and New Zealand) [here](#). I often see their books in my local library. Their books are well designed and appealing as well as diverse. To learn more about the specifics of what they publish, please browse their catalog [here](#).

All submissions must be made through the mail. To learn more, go to their submission guidelines [here](#). They have specific instructions for each age group and category, so please read and follow their instructions.

Woodbine House

Woodbine House specializes in books about developmental disabilities such as Down syndrome and autism. The books they publish are written for and about children with certain disabilities. Their titles cover AD/HD, autism, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, early intervention, inclusion, special education, communication skills, and more. They were founded in 1985.

They particularly focus on books that are written expressly for parents or other family members of children with disabilities. They also consider books written for individuals with disabilities, professionals, or a general audience. They have separate guidelines for children's book submissions. They are also interested in young adult books with the intended audience being teens with disabilities.

They stress that while previous publishing experience is not required or expected and most of the submissions they receive are unagented, it is essential that the author has hands-on experience with one or more children with disabilities and that the book they write reflects that experience.

This is a niche publisher with a very clear focus. They are not looking for a general audience and they do not have good distribution, but they seem to be connected to their readership. They largely sell books libraries, support organizations, schools, hospitals, and other nonprofits.

To learn more, go to their submission guidelines which are embedded in the FAQ section of their [website](#). All submissions must be mailed in to be considered.

Versify

Versify, a new imprint of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books for Young Readers, is accepting submissions via email. Versify was started by the Newberry Award winning author Kwame Alexander, [who you can learn more about here](#). The goal of Versify is to publish risky, unconventional books for children. They are looking for novels, non-fiction, picture books, and graphic novels. They also are probably the only imprint of Houghton Mifflin that has a [Tumblr](#).

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt has no other imprints currently open to unsolicited submissions.

It is important to stress that they publish a very specific kind of writing. Kwame Alexander's book [The Crossover](#), a book of prose and poetry, which he struggled to get published, was the inspiration for the imprint. It is worth reading before submitting. Versify itself has yet to publish a book. It is the first publisher that we have reviewed that hasn't had a publication history, but because it is an imprint of Houghton Mifflin, one of the big five, we do think it is well worth reviewing. Their first book will be published in 2019.

This is the official press release on [Versify](#).

They do not respond to submissions unless they are interested in publishing your work. If you have not heard from them in 12 weeks, it is safe to assume rejection.

To learn more, go to their submission guidelines [here](#). They are currently closed to submissions but hopefully will reopen in the fall.

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. Some of the Christian publishers are open to less overtly religious work, most are not.

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](#).

CrossLink Publishing

CrossLink Publishing is a small Christian publishing company. They are based in Rapid City, South Dakota. They are a subsidiary of the [CrossLink](#) family of ministries. They have distribution through Baker & Taylor, Noble Marketing, the Browker Database and the Ingram Distribution Channel.

They publish Christian books, and although they do not clearly spell out which genres they are most interested in, they seem to publish mostly spiritual non-fiction and fiction aimed at young children. I am not that big a fan of their covers and recognize a number of the images on them from free image websites.

They do not publish many books per year. The last book they published was in November 2020, but they do have a number of books slated for publication in 2021, which you can see [here](#).

You can learn more about what they are looking for by visiting their [FAQ](#).

You can submit to them through their submission portal [here](#).

Crossroads Publishing

Because of the “current economic, social and political situation” Crossroads has said they are focusing on strengthening the development and promotion of current books and will re-evaluate in six months – June 2021. So please check their website after that point.

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 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, ISBN, and promotional services and 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 are starting to offer certain titles as e-books. [They accept YA \(young adult\) and children's books as well.](#)

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, but 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 a 1 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 proof read. They do not want any headers or footers, and they do not want a double space 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](#).

Enclave Publishing

Enclave was formerly known Marcher Lord Press, which was founded by Jeff Gerke in 2008. Enclave was bought and rebranded by a Christian Fiction agent named Steve Laube in 2014. It was sold to the newly-formed Gilead in 2016 but Steve Laube continues to be the publisher.

There is a conflict of interest when an agent or agency is involved directly in a publishing house, but it is becoming more common, and in this particular case, it seems to be working so far.

Enclave is a Christian imprint that focuses entirely on publishing speculative fiction which they define as Fantasy, Science Fiction, and Supernatural. This work must have a strong Christian element. It must take into account "the Evangelical Christian" world view. It must also be between 75,000 and 140,000 words in length. It must be aimed at YA or adult readers.

They have an acquisition form that they ask you to fill out to submit.

I have not seen their contract, nor do they outline royalties on their website.

Their website is easy to use and their covers range from OK to excellent. Most of the books they've released have sold relatively well on Amazon and they have a number of positive reviews. I'm not sure who their print distributor is, or if they have one, but I suspect they would focus only on Christian bookstores.

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

The Good Book Company

"We are an evangelical publishing house that stand on the fundamental truths of the Christian faith, for example, the IFES/UCCF/InterVarsity [basis of faith](#). We are also corporate members of the Evangelical Alliance."

As such they are not interested in views outside of the Christian Evangelical movement. However within that area they publish resources for evangelism, Bible study, training, Christian living as well as for youth and children's work.

They state "Our aim with all our resources is to get people directly interacting with the Bible." You can get a good idea for how they do that, and what they publish by visiting their website [here](#). Before submitting they ask that you spend time reviewing the books they previously published on their website and:

You should have a clear idea in your mind about what you want the book/resource to achieve, and who it is aimed at: 'What do you want this to do, and for whom?'

Books should be accessible to the general Christian reader (ie we are not an academic publisher)

When telling or illustrating Bible stories, we do not like things to be added or taken away (we are concerned to be faithful to scripture).

We avoid subjects that have a particular denominational bias.

We do not publish poetry, fiction, biography or autobiography.

They ask that you not submit completed work to them. They very much prefer to work with authors and accept proposals and ideas.

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

Paulist Press

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pelican Book Group

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

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

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

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

They respond through email exclusively, so make sure your spam filter does not block them. 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 beforehand 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. 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](#).

Plough Publishing House

Plough Publishing House was founded in 1920. They are an independent publisher of books on faith, society, and spiritual life. They are primarily based in Walden, New York, with additional branches in the United Kingdom and Australia.

Plough is the publishing house of the [Bruderkhof](#), which is according to the site an international movement of Christian communities whose members are called to follow Jesus together in the spirit of the Sermon on the Mount and of the first church in Jerusalem, sharing all our talents, income, and possessions (Acts 2 and 4)."

They publish a quarterly magazine as well as books. The books they publish include books on Christian living, social issues, devotionals, church history, spiritual classics, parenting and education, poetry and literary fiction, as well as children's books. In spite of this wide range of genres they focus on quality rather than quantity. They only publish about twenty books a year. You can get a good feel for what they publish [here](#).

They don't share their distribution company but I have seen books they have published in bookstores, which is a good sign. I have also not seen a sample contract.

They have specific guidelines for book proposals that are important to follow. You can learn more about that [here](#). It's important to not submit a complete manuscript to them unless it's explicitly requested. They respond to all submissions within six weeks. They ask that all submissions be made by email or mail.

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

Prism Books

Prism Books used to be an independent press but was recently acquired by Pelican Book Group, so you submit to them using the same website.

Prism is a Christian company, and while they do not only publish Christian books and their authors do not need to be Christians, they are not interested in publishing books that promote other religions beside Christianity. They are also not interested in hate literature, or manuscripts that portray rape or violence in a positive light. They describe the two categories of books they publish as Christian and "clean and wholesome"

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

Prism is currently looking for works of fiction, young adult novels, romance novels, inspirational novels, and Christian fiction.

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

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

Veritas Publishing

Veritas is Ireland's leading religious publisher. They also are a retailer, with stores across Ireland. They publish over 40 books each year in the areas of theology, scripture, prayer, spirituality, parenting, counselling, children's issues, social commentary, and liturgical resources. They also publish religious educational text for use in Irish schools.

To get a good feel for what they publish visit their [online catalogue](#)

They are owned by the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference, and their primary function is to serve the needs of the Irish Church.

Many of the books they publish cover the broader life of Christians, including *Cancer: A Circle of Seasons* by Anne Alcock, which is a book of prayer, poetry and journal suggestions to help and support those dealing with a cancer diagnosis, and *Wrestling with God* by Ronald Rolheiser.

Even though they are based in Ireland and have the best distribution there, they are open to general submissions, as long as they are not focused on audiences outside of Ireland. Only submit if you think your work directly intersects with what they publish.

Proposals must include the following:

A cover letter

A brief biography

2-3 sample chapters

A brief synopsis of your book proposal

All submissions must be made via email. They try to respond to all submissions within 13 weeks.

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

Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing

Founded in 1911 and located in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company is an independent publisher of religious books. They have a large range, including academic books and reference works in theology, biblical studies, and religious history to popular titles in spirituality, social and cultural criticism, as well as literature. They are primarily a print publisher with excellent distribution. My local independent bookstore regularly carries a number of their titles.

They are very open about their philosophy, which I have quoted in full below.

William B. Eerdmans Sr., our founder, believed that responsible viewpoints from across the religious spectrum should be given opportunity for expression and that high literary and intellectual standards were of utmost importance. His publishing company continues to operate according to these beliefs. Thus, deeply rooted in the historic Christian tradition, ecumenical in spirit, open to emerging dialogue with other faiths, Eerdmans continues to commit itself to the life of the religious academy, to the church, and to the role of religion in culture.

They also have a popular imprint called Eerdmans Books for Young Readers which publishes a variety of books for children, including best-selling and award-winning titles. A book they published won the Caldecott, which was awarded to *A River of Words: The Story of William Carlos Williams* by Jen Bryant and Melissa Sweet. It is important to note that *River of Words: The Story of William Carlos Williams* is not overtly religious. They also publish books aimed at middle grade readers and young adults.

To read their complete submission guidelines for submissions of adult books, please [go here](#). They try to respond to all submissions in eight weeks.

To read their complete submission guidelines for their imprint Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, please [go here](#). They do not respond to submissions of books that they are not interested in, and only accept mailed submissions.

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 and Erotica Publishers

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 some are open to erotica as well, but there are many that just publish romance, and some that just publish erotica. 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 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](#).

Sometimes when the US imprint of Avon Impulse is closed to new submissions, but the UK imprint is not. They are open to international submissions and you can learn more [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 currently open to queries in a wide variety of genres.

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

Carina Press

Carina Press is Harlequin's digital-first adult fiction imprint, publishing first in digital, and then depending on the numbers releasing audio and print versions as well. Unlike most of [Harlequin's](#) imprints they don't just focus on romance, although they are open to all subgenres of romance, including contemporary, paranormal, LGBTQ+, and science fiction. They also publish mysteries of all flavors—from cozies to thrillers, with and without romantic elements.

The same authors often write for them over and over again, which is generally a good sign. They are also open to publishing series. They are open to various levels of commitment too as they regularly have anthology submission calls, where authors can just submit a short story, usually to match a theme. At the top of their submission guidelines page there is even an option to sign up for emailed updates on their anthology calls.

[Their submission guidelines](#) are very detailed and you should read them carefully before proceeding. They also have a very helpful page called [what the editors want](#), which was updated in the spring of 2017. You can learn more about the individual editors [here](#). All submissions are made through the submission manager Submittable.

They say they respond to all submissions in around two months but based on reader feedback, a longer wait period is to be expected.

Changeling Press

Changeling Press is an eBook Publisher that only publishes Erotic fiction targeted at a female audience. However, within that genre they publish many subgenres including Sci-Fi/Futuristic, Dark and Urban Fantasy, Paranormal, BDSM, Action Adventure, and Guilty Pleasures (Adult Contemporary Kink).

Themes they publish include: New Adult, Menage, Bisexual and More, Gay, Interracial, BBW, Cougar (M/F), Silver Fox (M/M), Men and Women in Uniform, Vampires, Werewolves, Elves, Dragons & Magical Creatures, Other Shapeshifters, Magic, Dark Desires (Demons and Horror), and Hentai (Tentacle Monsters).

They are currently open to submissions of contemporary and futuristic short fiction, single title, series, and serials in any of the genres and themes, mentioned above.

All books should be erotic and romance driven, which means though marriage and weddings need not be involved the publishers do want the primary relationship to either be HEA (Happy Ever After) or, in the case of serials, HFN (Happy For Now).

They do not accept books that are simultaneously submitted elsewhere, but you can submit more than one book at a time.

In terms of royalties, from on-site sales you receive 35% of gross, and off site sales you receive 50% of Net. They promise that you will receive your first check within 60 days of publication.

Turnaround times are pretty fast. Expect to hear back from them about your submission within two weeks. If your book is picked up, they generally have fast turnaround times for editing and publishing as well. Maybe this explains why the

covers are generally not very good (although that said, genre might also play a factor in that)

To learn more visit [their submissions page](#), and make sure to read their guidelines carefully.

Cobblestone Press

A small print on demand and romance ePublisher. They publish sensual & erotic romance stories and short story erotica. They have different guidelines and expectations for each of these categories. They release five to eight titles a month in a variety of eFormats. They are open to most subgenres and have a full list on their site that includes BDSM, Futuristic, and steampunk. They estimate their acceptance rate to be approximately 5%.

If you are submitting to a certain genre or line, make sure you follow the specific instructions for that line. They also have seasonal themed submissions, with varying deadlines.

Their covers are generally well designed and the website is well organized. Everything is geared towards writers not readers. Not all books have print on demand versions, but many do.

They pay 35% of the cover price in royalties and it is be paid on a monthly basis. They currently ask for both electronic and audio rights.

They have clear and detailed guidelines that they expect their writers to follow, including formatting guidelines. They also have a very through FAQ section on their submissions page if you keep scrolling down to the bottom.

They consider previously published work as long as you own all the rights and query them first, before submitting. They accept books by multiple authors but the royalties must be split between the others.

To learn more about submitting to Cobblestone Press [go here](#).

Decadent Publishing

Decadent Publishing is only interested in publishing Romance Fiction. They are open to fiction of any heat level (they define their heat levels as part of their submission guidelines) and most sub-genres of romance. Some of what they have published can be definitively classified as erotic romance. You can get a feel for what they have previously published [here](#).

Their covers are mostly well within the scope of normal romance covers, although some are more professional than others. They have been around for over a decade.

They will not consider incomplete manuscripts and they do not ask for partial manuscript submissions. They only want to see complete manuscripts that are not simultaneously submitted to other publishers.

Decadent considers stories starting at 15,000 words, which is not very long. They have no listed upper limit for stories.

You must download their submission form from the [submission guidelines](#), fill out, and submit that, as well as the full manuscript, at the same time.

They do not consider manuscripts that contain the following: "Decadent Publishing does not accept submissions that contain illegal sexual acts, bestiality (including unshifted/shifted shapeshifter combinations), incest, pedophilia, glorified racial intolerance, necrophilia, or graphic rape for purposes of titillation - if it is an integral part of the story and not posed in a positive light it may be considered. Romance submissions can be sweet to smoking hot. Sexual or sensual scenes should enhance, not BE, the story. "

They also have a number of series that they are always looking for contributors to. If you scan down the guidelines you can learn more about the specific calls, although they generally lean more towards the erotica side of things.

To learn more about their submission guidelines, and to submit, go [here](#).

Deep Desires

Deep Desires is a press that publishes Romance and Erotic Romance. Deep Desires Press was founded 2016 by a group of authors and editors, including bestselling erotica author Cameron D. James, in addition to editors that have worked on bestselling erotica and erotic romance books. The founders also have substantial self-publishing experience.

As they put it, "At the core of our company, we have two primary objectives. The first is to provide a superior erotic reading experience. The second is to create a community of happy and successful authors, and this includes recognizing and celebrating an author's success outside of their work with Deep Desires Press."

For this reason they don't have restrictive clauses on their contract like many other romance and erotica publishers, like the right of first refusal.

The website is well laid out, with a thorough and helpful [FAQ section](#).

They make it clear that all books they publish will receive full editing, including one round by a developmental editor and another pass by a proofreader. They will promote work on social media and in their newsletter, but most of the promotion is up to the author and when submitting you must include at least two social media links.

The covers for the genre are much better than expected and I like how they really feel different than each other, and many stand out.

You can read their full submission guidelines [here](#). Only submit if you feel like your work is a good fit.

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.

In 2019 they signed a controversial author duo that is banned on Amazon, and that created some ongoing bad press. You can read about it [here](#). I think this raises serious questions and should be taken into consideration.

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

Evernight is an eBook 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. The authors that have published with them have had a mixed experience. A number of the books they have published have been on the Amazon Bestseller list, but rumor suggest that those books tend to be written by the owners.

The books they publish are all romance and erotica but they are open to a lot of sub genres within these genres. These sub-genres include YA Romance, Western, Science Fiction, Holiday, and many more. All of the sub-genres 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% gross royalties from sales off our website and 45% net royalties from our distributors. Anthology authors earn 50% gross royalties from sales off our website and 50% net royalties from our distributors.

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

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

They are open to most subjects appearing in their books. They will not allow the following subjects in their books:

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 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, in the years since this review was originally written, their reputation as a romance publisher has mostly increased but recently the lack of the promotion they do for authors has been questioned, along with other things.

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

eXtasy

eXtasy is an eBook publisher that pays 40% royalties to all of their authors. They only publish erotica; however, their imprint Divine Destinies publishes romance books. Although my impression from the [Divine Destinies](#) web page is that it is less active.

They have an easy to use, well organized website that is clearly reader orientated. I can only describe the covers as lazy - two different titles by two different authors have the same covers! However, some of them are better than others. Also, they promote their backlist in an "oldies but goodies section"

In their own words:

We are a full service royalty paying eBook Publisher, which includes: Editing, Final line editing and proofreading, Cover art, ISBN number, and Digital publishing; print and audio are a possibility, but not guaranteed. Our standard contract is three years and for worldwide English digital rights that hold print and/or audio until we opt to release those particular rights after a set time.

They do expect all submissions to be edited before submitting. They only accept erotica where a complete story is key, they do not just want "sex for the sake of sex or a series of sex scenes." They also have a whole list of other things they do not accept including underage sex, incest, and necrophilia. It is also very important to them that a manuscript is previously unpublished. They count self-published books as being previously published.

Please read all of their extensive submission guidelines before submitting.

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

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 an 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](#).

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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](#).

Inkspell Publishing

Inkspell Publishing started out as an eBook and print on demand Romance publisher in 2011. They now seem to focus on publishing eBooks primarily. Their eBooks have excellent covers, much better than most small and some big romance publishers. A number of their books have good reviews on Amazon, although most have not sold that many copies (although many more than most self-published books)

Their website is well organized, and it is easy to find and buy the books they publish. The only issue I encountered on their website was that it was hard to find any information about the company itself. In fact most of what I learned was from the [Absolute Write Water Cooler thread about Inkspell](#).

From that thread you will probably get the same impression as I, that writers have had very mixed experiences with them. However, a lot of the information in the early portion of the thread is no longer valid - I don't think they are publishing print anymore, and they have been around a few years.

They expect all books to be edited when submitted but they make it clear in the guidelines below that they will also offer editorial support. They say that they expect their authors to help with the marketing and outline some of the things they expect their authors to do in order to market their book, without ever spelling out what Inkspell will do to promote the book, which is a warning sign that you as the author will have to do the bulk of the work.

But otherwise they seem like they are doing a good job. They have been around a few years. They seem to have figured out a few things in this time.

To learn more or to submit read their full submission guidelines [here](#).

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.

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](#).

Mills & Boon

Mills & Boon is a romance imprint of British publisher Harlequin UK, and like Harlequin in the US, it is now an imprint of HarperCollins. Mills & Boon was founded in 1908 by Gerald Rusgrove Mills and Charles Boon as a general publisher, and it has gone through a lot of changes over the years, but it has always focused on publishing romance novels.

The Mills & Boon imprint has a different focus and feel than the US division of Harlequin, but they do use the same Submittable account. Like Harlequin as a whole, part of their strategy is to publish many books per month. They have three separate acquiring offices so it is important your work goes to the right place.

The Mills & Book UK page includes [writing tips](#), and a page breaking down the [submission process](#). Each of the six series they publish have [separate guidelines](#). The best way to get a feel for what they publish is to read a book or two from the line that you feel like is the best fit for you personally.

When you submit, they ask for a covering letter that includes personal information about your history as a reader and writer of romantic fiction, as well as a synopsis of your manuscript.

Make sure that you follow their guidelines when submitting. To learn more, go [here](#).

NineStar Press

NineStar Press is an LGBTQA+ ePublisher based out of New Mexico that was founded in 2015. They primarily publish romance and erotica but are also interested in literary works about characters that are generally under-represented in fiction, for example ace, aro, trans*, nonbinary, genderfluid, bi, pan, etc. They are also interested in genre-bending and fusion genres.

For a small press I really appreciate how much is spelled out on their 'about us' page. They have bios and links not only to the editors but to the cover artist and copy editor. They have a rather large staff for such a small press.

They accept previously self-published and previously traditionally published works as long as the author holds all the rights.

Also it is good to note that they apparently have many re-occurring authors which is a good sign, and they seem to take editing very seriously.

Their website is well organized, and their covers are generally good. They seem to have some clear ideas about marketing as well.

They are currently seeking submissions of LGBTQA+ romance fiction, literary novels, and erotica shorts. They have separate guidelines for romance, literary, and erotica genres so please review those carefully.

All submissions must be made through email and it is important to follow their specific guidelines. Their full submission guidelines are available [here](#).

All submissions must have an LGBTQA+ main character and be complete manuscript. Submissions that do not follow that rule will be deleted and not responded to. All other submissions will be responded to within 12 weeks.

To get a better feel for the press, visit their home page [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. Wait at least that long before querying them about the state of your manuscript.

SMP Swerve uses Submittable 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 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 marketplace. 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](#).

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.

Transmundane Press

Transmundane Press is a small press that is always open to submissions and publishes print and electronic books. They don't say a lot about the genre they publish on their site, but based on browsing their back catalog I would say they publish largely genre (paranormal/horror) romance aimed at young adults and adults.

I was very impressed by the overall quality of their covers, and I have heard good things from authors who have contributed to anthologies. The way each book is presented on the site is effective and intriguing.

The website itself is very geared towards readers and not writers which is always a good sign. Their [about](#) page helpfully covered a lot of information about the staff. The staff bios make it clear that most of the staff do not have very much experience in publishing. This is the first and only press most of them have worked for, although one has previous experience with publishing literary journals. It is actually good that they are so open about this.

I could not find it listed anywhere who their distributor is (which makes me assume that they don't have one, or they are not a great distributor). I also could not find out when exactly they were founded. When I scrolled through the back catalog it was hard to figure out in which order books were published in, and even then the date was not obvious and required going to a third party site. Through some minor sleuthing I was able to discover that they were publishing work as long ago as 2014.

The website organization is a little funny. Some pages in the book section are clearly formatted and others are not, and there also appear to be some "doubled" pages, where a book is listed more than once.

They are open to all previously published works that are out of print and officially have their rights released from the previous publisher. They allow simultaneous submissions. They allow work to contain sexual content with a few caveats (no incest, no rape, no bestiality, no pedophilia, no necrophilia).

At a minimum, books should be 35,000 words in length, although they prefer the book to be between 60,000 and 80,000 words. There is no strict upper limit to how long your manuscript can be.

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

Vinspire Publishing

Vinspire Publishing was founded in 2004. They were originally called Vintage Romance Publishing, because they started only published historical romance. When they expanded their line in 2010 to include a wide range of genres including books for children, they renamed themselves. Although recently they seem to be re-focusing on romance again, just not historical romance.

They only publish books that match up with their [family friendly policy](#). They do have decent distribution because I have seen their books in brick and mortar bookstores in the past.

But their email list sign up doesn't seem like they have a lot of connections in terms of subscribers. It lists the fact that they have 78.

Their covers are hit and miss, but genre appropriate.

They are not open to general submissions at this time, and are only considering agented submissions for most options, but they do often have an open call for submissions. This means that they are accepting submissions that match the open call and nothing else.

At the time of writing this review their open call is for the following (But please double check the website [here](#), to ensure it is still the case).

"We are seeking unagented submissions for romances with mature heroes and heroines. We are looking for characters over the age of 45, preferably older, as we want to celebrate second chances at love (or even firsts in later years!). These are first and foremost romances. Secondary genres such as suspense and inspirational will be considered. All submissions must adhere to [family friendly policy](#).

To submit, make sure your word count is between 35,000 and 95,000 and submit a detailed query to [vrpsubmissions @ gmail.com](mailto:vrpsubmissions@gmail.com) (without spaces). Your query should include your publishing credits, information on your platform, and two-three paragraphs about the book as well as word count and genre. You are welcome to submit the first three chapters of your manuscript as well. "

If your manuscript does not line up with their open calls for submissions in any way, please do not submit. Manuscript publishers are more likely to close to unsolicited submissions if writers submit manuscripts that don't fit their needs.

To learn more or to submit go [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.

I do usually hire a professional freelance editor to edit my manuscripts before I submit them but that is not always financially possible. Some authors find friends to exchange manuscripts with, others find beta readers online or among their friend group. Beta readers aren't the same as editors, but they do provide feedback on your work and can help catch errors.

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 to 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.

[This article](#) explains exactly how to write a novel synopsis.

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.

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. [This article](#) on how to research and evaluate agents is also very helpful. 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 sites before reviewing a publisher.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Glossary

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

Advance

An advance is a signing bonus 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.

Beta Reader

An unpaid test reader of unreleased fiction.

"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 ten to twenty page collection of poetry, or less commonly fiction or creative non-fiction, by one author.

First Publication Rights

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

Genre

A category of artistic composition, characterized by similarities in form, style, or subject matter. Genre can refer to poetry, prose or nonfiction in terms of form. Or it can be a subject matter classification referring to science fiction, mysteries, or various other established types of stories. If a literary journal or publisher says they are not interested in genre work, they are using it as a subject matter classification.

Imprints

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

Independent Publishers

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

Literary Agent

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

Literary Journal

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

Manuscript

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

Reader

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

Reprints

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

Royalties

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

SASE (Self Addressed and Stamped Envelope)

If you submit to a publisher, a contest, or a literary journal via the mail, most publishers require that you include a SASE (Self Addressed and Stamped Envelope) so that they can respond to your work with a rejection or acceptance letter.

Self Publishing

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

Solicited Submissions

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

Submission Manager

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

Traditional Publisher

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

Unsolicited Submissions

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

Vanity Publisher/ Press

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

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/>