

**The 2023
Guide to**

**Manuscript
Publishers**

280

**TRADITIONAL
PUBLISHERS**

No Agent Required

Fall Update

Emily Harstone

Authors Publish

The 2023 Guide to
Manuscript
Publishers

Fall Update

280 Traditional Publishers

No Agent Required

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Introduction

Over the past decade, 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 or are scheduled to be published in the near future.

The reviews in this book are updated to reflect major 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 years where many presses have altered their submission policies or closed their doors to new submitters. Sometimes the changes that occurred with a publisher were minor; others were not.

Over ninety publishers have been removed since the first edition of this book was published eight 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.

There has also been an ongoing and 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](#).

Another ongoing issue, although less pressing than it once was, is traditional publishers with a vanity or hybrid imprint. 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 or hybrid publisher.

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

There's good news too. More imprints of Big 5 presses are having open reading periods, sometimes just for historically under-represented authors, sometimes for everyone. If it's just for historically under-represented authors, we don't include those listings in this book, but we have a list article focused on these opportunities that goes out on the third Thursday of every month.

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.

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. You can also always reach out to us at support@authorspublish.com with the name of a press we don't currently cover.

The best place to go for third party feedback about publishers is [the index of agents, publishers, and others](#) at Absolute Write. Keep in mind that they have had to deal

with a number of month long hacks over the past two years, and because of that, they've been less active than they were previously.

It's important to note that it is a forum, and like many forums, a lot of speculation occurs there, 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.

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.

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 never review a publisher before they've been actively publishing books for at least one calendar year, usually two. 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 pros and cons to having an agent, and we leave that decision up to you.

Almost all the publishing companies we review are open to agented submissions as well. We have heard from a number of authors who have found a publisher through

our resources, alerted their agent about it, and their agent placed the book with that publisher.

It's important to note that you should never ever mass submit. Mass submitting means submitting to a bunch of publishers at once even if they aren't a good fit for your manuscript. You can learn more about mass submissions [here](#). One of the reasons we stress this is that every year we hear from publishers who close to direct submissions because our reviews lead to mass submissions, or they ask to be de-listed for this reason. Always think of your fellow writers and only submit if you think your manuscript is a good fit for what they publish.

At the end of the book there's a section called Additional Publishers. It links to three lists of publishers that we haven't reviewed in depth, either because their focus is too niche (this includes poetry only presses), or because they have geographic limitations in terms of who they publish.

There is also a section, entitled FAQ, that addresses all of the questions we receive on a reoccurring basis about this guide.

We initially 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.

We published the first edition of this year's guide in April 2023. This edition was updated for the fall and includes a number of new presses, and publisher updates. Any presses that have closed permanently to unagented submissions were removed. This is our second year updating it on a biannual basis. It worked out well last year as it helps

keep the guide as up to date as possible, but because things are always changing, always check the publishers website before submitting.

If you are new to publishing, it will be helpful to read the 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.

If you do find a publisher for your manuscript, please send me an email at support@authorspublish.com, so I can congratulate you, and perhaps talk you into writing an article for our ongoing [case studies series](#).

How to Submit Your Manuscript for Publication

This is just an overview of the submission process. I go into much more details about this process in [The Authors Publish Guide to Manuscript Submission](#).

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 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 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.

A publication history also really helps. A lot of writers are stumped by this requirement. If most publishers expect a publication history, how does one get a first book published? The answer is largely through creating a publication history outside of books, this includes anthologies, literary journals, and magazines. You can learn more about how to get started doing this [here](#).

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. 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 you feel would be a good fit, you should check and double check their submission guidelines.

Often after we review a publisher, we receive an email from that publisher stating that many of the submissions they received because of our reviews, did not follow their guidelines, and much of the material that was submitted was not even in the same genre that they publish. Some publishers close to submissions because of this.

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.

Nonfiction Publishers

The following section collects all of the publishers we have reviewed that primarily accept 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.

It's also important to note that nonfiction publishers tend to represent the most stable group of independent presses. This year and the previous year, there were no small nonfiction presses that went under on the list, or had to be removed for other reasons.

Affirm Books

Affirm Books is a Melbourne, Australia based publisher of local and international authors that is open to direct submissions. They publish a broad range of non-fiction work and have a smaller, more focused fiction list for adults and children. They are only open to nonfiction and children's book submissions from non Australian authors.

They have good national and international distribution. You can get a good feel for their staff experience [here](#).

They only accept submissions on the first Monday of each month. Note that submissions received outside this window will not be assessed.

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

Submissions must be made by email. Make sure to carefully review all their requirements before you submit.

If you have not heard back from them in six months, assume rejection.

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

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](#).

Art/Books

Art/Books is an independent UK based publisher of books on art, architecture, design, photography, and contemporary culture. They were founded in 2012. You can get a feel for what they are currently publishing by visiting [this page](#). It's important to note that they appear to have published very few books during the peak of the pandemic, and none at all during 2020, but they published three books in 2022, and are still clearly active. Their website is regularly updated.

I do think it's also important to note that on their [about us](#) page they say, "We also provide a full range of publishing services, offering specialist expertise and advice for museums, galleries, artists and others who want to create the finest illustrated books and to reach new audiences for their publications. For further information about our publishing services, [click here](#)."

This is fine, as long as they don't redirect authors submitting work to their publication services. Please reach out to [us](#) if that happens.

They accept proposals of incomplete and complete projects. They allow summaries of the project you are proposing, to be submitted via email. If they are interested in what you submit they will reach out to you, often seeking a more detailed proposal. They only respond to submissions they are interested in.

To learn more, go [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 book's 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. For their Agate line they are seeking work general areas of food, cooking, and nutrition-related nonfiction, For their Surrey imprint; business-interest nonfiction, with a particular focus on improving workplace experience and improving workplace performance, and nonfiction on Midwestern topics or by Midwestern authors, for its Midway imprint. Submissions in other content areas will not be considered.

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 publisher.

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

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

BearManor Media

BearManor Media is an independent press that focuses on publishing nonfiction books about the entertainment industry. This includes work about radio, old movie, or television genres. This is how the founding editor describes what they are currently seeking:

“We'd love to see books on voice actors, Muppet/Sesame Street performers, Harry Morgan, Victor Buono, Frank Nelson, Russ Tamblyn, Joe Flynn, Don Adams, David Tomlinson, and any of the unheralded supporting players.

We are also seeking more modern television titles. If you're a fan of a TV show that's been broadcast within the last 25 years, and you can interview crew/cast members to produce a detailed, quality manuscript, please let us know. One of our bestselling titles is *The Gilmore Girls*.”

They publish in print, some work is hardback and other is softcover. I'm not sure about their distribution, as they never disclose who their distributor is.

For me the biggest warning sign on the site is on their [about us](#) page, where they say the following without backing any of it up:

The staff boasts fewer than a dozen top industry artists, publicists, and media experts. Our dedicated staff support authors as they head their own campaigns to generate reader excitement through targeted book signings, social media presence, and Internet-based channels.

BearManor Media continues to be a full-range publisher big enough to command respect in the market, yet small enough to preserve reader, writer, and independent retailer loyalty.

Most of the more recent books had a few reviews, but none in the double digits.

To learn more about their submission guidelines, 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 on 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 a 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 \$5,000 and \$20,000 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](#).

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. They say they re-open to fiction occasionally, but I have never seen them do this. They have published a number of established authors of various nationalities. Their covers are generally well designed and appealing.

The nonfiction they are interested in, includes the following:

- celebrity memoirs
- sports books (with a particular focus on the UK and Ireland)
- lifestyle, humour, gift and activity books
- food and drink titles
- Scottish non-fiction
- Irish non-fiction
- nature and wild places

They prefer receiving submissions by email. 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](#).

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](#).

Blue River Press

Blue River Press is a nonfiction publisher based in Indianapolis. They released their first book in 2004. They've now published over 200 titles. They have distribution through the Cardinal Publishers Group, and their books are available in bookstores, libraries, as well as gift shops. I've encountered a number of their books over the years, particularly books in their All About series, which is a series of books for kids about famous individuals.

Their book covers range from good to dated. Their website is clear and easy to use although their new releases section is a little out of date, other pages like their blog makes it pretty clear that they are still actively publishing.

To get a good feel for what they've published in the past, go [here](#).

They accept submissions via proposals. Your manuscript need not be complete. To learn more about their proposal process go [here](#) and click on the link to the [PDF guidelines](#). Do not submit unless you feel like your book would be a good fit.

Blue Star Press

Blue Star Press is based out of Bend, Oregon, and is distributed by [Penguin Random House Publisher Services](#). The work they publish includes work focused "on the arts, creative processes, wellness, and witty non-fiction". They were founded in 2015 in San Antonio Texas, and you can learn more about the company and their imprints [here](#). They link to press coverage about their books [here](#).

All submissions must be made via email. Their submission details are on their contact page [here](#), and you have to download a document they link to, to learn more. They primarily want to know the scope and purpose of your book, along with an outline or a sample table of contents. They also want a writing sample.

It's also clear they want authors who already understand their target market and are connected to it in some way, as an expert, an influencer, or otherwise. They ask that you attach your resume as well.

Spending some time on [their books page](#) can give you a good feel for what they are actively publishing now. I don't know how else to say this, but as a millennial I think the sight makes a very "millennial impression," in terms of aesthetics, and attitude. A lot of what they publish I'd categorize as gift books (and games!), not necessarily something someone would buy for themselves, but something you would buy for others.

Please only submit to them if you feel like your work is a good fit, and you carefully follow their downloaded guidelines which you can access [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

It has come to our attention that Chelsea Green has been publishing and promoting disinformation about COVID-19 as well as other controversial books along with their more traditional catalogue, and that even though they bill themselves as employee owned the truth seems to be more complicated. To learn more go [here](#). They still technically meet our guidelines for review, but I want potential submitters to be aware of the situation.

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 are currently seeking the following categories of nonfiction:

- music, film, pop culture
- history
- feminism
- LGBTQ+ interest
- true crime
- outdoor and nature

- African American history and the Black experience
- parenting
- children's and YA history, science, literature, and art

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](#).

Dover Publications

Based in New York, Dover Publications was founded in 1941. They publish a wide range of books including fiction but are only open to unsolicited nonfiction submissions.

All submissions must be made by post and they only respond to submissions if interested. They cannot return materials to the author.

They do not disclose who their distributor is but I've long encountered their work, particularly in art supply stores, gift shops, and stationary stores as well as bookstores. My kids own a number of their sticker books.

The nonfiction work they publish covers a wide range of topics, including but in no way limited to, spirituality, cooking, mathematics, music and how to books on art, drawing, and crafts. They publish a wide range of nonfiction, and it's worthwhile to spend time with their catalogue to see if they are the right fit for your work.

You can learn more about their submission guidelines [here](#).

Duckworth Books

Warning: This review briefly discusses childhood sexual assault. Please skip if you want to.

Duckworth Books was started in 1898, is one of Britain's oldest independent presses, and it has published many well-known and influential authors over the years.

They have one of the most in-depth histories of a publishing company that I have ever seen online, and you can access it [here](#). In the history section they focus on the fact that Gerald Duckworth, Virginia Woolf's half-brother, started Duckworth Books, and that he published her first two books. They do not mention that [Gerald Duckworth sexually abused Virginia Woolf](#) as a child. It strikes me as odd that not only have they've not changed their name, but they have tried to skip over this publicly known history, while emphasizing Gerald Duckworth's familial relationship with Virginia Woolf.

They have good distribution, and for the most part, excellent covers. Their website is polished and professional. They accept only a very small percentage of the submissions they receive.

Their areas of current focus are memoir, biography, popular science, psychology, history and historical fiction. They are only accepting work that falls clearly into one of these categories.

If you are considering submitting, I would encourage you to spend some time scanning their [main page](#), which lists recently published books. Only submit work to them if you feel like your manuscript is a good fit.

In order to submit, please include a one-page synopsis of the manuscript highlighting the main storyline, key selling points, and how the book fills gaps in the market, or compliments books already on the market.

Also include two to three sample chapters, or the completed manuscript. Make sure to include your CV, outlining any books published, awards, or writing experience.

At the time of this update they are closed to submissions, but that may change in the future. You can visit their [submission page](#) to check if they've reopened.

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 are 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](#).

Fair Winds Press

Fair Winds Press is now an imprint of Quarto publishing, which we've reviewed [here](#).

Fair Winds Press was originally founded in 2001 as part of the Rockport Publishing Group. Fair Winds focuses on providing readers with authoritative and accessible information that helps them live "a healthier life, both physically and spiritually." This sounds specific but actually covers a wide range of topics including but not limited to triathlon training, eliminating meat from your diet, gentle parenting and witchcraft.

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

Their covers seem excellent and market appropriate. Their distribution is good.

You can see their imprint page [here](#). Their submission guidelines are now listed with the rest of Quarto Publishing's guidelines [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.

They are currently closed to submissions but strive for having one reading period per year. Their last open reading period was in July. The plan to announce the next reading period in late fall, and the reading period itself will be in the winter. To learn more go [here](#).

Feral House

Feral House is a small independent publisher based in Port Townsend, Washington state. They were founded in 1989 by Adam Parfrey who has since passed away. They publish unique and unusual nonfiction and they are particularly interested in documenting cultural movements. They publish memoirs, biographies, and many other works of nonfiction including history not found in textbooks, nonfiction for children, and work focused on mysticism and the occult. To learn more about what they publish go [here](#), and scroll down half way. They do not publish fiction (excepting historical), poems, short stories, or plays.

Feral House also has a sister press called Process Media, which you can learn more about [here](#).

Feral House has good national and international distribution. Their covers generally suit their subject. You can get a better feel for their covers and their general catalog [here](#).

They prefer to work directly with authors. Their manuscript submission requirements are as follows.

"Please send a query email that includes:

1. Overview. A full description of the book and why it's compelling and interesting to all readers. Please keep to a single page.
2. Table of Contents.
3. Total word count.
4. Chapter Outline. A one or two sentence summary of each chapter.
5. Sample Chapter. We need to see a sample of your writing and how the book is organized.
6. About Me. A short biography about you and why you're the right person to write the book.

7. **Images.** Let us know if your proposed book intends to have images and how many. Send an example of one or two images."

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

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 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](#). They also run a yearly contest for Black Writers in the US, with Strive. You can learn more about it [here](#).

G Editions

G Editions is a small press that focuses on publishing books in the following areas of interest: fine art and popular culture, fashion and photography, architecture and design, cooking and gardening, children's interests, and lifestyle.

Their website is beautiful, easy to use, and well organized. It is focused on selling books, and you can get a good feel for what they publish by going to the [main landing page](#) and scrolling down. In terms of artists, they mostly publish well known and established ones, like [Mister Finch](#).

I'd only submit a proposal to them after spending time on the site and establishing that your work is a good fit.

They ask that submitters send "proposals in the form of an annotated table of contents (three-to-four-page table of contents with a brief description of every chapter). Also included should be author's C.V. and/or biographical statement. Please note if you own the rights to the illustrations, and if not, if you have access to the required illustrations. "

Do not submit original material. They used to receive submissions via email, but they recently removed their email address from their site. Even though they haven't tweaked all the wording in their submission guidelines yet, they appear to only be accepting work via the post at this time.

They have good distribution, and I've seen their books in several bookstores.

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](#).

Gingko Press

Gingko Press is a nonfiction publisher that has published work by a number of well known authors and brands. They are the official publisher of Marshall McLuhan and they have worked with his estate since 1999. You can read more about their other [partnerships and imprints here](#).

They were founded in 1985 by Mo Cohen and Julie von der Ropp in Hamburg, Germany. In 1991 they launched their larger incorporated company in Santa Rosa, California. After one more California move, they settled in Berkeley, California, where their offices are currently located.

They also mention in their submission guidelines that before "submitting your proposal, please have a look around our website and try to imagine where your book might fit in." Please do this. Most of what they publish is illustrated books on specific topics.

Please spend time with their catalog to get a good feel for what [they currently publish](#). They accept print and electronic submissions and have good distribution.

They try to reply between 8-12 weeks. Please read their submission guidelines and follow them. To learn more, go [here](#).

Grub Street

Grub Street is a small UK based press, not to be confused with the creative writing center in Boston. Grub Street publishes nonfiction, but only in two niche markets. The books they publish are either on Cookery (recipes), or Military Aviation history. They are not interested in any nonfiction outside of these areas, or fiction at all. Within these niche markets, they are well known, and award winning. They have even been voted International Cookbook Publisher of the Year at the World Cookbook Awards in 2000. You can learn about their history [here](#).

Their covers are wonderful and topic appropriate. They seem to have good distribution within the UK. It's very easy to get a feeling for what they publish in terms of both niche markets by visiting their main page [here](#).

They put in effort in terms of promoting their authors and sporadically host events which you can see listed [here](#). They are active on social media.

You can submit your work via email or post.

For Military Aviation submissions, they ask that you email a synopsis, a sample chapter and brief author biography. For Cookery submissions they ask that you email a contents page, up to 10 sample recipes and a brief author biography to a different email address. You can see both email addresses, and the postal address listed [here](#).

Gryphon House

Gryphon House is a non-fiction publisher that focuses on publishing resources that "address top current issues in early childhood and help teachers, administrators, teacher-educators, policymakers, caregivers, and parents enrich the lives of children from birth through age 8". Anything outside of this scope is not a good fit for them, neither are books aimed directly at kids. Their audience is adults that work with and/or have kids. They are an imprint of [Kaplan](#) which bills itself as the Early Learning Company.

They have a lot of international partners for distribution, but they do their own distribution within the states, which makes sense given that they are a niche publisher that isn't ever likely to publish the kind of work that gets placed on display tables in Barnes & Nobles. Instead they seem to really understand their audience, and how to reach them. You can learn more about the books they've recently published [here](#).

When submitting a proposal make sure you make it clear that you have an understanding of the market, and the other books on similar topics that are out there, as well as first hand experiences with the topic. This can include leading workshops and webinars on the topic, or receiving a degree related to it.

When you submit a proposal to them, please include the following:

- The purpose of the book
- The intended audience
- A working table of contents
- Introductory material
- 20-40 sample pages of the actual book
- Your résumé

In addition, please describe why educators, policymakers, or parents will want to buy it; how it is different from other similar books already published; and what qualifications you possess that make you the appropriate person to write the book.

Your work need not be finished when you submit the proposal.

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

Hamilcar Publications

Hamilcar Publications is a small Boston-based non fiction publisher. They are primarily focused on the following categories: professional boxing, true crime, hip-hop, and jazz. It was founded by an experienced editor, and an experienced book designer. You can learn more about the company [here](#).

They are distributed by the Two Rivers Press imprint of Ingram, which does a much better job than the general company. Their books are well designed and appealing. To get a feel for what they've recently published, go [here](#).

It's easy to tell if your work would be a good fit or not, because they very much inhabit a niche market.

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

Hatherleigh

Hatherleigh is a nonfiction publisher focused on publishing books about health and wellness, fitness and exercise, living with chronic diseases, as well self help books and books focused on sustainability and green living. They are distributed by Penguin Random House. They accept both ideas and proposals from authors, but unless you have an existing platform I encourage you to submit a proposal. They mention that they are open to ideas or proposals on this [page](#).

You can get a good feel for what they publish just by browsing their [landing page](#). It's clear, well organized, and up to date. If you are serious about submitting, I really encourage you to spend time in their [books section](#), reviewing the categories that are most relevant to your work.

With non-fiction it's easier to get a feel for what a company publishes without having to read work that they've published in the past, but it's just as important to understand what niche that publisher is focused on in the marketplace. That's why spending time on the companies website is so important.

They do not publish fiction of any kind. This is what they ask that your proposal includes:

- A synopsis (no more than 2 pages)
- A complete table of contents
- At least two, preferably three sample chapters
- A list of additional materials will be included in the book: Charts, photographs, illustrations, case studies, etc.
- If you're sending a cookbook proposal, please note total number of recipes and if you'll be providing photographs.
- Author bio information. Why are you qualified to write this book? What other books have you written? What are your promotional skills? (public speaking, television or radio appearances or seminars you have conducted on the subject.) What is your social media presence?

- A run-down of the book's market potential: Who might read this book? Is it a broad audience, (all men over age 30) or a niche audience (stamp collectors between the ages of 30 and 32)?
- Analysis of the competition: What other books exist on the same subject? How is yours different, the similar, better?

They do stress that they still accept proposals that do not have the previously mentioned components. They do expect the proposal to seem professional and well organized.

To learn more about what they require in terms of a proposal please visit [this page](#). Please do not submit unless you feel like your work is a good fit for them. They accept proposals via post and email.

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](#).

Headpress

Headpress was established in 1991 although the publishing arm wasn't active till 1992, according to their [FAQ](#). Headpress focuses on publishing nonfiction. The subject matter they publish varies widely. They say "When Headpress first started, much of this was considered the counterculture. Now it is pop culture. " They publish work on cult film, strange music, pulp literature, fanzines, conspiracy theories, sex and gender, occult and folklore, true crime, etc. It is still run by one of the three founders, David Kerekes,

They are a little unusual as they do a mix of print-on-demand and traditionally published books. They have electronic versions of most of their books. You can get a good feel for what they publish by visiting the main page of their [website](#). It's the kind of niche independent publisher where it should be pretty easy to figure out quickly if they are the right fit or not for your work.

Their covers seem like a good fit in terms of the content.

If you have a nonfiction book proposal or ideas that you think we may be interested in, please email them. The email address is on [this page](#).

In the initial email, submit a brief outline of the proposal plan, and any other relevant info. Also include a short text sample. All of this must be in the body of the email. No attachments.

They respond to all submissions within four weeks, and they allow for querying, if you haven't heard from them in this time.

To learn more go [here](#).

Hohm Press & Kalindi 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 health and wellness. They are not interested in fiction or short story collections. They recently added the Kalindi Press imprint.

Their website was updated in the last two years and is much better than the original site. It is not very easy to navigate, and it is hard to find out information about the press itself on the 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's 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.

At the time of this update they are closed to new submissions, and have yet to announce a reopening date. They do accept submissions from [FOLD participants](#).

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 about their submission process go [here](#).

Korero Press

Korero Press is a London-based publisher. They describe themselves by saying "At the heart of everything we do is a love of lowbrow and [kustom kulture](#)". What they publish includes books about pop culture and street art, as well as erotica and horror titles. You can get a feel for what they publish [here](#). They have good international distribution and have published established contemporary artists including Ron English, Patrick J. Jones and Derek Yaniger.

Do not submit to them unless your book falls within the niche of what they publish and you can find a comparable book already listed with them.

They only publish illustrated books. They ask that you include the following in in your submission:

- your contact details
- a one-page covering letter giving a brief description of the project and outlining why you think Korero Press should publish it.
- author/illustrator/photographer biography(s) that include publishing credits and relevant credentials.
- a detailed synopsis/outline, including chapter headings, an introduction, sample illustrations and/or photographs.
- a market analysis of the potential readership for the book. Who is the reader? What appeal it has?, etc.
- a list of similar titles, if any, including the publisher, date of publication, and a brief explanation of how your book differs from what's currently available.

To learn more go [here](#).

Lantern Publishing & Media

Lantern Publishing & Media has a bit of unusual history, as they were initially founded as Lantern Books in 1999, which was a traditional for profit press, that was focused on the "principles of living with a greater depth and commitment to the preservation of the natural world". Lantern Publishing & Media describes the work they do a little differently, but there is overlap: "We publish books, develop content, and promote ideas supportive of veganism, animal rights, humane education, recovery, therapy, and spirituality".

The non-profit format of the company was founded in 2020. Non-profit presses of this kind have become increasingly common, and they are open to donation. Non-profit publishers still pay their authors via royalties. Along with being a non-profit press Lantern Publishing & Media also fundraisers for other non-profits that align with their values. In fact they feature those non-profits before their books on their main landing page, which is more focused on their overarching mission than recent releases. You have to scroll down a little, past two other sections, to reach their list of new and forthcoming books, but the books themselves are well presented, even if the covers are, in my opinion, very uneven.

I very much like that they go into details about their staff and board members and many of them have relevant experience. You can learn more about them by going to their [About](#) page and scrolling down. You can see their complete catalogue of books [here](#), and audiobooks [here](#). This is very much a press with a focused and goal orientated catalogue, so please spend time with it to decide if your work is a good fit. I really appreciate the fact that they are actively publishing audiobooks.

They have pretty good international distribution which they list on [their contact page](#). Their [FAQ](#) page implies they pay advances, at least to some authors, and it also communicates a lot of other worthwhile information.

They have already locked down their publishing schedule for 2023 but are considering work for publication in the years 2023-2028. I like that in their [submission guidelines](#) they link to good resources in terms of learning more about how to properly submit a manuscript. They also have clear [proposal guidelines](#). Submissions must be made via email.

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 send them a follow up email if you do not receive a response.

To get a good idea of what they publish go [here](#). To learn a little more more about their querying process go [here](#), and scroll down.

Llewellyn

Llewellyn is the oldest and largest publisher specializing in books for body, mind, and spirit. They were founded in 1901. They publish books as well as other items, like tarot card decks. They accept submissions on a wide variety of topics, listed below. They try to focus on the practical and self-help aspect of this material.

Alternative health
Angels
Astral projection/OBE
Astrology
Chakras
Cryptozoology
Energy work
Ghost hunting
Intuition
Kabbalah/Qabalah
Life between lives
Magic/magick
Meditation
Paganism
Personal haunting stories
Psychic abilities
Psychic development
Reiki
Reincarnation
Shamanism
Spirit Guides
Spiritual Enlightenment
Tarot books
Tarot card decks
UFOs
Wicca
Witchcraft
Yoga

For a complete list of topics, you should visit their [Browse by Category](#) page. They do explicitly note that they are not interested in poetry books, children's books,

spiritual or new age fiction, cookbooks, or channeled books. Their [new releases list](#) is particularly helpful.

It is important to note that while they have been around for a long time, they haven't had nearly as positive a track record when it comes to imprints. Midnight Ink, one of their imprints, was closed in 2019. [Flux](#), their other imprint, has had a history of mostly minor complaints, including a not particularly great contract, that you can read about [here](#).

I did not find any direct complaints about Llewellyn.

They have major distribution, generally good covers, and a long track record of success in their area of focus.

Llewellyn accepts complete manuscripts and proposals. They accept submissions via email and post.

Their complete guidelines are [here](#). Please follow them carefully. Note that you must keep scrolling down for the Tarot Deck submission guidelines, and the Almanacs, Calendars, and Datebooks guidelines.

McFarland & Company Inc.

McFarland & Company Inc. is an academic and nonfiction publisher that markets primarily to libraries. They have much more expensive cover prices because of this, and do not have good distribution in brick-and-mortar bookstores, but are widely available at libraries throughout North America. They also have a good reputation among librarians, which is a plus.

Their focus is to publish scholarly books on topics of popular appeal, including sports, military, history, true crime, and literature, among many others. You can get a better idea of what they publish by visiting their website [here](#).

They do not offer advances, which is more unusual for nonfiction publishers. They work primarily directly for authors and as such have a lot more resources for authors than the average publisher. Their FAQ page is a good place to [start](#).

They seem upfront about how they do business and even share [a sample contract](#).

However, I've heard from a direct source and seen proof that they are not in any way open to negotiating or changing that contract, even in minor ways. Usually if a company has that approach they state that when offering the contract or while sending it. McFarland does not do either of these things. Please review the contract carefully, if you are not comfortable with the contract (and a few of their terms are not ideal for

authors), do not submit to them, because they have shown they are not willing to negotiate.

They accept book proposals, and you can learn more about what they expect in proposals by scrolling down [here](#) to the section entitled Sending a Proposal. Please read the guidelines carefully before submitting.

All proposals should be submitted via email.

Michael O'Mara Books

Michael O'Mara Books (also known as MOM Books) is a UK based publisher of non-fiction. They publish a wide range of books including history, popular science, language, sport, lifestyle and biography. Outside of traditional books they also publish coloring books, activities, puzzles, and stationery. You can get a feel for what they publish [here](#).

MOM Books was started in 1985 as a home business by Mrs. & Mr. O'Mara, out of the spare room of their house. It is still a family firm, although now it publishes 150 books a year. They have put together a slideshow of their history which you can view [here](#), if you are curious.

They welcome submissions of non-fiction ideas from "authors, compilers and illustrators". They do not allow submissions of fiction.

If you submit please include synopses and sample texts, rather than full manuscripts. They are currently only accepting submissions via email.

They generally only respond to submissions they are interested in. They ask that authors and illustrators familiarize themselves with the titles they publish before submitting.

They are distributed by Hachette within the UK. Outside of the UK they do their own distribution. Their books are beautiful, sturdy, and well designed.

Their submission guidelines are in no way detailed, but you can view them [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. Measure Press is run by editors Rob Griffith and Paul Bone.

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—also tarot and oracle decks).
- **The Good Life** (DIY, how-to, self-care, hands-on skills—anything from how to make or do something to parenting, mental health, and healthy relationships).
- [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).
- [Queering Consent](#) (#ownvoices erotica short stories)
- **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](#).

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](#).

New Village Press

New Village Press was established in 2005. Since then they have focused on publishing transdisciplinary books in urban sociology, community cultural development, and healthy city design. Most of their books are actively focused on community building and change making. Some of the books they publish are academic, and others are aimed at a general audience. They particularly like to publish books that "go beyond abstract policy and polemics to present the human motivations and nitty-gritty work for making a certain part of the world a better place." You can get a good feeling for what they've recently published [here](#).

New Village press is a 502c3 nonprofit corporation. They are based in New York City, their books are distributed by New York University Press.

New Village expects prospectuses rather than manuscripts. You can read their full guidelines [here](#).

They don't outline what they need in the query, but I would focus on taking their advice for the proposal, and focus on conveying three points related to that in the query letter. To learn more, please visit their website [here](#).

No Starch Press

No Starch Press is a small press that focuses on publishing work on technology, particularly work with "a focus on open source, security, hacking, programming, alternative operating systems, LEGO®, science, and math." Their motto is "the finest in geek entertainment." They are distributed by [Penguin Random House](#). You can get a good feel for what they publish by going [here](#).

They say that you can just send them an email with the basics of your project if the proposal sounds overwhelming, but that they mostly want to see the following information included in your proposal:

- **Summary of Your Book.** Describe your book.
- **Outline.** Provide a detailed outline listing at least chapter titles and first level headings.
- **Audience.** Who is your target audience and how will your book meet their needs?
- **Competition.** List any competing titles. How will your work compete?
- **Market.** Discuss the market for your book.
- **You.** Who are you? What are your goals in writing this book?

They also ask that you submit any writing samples for your project, if available, and they stress that a clear description of what you want to write and your table of contents are the most important factors.

Unlike most publishers they are very much upfront about royalties and the editorial process, which are both disclosed [here](#). Also on that page they link to a sample publishing agreement, which they appear to always use, and is not up to negotiation. So before submitting to that, review it carefully.

Please only submit a proposal if they feel like a good fit for your work.

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 must be made 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 point.

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](#).

Overcup Press

Overcup Press is a small independent press based in Portland Oregon. They say their focus is "on literary nonfiction, art, travel, design, architecture, music, epicurean, and gift titles." So far they've published eight books including two Children's picture books, a cookbook, several books about place, an illustrated biography of Buckminster Fuller, and a book best described by its title "99 Ways to Make a Pipe: Problem Solving for Pot Smokers". You can view their full catalog [here](#).

They have a great sense of design and all of the books are appealing to their various audiences. The founder and publisher comes from a design background. One of my few concerns about the press relates to this. On the website they have a custom publishing page, that sells potential submitters on their ability to be paid to publish your work. This is not uncommon for small presses to have a self publishing arm, but it is becoming more uncommon than it once was. It's OK as long as the publisher never redirects you to the self publishing arm. Please send me an email at support@authorspublish.com and I will update the review accordingly.

The only other concern I have about them is that they mention having excellent distribution, and they have a web page devoted to that distributor, labelled "our distributor". This link is currently broken and there is no indicator of who this distributor might be. I'm very happy to update the review if this distributor becomes known.

They are currently open to submissions in the following categories:

- Creative nonfiction narrative and journalism
- Popular Science Writing
- Environmental/Nature Writing
- Regional U.S. Northwest Topics
- Travel (essay, other related)

- Architecture and Design
- Contemporary Arts and Culture
- Music / Music History / Long-form Music Journalism

They accept submissions through Submittable. To learn more or to submit, go [here](#).

At the time of this update they are not open to submissions. To learn more please visit their submission guidelines [here](#).

Oxford University Press

Oxford University Press, like most university presses, is open to direct submissions. It has much better distribution systems than most university presses. They publish nonfiction with an academic focus on a wide range of subjects. They are open to proposals and manuscripts.

Their website is much more thorough in terms of helping outline how the process really works, than most presses. On the page, [submitting a proposal](#), they talk overtly about being open to a wide variety of authors, professionals, and researchers, and it's clear that they are trying to support that, by really taking the time to make it clear how best one can succeed in terms of creating a compelling and appropriate proposal. They go into details about what they are expecting in terms of a proposal and they also disclose information about the review process.

There are many other helpful pages about the submission process including pages focused on [preparing your document](#), and [submitting your manuscript](#).

In order to submit a manuscript to them, you have to find the appropriate editor to submit to on [this page](#).

They do not disclose royalty rates, and they seem to vary by region.

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

Parallax Press

Parallax Press is a nonprofit publisher founded by Zen Master Thich Nhat Hanh. They publish 15 books a year, focused on Engaged Buddhism and mindful living. They've published many famous Buddhists, including Thich Nhat Hanh, and the Dalai Lama. Most of what they publish is nonfiction aimed at adults, but they also publish select children's books. Most of the authors whose work they publish are active Zen Buddhists.

You can get a good feel for what they are interested in publishing, currently, [here](#).

They do not respond to all submissions. Submissions must be made through their Submittable account.

All proposals must contain the following elements:

1. **Title, Subtitle, and Word Count of Project**
2. **Synopsis:** A three-paragraph synopsis of the manuscript.
3. **Audience:** A paragraph describing the primary audience for your project. Demonstrate that there is substantial interest in this subject in the market and tell us why your book is right for Parallax Press.
4. **Market:** Give indicators of market interest, including examples of what other books out there are comparable to this book and how your proposal is both similar to and different from these books.
5. **Author Biography, Resume, and Platform:** Attach a current resume, including relevant social media platforms. Along with a biography, address specifically why you are the right person to write this book. Include your writing experience as well as your credentials in the area you are writing about and any boards, organizations, and networks of which you are an active member.
6. **Table of Contents and Sample Chapters:** Include a full table of contents as well as at least two sample chapters from the book.

They also run a journal called [Mindfulness Bell](#).

To learn more about their submissions, go [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."

Each year they have 2-3 grant giving cycles with different focuses. They are listed [here](#).

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 an 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](#). Make sure that you submit to the editor of the correct imprint.

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.

Rowman & Littlefield

Rowman & Littlefield is an independent publisher based outside of Washington, DC. They focus on educational publishing, academic publishing with a focus on Humanities and Social Sciences, and well as publishing government and official data. Some of what they publish is very specific and niche, while other work is clearly intended for a broad audience.

They also run the National Book Network, one of America's largest book publishers. They have published many respected books and authors. It's easy to get a good feel for what they publish by visiting their home page [here](#).

They have a publishing partnership with the following institutes and organizations: American Association for State and Local History, The American Foreign Policy Council, Smithsonian Institution, The Center for Strategic and International Studies, Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, Fortress Press, Lehigh University Press, Lord Cultural Resources, and the US Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Their submissions guidelines are clear and detailed, and they ask that you submit work to the [correct acquisitions editor](#).

When you submit your proposal, make sure you follow their guidelines [here](#). Make sure to follow their guidelines precisely, if your work is a good fit for them. If you scroll further down they also include the guidelines for submitting to Lexington Books which publishes the best scholarly work in disciplines ranging across the humanities and social sciences.

The guidelines for ECPR Press, the imprint of the European Consortium for Political Research, are available [here](#).

Saraband

Saraband is an independent publisher that was founded in 1994 in Norwalk, Connecticut. In 2000 they relocated to Glasgow, Scotland and they have since relocated to Manchester, England.

Their focus has always been on nature, history, art and the mind/body connection. On their website now, they divide their nonfiction into two categories, [nature](#) and [culture](#). If you are considering submitting work to them, please spend time with their catalog to determine if your work would be a good fit.

They started publishing literary fiction in 2011 and have since branched out into more mainstream fiction (which they label as [contraband](#) on their website), but are not currently open to direct submissions of fiction. They have won a number of awards over the years, and you can learn more about them [here](#).

Their UK based distributor is [Grantham Book Services](#) (which is run by Penguin Random House Distribution). Outside of the UK they are represented by [Consortium Book Group](#).

They are currently only open to non-fiction submissions and they ask that you send via email "your book description, table of contents and a sample chapter together with a brief CV relevant to your writing".

You can see their short submission guidelines and email address near the bottom of this [page](#).

Shambhala Publications

Shambhala Publications is an independent publishing company based in Boulder, Colorado. They are distributed by Penguin Random House Publisher Services. They were founded in 1969 and “is dedicated to creating books, audio, and immersive courses aimed at improving lives—in ways big and small—in the hope of contributing to the development of a thoughtful, kindhearted, and contemplative society”.

They have approximately 40 employees, and about 1,600 titles in print. The work they publish often is focused on meditation, as well as a range of spiritual traditions “from Buddhism and Taoism to contemplative traditions within Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, and Sufism.” They also publish books on health, wellness, yoga, and martial arts, as well as books on psychology, emotional well-being, and mindfulness.

They allow authors to submit previously self-published books, which is very unusual. All submissions must be made via email.

They ask that all authors, at minimum, include “a synopsis, a chapter outline, a brief biographical statement or résumé, and two sample chapters”. They try to respond within 12-15 weeks.

They also publish books for kids between the ages of 0-8 and you can learn more about their guidelines for children’s books [here](#).

To learn more about submitting work to them, go to their website [here](#). Please read their full guidelines carefully before submitting.

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 an accessible way. They are not seeking work that's unapproachable or academic.

In order to submit to them now, you must go to the main BenBella pitching 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 and horror genres. You can read their romance submission guidelines [here](#). You can read their horror guidelines [here](#). Both imprints are also covered in detail later in this book.

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](#).

Steerforth Press

Steerforth Press was launched in 1993, with a catalog featuring a “Manifesto for a New Press” which stated “Our interests fall into no category, no field, no niche; our tests of a book’s worth are whether it has been written well, is intended to engage the full attention of the reader, and has something new or important to say.”

The four founding partners were Michael Moore (1941 – 2014), Thomas Powers, Alan Lelchuk, and Chip Fleischer. As individuals they were already established and respected in their fields. They started out focusing on classic literature and new fiction, and published a number of well known books, including the book of poetry *Close to Death* by Patricia Smith, and *I Heard You Paint Houses* (the source material for Netflix’s *The Irishman*) by Charles Brandt, and *Under the Red Flag* by Ha Jin.

More recently they have focused on publishing narrative nonfiction. For non-agented submission they exclusively consider works of narrative nonfiction, such as investigative or literary journalism, true crime, and history for a general audience. You can see previous nonfiction books they’ve published listed [here](#). Do not submit to them unless you feel like your work is a good fit.

It is not clear if their imprint, T2P Books, is still active. It was launched last year, but the website for the imprint is not currently working.

In the US and Canada, Penguin Random house is their distributor. Their covers are mostly well designed.

Please send a query or proposal to submissions@steerforth.com. They do not accept unsolicited manuscript submissions.

To learn more, or submit, go [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 to Storey Publishing. Their mission is 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. In 2021 Workman Publishing became part of the Hachette Book Group. 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](#).

Square One Publishers

Square One Publishers focuses on publishing adult nonfiction books. They are looking for books by authors that are experts in their field. Their books are focused on meeting the needs of niche audiences. They are not a publisher of bestsellers, they have a specific market/markets and they cater to them.

Currently they are open to submissions about parenting, alternative health, personal finance, collectables, cooking, gambling, postcards, health, self-help, writing, and how to. They are based out of New York. They also publish memoir but are not currently open to unsolicited submissions of it.

They have been around for a while and they focus on print work. They seem to understand the markets they focus on and have a fair grasp of their readers. They were founded in 2000 by former Avery Publishing Group president Rudy Shur, and all of their editors had previous publishing experience before joining Square One. They appear to have a strong grasp of marketing.

It is important to browse their catalog so you can get a better feel for what they have previously published. You can do so [here](#).

When you submit, make sure to include a detailed cover letter outlining the book and its intended audience as well as a table of contents and an overview of the book. The submission packet should also include biographical information about you and any additional contributors. All submissions must be made by post and you must include a self-addressed and stamped envelope.

To learn more or to submit, visit their submissions page [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 Company in 2006. In 2021 Workman Publishing became part of the Hachette Book Group. 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 of 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 images of their work.

They accept emailed and postal submissions.

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

Titan Books

Titan Books is a UK based publisher. They are part of Titan Entertainment Group which you can learn more about [here](#).

They publish a wide range of non-fiction, fiction, and graphic novels, but most of the fiction and graphic novels they publish is licensed from overseas and they are only open to direct submissions in the other categories, or on authors interested in working on licensed fiction they have already contracted. You can get a good feel for what they publish by going [here](#).

This is what they are looking for currently in terms of nonfiction

Non-Fiction Film & TV

We are looking for strong proposals for popular, cult, science fiction, horror and fantasy film and TV reference and tie-in titles. We prefer writers who have a proven track record in this area (if not in books, then in newspapers or magazines) and good contacts in the film and TV industry. We do not publish or commission original scripts. We are also interested to hear from writers who would be interested in working on licensed publications we have already contracted.

Non-Fiction Art & Comics Reference

We are looking for strong proposals for these titles, preferably creator or character-led. We prefer writers who have a proven track record in this area, and good contacts in the art & comics world. We are also interested to hear from writers who would be interested in working on licensed publications we have already contracted. For all submissions they are interested in a brief synopsis and covering letter only, not a full manuscript. All submissions must be made through the post.

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

Thread

Thread is a new non-fiction imprint from [Bookouture](#) which is owned by Hachette. We never review presses that are less than two years old but we are open to reviewing new imprints of established presses and Thread very much falls into that category. Thread was launched in March 2020.

Thread focuses on a wide range of topics including self-development, personal finance, parenting, and as they phrase it, “inspirational memoir”. They talk about the first five titles they published [here](#). It’s helpful to review that list to get a feel for what they are interested in publishing.

Thread, like Bookouture, only publishes in digital formats. They publish both eBooks and audiobooks, but do not offer print versions. Very successful books from Bookouture have gone on to have print editions, often through imprints from Hachette.

As far as eBooks and audio books go, Thread seems to be very successful at reaching readers in terms of marketing. Their covers are satisfying. They have a respected editing team. Because they are new it’s hard to tell about author retention, but many authors have published multiple books with Bookouture, and some of those authors have gone on to publish nonfiction with Thread.

Authors receive 45% of what Thread makes from retailers from their book sales. This is higher than most traditional publishers.

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

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 a self-addressed stamped envelope and your email address. 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 the 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 have passed. They do not say anything about accepting or not accepting simultaneous submissions.

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

Victory Belt Publishing

Victory Belt Publishing is distributed by Penguin Random House, and are one of the biggest publishers in terms of the Ketogenic and Paleo diets, and have published a number of best selling cook books in those spaces, including *Against All Grain* by Danielle Walker. They've also published a lot of other health and wellness books, some directly related to diet, others to fitness. You can get a good feel for what they publish [here](#). They describe their mission as "Delivering cutting-edge resources that empower people to make healthy changes in their lives". They were founded in 2006 by New York Times bestselling author Erich Krauss.

As far as I can tell they are a traditional press, and they are very much focused on selling books rather than recruiting authors. They've also published a number of bestselling books. Some of the language on their site directed at authors, is language I associate with vanity presses, for example, the emphasis placed on partnership with authors. In this situation I do think they use this language because they are a vanity press, but because they largely publish authors that already have a foothold in the health and wellness space.

Victory Belt only accepts book proposals in PDF formats and they only respond to submissions they are interested in.

They ask that in the proposal you include "a Table of Contents, a sample of the material (10-20 of the most compelling pages, 5-10 recipes, photos/graphs/charts/illustrations, a sample chapter, etc) and the unique selling proposition of your title. In addition, provide a letter that details the concept of your book, the intended size/scope, your target readership, and your personal website/blog and social media channels."

To learn more, or to submit if you feel like you and your work is a good fit, go [here](#).

Wayne State University Press

Wayne State University Press is a publisher committed to supporting its parent institution's core research, teaching, and service mission by generating high-quality scholarly and general interest works of global importance. They focus on advancing education and serving the local community.

Before submitting a proposal to them, you need to verify that your work fits their mission. According to their website they are currently actively "acquiring books in African American studies; fairy-tale studies; film, television, and media studies; health humanities; Jewish studies; labor studies; and regional studies: books about the state of Michigan, the city of Detroit, and the Great Lakes region. We also acquire books of short fiction, creative nonfiction, and poetry written by Michigan authors in our Made in Michigan Writers Series."

Do not submit creative work to them of any kind if you are not a Michigan author.

To get a feeling for what they have published in the past, go [here](#).

Wayne State University Press does not publish unrevised dissertations or festschriften (which is a collection of writing honouring an author).

They ask that you submit your proposal to the appropriate acquisition editor. They list their acquisition editors [here](#), along with the rest of their submission guidelines. Please follow them exactly for your work to be considered. They respond to most submissions within 12 weeks.

Wesleyan University Press

Wesleyan University Press focuses on poetry, music, dance, science fiction studies, film-TV, and Connecticut history and culture. They have been actively publishing since 1957. Books they have published have won the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award. They are an established and respected university press.

Currently they are accepting proposals for books in the areas of dance and music. They are also open to submissions for their Hartford Books Imprint, which publishes nonfiction work focused on the area Hartford Connecticut. You can see the three previous titles they've published in this series [here](#).

Poetry submissions are currently closed.

Please inquire by email and include the following:

- cover letter
- a table of contents
- a sample chapter or two
- the anticipated length of the manuscript
- the anticipated date of completion (if still a work-in-progress)
- anticipated market for your book
- CV

Do not submit your completed manuscript unless they have directly requested it.

To learn more, you can see their submission guidelines [here](#).

Yale University Press

Yale University Press (YUP), like most university presses, is open to direct submissions and manuscript proposals. Yale University Press was established in 1908. You can learn more about their history [here](#), and can see their current catalog [here](#).

When you submit to YUP, submit to only one editor. The editors are listed [here](#). Please do your research before picking which one to submit to.

They only focus on publishing nonfiction, outside of the Margellos World Republic of Letters, an award-winning series of global literature in translation. That is overseen by [Abigail Storch](#) who says, "I am particularly interested in works by writers in Latin America, Africa, and the Caribbean."

Like most academic presses they are seeking qualified experts in their particular field to write books on that topic. For that reason they ask you submit a CV along with a more traditional submission packet.

To learn more of the details involved in submitting or proposing work to them, please go [here](#). Please carefully review their submission guidelines before submitting.

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

404 Ink is an Edinburgh based publisher that publishes fiction, nonfiction, short stories, and poetry. They are a small press that has different reading periods every year. You can 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, 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. They are not open to submissions for full length manuscript submissions and are unlikely to have an open reading period for them in 2023, but they plan to be open to submissions for their [Inklings](#) series in late 2023

11: 11 Press

11: 11 Press is an independent literary publisher based in Minneapolis, MN that was founded in 2018. They publish a wide range of literature but are currently only open to submissions for their fiction series *Nothing Exists Alone*.

This is how they describe the series:

"Expanding on our catalog of risk-taking work, this fiction series will challenge writers to explore themes of climate change, freshly. We are searching for stories that anchor spaciousness within the emotional intensity of this crisis, helping readers to confront and process its magnitude. Though the subject matter is urgent, the plots may not be big nor loud. Instead, we envision they'll hold the door for shaky relationships, common-store bargains, ambient loss, and all must lift the numbness we hold in place of fear."

The series editor is [Hanna Guido](#). The series was be open to submissions from Saturday, January 1st 2023, till Friday, April 1, 2023. They will in all likelihood have a reading period next year around the same time.

They are only interested in seeing complete manuscripts. To read full details in terms of their guidelines go [here](#). Please read them carefully.

This is what they have to say about reprints: "We are open to considering work that has been previously published and has fallen out of print as well as works in translation; if this is the case, please make a note in the cover letter including where (or in what language) the work was originally published, how long it has been out of print, confirmation that you control rights to the work and any other relevant information"

To get a feel for what they've previously published go [here](#). They've put this very handy submission advice page [here](#). I like their covers. I wish they disclosed more about their distribution but otherwise their FAQ is [helpful](#).

To learn more or to submit to Nothing Exists Alone, go to their submission manager [here](#). For their general submissions page (currently closed), go [here](#).

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](#).

Apocalypse Party

A small press based out of Pennsylvania, Apocalypse Party says the following about the books they publish: "Our books wobble in the frame of reality and dissect the prism of surreality. These books tend to be difficult to categorize under one banner, but together they form a kaleidoscopic mirror of an increasingly bleak world. However, we're far from hopeless. We like to have fun, thrive on absurdity, and believe in the power of art."

They have been actively publishing work since 2018. The work they publish includes novels, novellas, short story collections, and hybrid work. They only publish a few books a year, and they all fit the description I shared above.

To get a feel for what they publish, and their generally amazing covers, go [here](#). They are a small operation. Please spend time with the work that they've previously published, and query only if you feel like your work would fit on the same shelf as those books.

They ask that you submit your cover letter and manuscript via email.

They pay authors 50% of net revenue for print and eBooks. They ask for world wide rights. They do not disclose who their distributor is.

To learn more, 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.

They are not great at responding to submissions unless they are interested, even though their website says otherwise, many of our subscribers have never heard back from them.

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

Bluemoose Books

Bluemoose Books is an award winning independent publisher based in the UK. It was founded by Kevin and Hetha Duffy. For a small press, the books they have published have gone on to win major prizes, including the Walter Scott Prize, Portico Literature Prize, and many more have been long and shortlisted. They are a small press that focuses on publishing only a few literary novels per year.

You can get a feel for the books they publish [here](#). They have excellent covers. They don't disclose their distributor but because they've had books featured in major reading programs in the UK, I assume that the distribution within the UK is good.

All submissions must be made via email. They only publish adult novels, generally of the literary variety. They ask that you send the first three chapters and a synopsis. They try to respond to all submissions within 24 weeks, but if you have not heard from them during that span of time, they are not interested. Do not submit your work for consideration unless you think it is a good fit.

To see their submission guidelines visit their [about page](#), and scroll down.

CLASH Books

CLASH started in 2015, they also publish CLASH Magazine. 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](#). At the time of my most recent update their announced reading periods are on October 1, 2023 at 9 AM CT, for fiction and non-fiction.

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 authors 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. In 2021 they acquired Dalkey Press and started to charge writers and/or the institutions they work for. Please email us at support@authorspublish.com if you contact Deep Vellum and they ask for money in order to publish your manuscript. This is not appropriate for a traditional publisher.

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.

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

Douglas & McIntyre

Douglas & McIntyre is one of Canada's preeminent 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 [Can-Submit](#). 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 staff that now has around six years of experience. They also have good distribution within the UK and excellent covers. They do not disclose royalty rates.

Their authors have been longlisted for the Women's Prize for Fiction, the Walter Scott Prize for Historical Fiction and the Republic of Consciousness Prize, and shortlisted for the Diverse Book Awards, the Paul Torday Prize and the BBC National Short Story Award.

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.

You can learn more about their submission guidelines [here](#).

At the time of this update they are only open to short story submissions.

Game Over Books

A small press based out of Boston, Game Over Books was founded in 2017 and has funded their small press through a mix of Kickstarter fundraising and book sales. They also have a Paetron. Their staff page is [here](#), if you want to learn more about their team.

They also have more recently started offering editing services. I've talked about this before but I have really mixed feelings about this, and really warn anyone against being re-directed from submissions to editing services. If that happens, please reach out to me at support@authorspublish.com and I'll update the review accordingly.

Their covers are generally excellent, and all of the books they've published that I've read are terrific.

This is what they have to say about the type of books they publish "Game Over Books is looking to publish work that is entertaining and thought-provoking, cheery, dark, or otherwise. The type of work that makes you say "oh shit!" and you have to pause and look around to make sure no one actually heard you say that out loud."

I do really like that they're transparent about contracts, and share a sample one [here](#).

They do not have a distributor that I know of but they are very active at promoting books through social media and regularly attend book fairs and writer conferences.

In 2023 they hosted their 7th open reading periods. They've split out prose and poetry submissions. Starting on March 8TH through the 22nd they are accepting prose

submissions through Submittable. Prose work they are interested in include novels, novellas, short story collections.

The poetry reading period (full-length, chapbooks, etc) will be from 5/1/23 to 5/31/23. They ask that hybrid work be submitted during the poetry reading period.

They have not announced their 8th reading period yet.

Please read and follow their detailed guidelines [here](#). You can get a good feel for what they've published in the past [here](#).

Gibson House Press

Gibson House Press is an independent publisher that publishes 1-2 books a year. They have good covers, and a clear easy to navigate website. Although one of my impressions from the website is that they are equally focused on recruiting authors as they are recruiting readers. This is often not a good sign, and is unusual for a publisher that produces so few books a year. But part of why they might do that, is that their focus is rather niche, as they put it, "We publish excellent novels written by working musicians and musicians at heart."

Many of the authors they work with are musicians like [Junior Burke](#), but some like [Amy Casey](#), appear not to be, although music still seems to play a major role in the novel, they've published by her, which has a playlist to go with it. They officially state "We consider adult literary fiction by writers in any genre/subject matter, especially the work of those traditionally underrepresented in literary publishing," but I probably would hold off submitting if music doesn't play some sort of roll in your fiction or if you are not a musician. Please spend some time on their website with their [catalog](#) before considering submitting to see if your work is a good fit.

Some of their novels have sold well and gathered a fair number of reviews for small press books on amazon (around 50). They are distributed by Publishers group West (an imprint of Ingram that represents a number of well known publishers, and is much more focused on distribution than the overarching Ingram brand).

They ask that writers submit complete full length novels that are between 50,000 and 80,000 words in length. Also submit a cover letter that includes a brief bio and a synopsis of your novel. If they are interested they will contact you in three months, if they have not contacted you within this period of time, assume rejection.

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

Mad Creek Books

Mad Creek Books is the literary trade imprint of The Ohio State University Press. With a mission to foster creativity, innovate, and illuminate, Mad Creek Books champions diverse and creative literary nonfiction, fiction, and poetry.

They charge 7 dollars for general submissions and 25 dollars for the contests they run, but many of the imprint submissions are free, including their Latinographix series and the Machete nonfiction series. We are only listing them because of the free submission options.

This is what they say about their Latinographix series "This series showcases graphic novels, memoir, nonfiction, comic books, and more by Latinx writers and artists. The series welcomes projects with any balance of text and visual narrative, from larger graphic narratives to collections of vignettes or serial comics, in color or black and white, fiction or nonfiction."

The series editor is Frederick Luis Aldama, and you can learn more or submit to this series [here](#).

You can learn more about their other series [here](#).

You can see what they've previously published [here](#). Because they are part of a larger university press they should have decent distribution, although I was unable to find out who their distributor is.

Outpost19 Books

Outpost19 Books is a publisher of novels, memoirs, biographies, short fiction and essay collections, reportage and innovative hybrids. They are based in San Francisco and were established in 2011 as a digital only publisher. They have since expanded to print.

Their covers vary from excellent to amateurish. Many have received some press coverage, which is always a good sign. Their website is professional, easy to navigate, and geared towards readers, not writers.

You can get a feel for what they've published in the past by visiting their shop [here](#). Please get a feel for what they publish before submitting.

They ask, when you submit, to “Please prepare us for the work we’re about to encounter. Describe it briefly, and tell us a bit about yourself, including any previous projects, short or long, in print or other media.”

I’ve heard reports from readers now that their work was left pending for years in Submittable, which is not a good sign, but they continue to publish and accept new work.

One recent warning sign is that they started a new imprint in 2023 called The Shortish Project which they describe “as a new publishing program dedicated to short novels -- original fiction from 75 pages to 200 pages in length.” But they charge 80 dollars per submission and they describe it as “a paid ‘open-door’ program, open to all styles & genres, with limited gatekeeping, a low annual fee of \$80 and paying royalties of 70% print and digital editions.”

There are a lot of traditional presses that have vanity imprints, and as long the traditional arm doesn't re-direct to them, we still list them, but please reach out to us at support@authorspublish.com, if you are redirected.

This imprint or project is also very unlike any I've encountered before.

To learn more about submitting to their traditional imprint 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](#).

Publishing Genuis Press

This small literary press was founded in 2006 in Baltimore. It has since relocated to the Adirondack mountains.

Originally when they started out, according to a few Absolute Write Water Cooler posts, they did not pay their authors. You can see posts about this issue [here](#), although it's not clear if they did actually pay, and just chose the wrong words to convey that on their website. In any case, this is not an issue now, according to their website. For all book submissions they accept they say "We pay a small advance and traditional royalties on sales."

They also pay writers \$10 for shorter work that ends up being published on their website. Unfortunately they also charge \$2 to submit this work through Submittable, which goes against our guiding principles. They do not charge for manuscript submissions which are done through a form on their website, rather than through Submittable. They do encourage potential authors to [buy books](#) in order to get a better feel for what they publish.

They publish literary works including novels, memoirs, as well as short story, essay, and poetry collections and other nonfiction and work that defies easy classification. Only completed projects should be submitted.

When you are submitting they ask that you briefly describe your book including the length, a bio, and any additional information you want to include.

They don't appear to have any formal distribution beyond maybe Ingram, but they are active in terms of book fairs in the United States. Their covers are generally good and engaging.

They only publish a few books a year, and it is easy to get a feel for what they are drawn to by visiting their website [here](#). Please do not submit unless you feel like your work is a good potential fit.

To learn more, and to read their full submission guidelines, please visit their website [here](#).

Repeater Books

Repeater Books was founded in 2014 by Mark Fisher, Tariq Goddard, Etan Ilfeld, and others, as an imprint of [Watkins publishing](#), which has been around since 1983. You can learn more about them and their former and current staff [here](#). You can get a feel for the books they publish [here](#).

On [Watkins Media's main website](#) they describe Repeater as "Our new imprint specializing in counter-culture fiction and non-fiction, books that are guaranteed to create a discussion and inspire change." They are distributed by [Penguin Random House Publisher Services](#).

They accept submissions via Submittable. They try to respond to all submissions within 5 weeks. They do not "accept theses or proposals based on them". They stress that they "prefer complete manuscripts, but if you want to pitch something to us, please send a complete breakdown of the book you intend to write."

Their [Submittable page](#) has them currently listed as open to the following categories: Politics and culture; philosophy; literary, art music criticism; fiction/poetry; and other stuff.

When you click on each of the categories they do not go into specific details about what they are seeking in these categories. Other stuff, for example, is not defined at all, so it is really worth your time to spend time with their [catalogue](#), to know what they are actually seeking.

Because this site uses Submittable, they may close unexpectedly if there is a submission cap. If that happens they should re-open in a month.

Their Submittable page is [here](#), and their main submissions page is [here](#), although neither go into great detail, please follow the instructions they have laid out.

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](#). They have slowed their publication schedule, and the details are [here](#). As of March 1st 2023 they have been closed to book submissions but they do plan to reopen.

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](#).

Multi-Genre Publishers

The following publishers generally don't specialize in one genre, unless that genre is horror or speculative fiction.

Most publishers listed here are open to a wide range of genres. Some only have a couple areas of focus but don't fit in any other category very well.

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.

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.

In 2023 they also started accepting Thrillers, of all types, with a focus on Action, Political, and Military Thrillers

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 to 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](#).

AK Press

AK Press is a worker-managed, independent publisher and book distributor that focuses on publishing and distributing radical left and anarchist literature. They were founded in Scotland in 1990, but are now largely based in Chico, California.

Outside of nonfiction they also publish speculative fiction including science fiction, fantasy, steampunk, horror, and mystery works of 25,000 to 55,000 words, under their Black Dawn Imprint, inspired by Octavia Butler. You can learn more about that imprint [here](#).

Their distribution, both for themselves and others, is excellent, and they've distributed work by major authors, like Yaa Gyasi and Rutger Bregman. AK Press has released spoken word albums by figures such as Noam Chomsky, Howard Zinn, and Arundhati Roy, and they've published and reprinted many respected radical texts. To learn more about their current catalogue go [here](#). To learn more about the press in general go [here](#).

This is what they have to say about what they are seeking and the work they publish in general:

"As an anarchist collective, we're largely interested in works that reflect the rich traditions within anarchism (theory, history, art, culture, economics, labor) and related historical and contemporary movements. That said, we don't solely publish anarchists—but we do steer clear of anything advocating electoral politics or that looks to the State or capitalism for solutions. We make an effort to provide materials of use to activists, academics, and individuals in pursuit of intellectual self-defense and revolutionary social/economic change. Further, we welcome the opportunity to work with authors from diverse backgrounds."

They prefer emailed submissions, but also accept mailed submissions. Their full nonfiction guidelines are available [here](#). Please read the guidelines carefully before submitting.

Alcove Press

Alcove Press is a new imprint of the established publisher [Crooked Lane](#) . Alcove Press published their first book in September 2020.

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 Press's submission email address is [here](#).

AM Ink

AM Ink is a Western Massachusetts based press that publishes quality biographies, children's books, novels, and short story collections. They've published more than 60 titles, including bestsellers. They have also sold television rights, and had movies made from their books.

They have two imprints. Dark Ink, their horror imprint, has released everything from celebrity biographies like Kane Hodder, to novels and short story collections. Most of what they publish falls under the Dark Ink Imprint.

Spooky Ink, their children's imprint, publishes scary picture books for children and young adult novels.

They also publish work directly under the AM Ink name, presumably, because there are books in their store that don't fall clearly into either category. You can see these books [here](#).

Their book covers vary wildly, in terms of quality.

They do not publish Fantasy, Historical Fiction, Romance, Middle Grade, YA, Sci-Fi, Military, Poetry, Gothic Fiction, Children's Chapter Books, Religion, Literary Fiction or Political based books.

Novels, non-fiction, and short story collections must be over 60,000 words to be considered and they only consider children's books that have been fully illustrated and are over 24 pages in length.

They now have different reading periods for different genres:

Short Story Collections - June Only

Horror Novels - July Only
Children's Books - Any Time
Film Related Titles -Any Time
All Other Titles - June 1st to August 1st

They do not disclose distribution on their website.

All work they accept by non-celebrities will be scheduled for publication in 2024 or later.

They are always open to children's books and film related titles. They now have limited submission windows for horror novels, short story collections and all other titles. To learn more, go [here](#).

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](#).

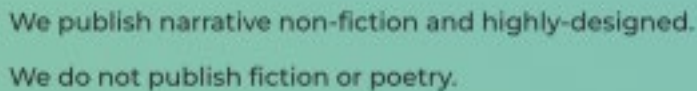
Apollo Publishers

Apollo Publishers was founded in 2016 and published their first books in 2018.

You can learn more about Apollo Publishers' start [here](#). A number of the editors and employees are experienced in the publishing industry, which is always a good sign.

You can learn more about the current team behind Apollo Publishers [here](#).

Apollo Publishers focuses on publishing "timely and topical nonfiction for adult trade audiences." Mostly, they focus on narrative nonfiction, although they mention on their website that they are also interested in nonfiction that was "highly designed," which I wasn't sure how to interpret.



We publish narrative non-fiction and highly-designed.
We do not publish fiction or poetry.

You can get a feel for what they have previously published [here](#).

The website is pretty well laid out and focused more on promoting books than recruiting writers. Their distributor is Ingram Publishers Services, which is not ideal as they will take on pretty much anyone. They distribute both major and minor presses, as well as self published authors.

To submit, go to [this page](#) and scan down. Their submission guidelines are limited and submissions can be made via email or a form.

They have had serious issues in the past with keeping their website up to date. They seem to have fixed these issues.

They only ask that you "Please include a short book description and author bio."

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.

Artemesia Publishing

Artemesia Publishing was founded in 2004, and they describe themselves as a micro-publisher. Although based on the titles section of their [website](#) they publish work at the rate of one title per month, which is actually a lot more than many other small presses. They started out focused on non-fiction, particularly inspirational stories, but have since expanded into other genres, including Children's fiction, YA, and genre fiction (mystery, sci-fi, etc).

They are based in New Mexico, and are distributed by IPG Books, as well as other distributors. They are fairly active on [FB](#) and use it to promote the authors they publish and their books. To get a good idea for what they actually publish they really encourage potential authors to purchase books first, which you can do [here](#). On that page you can also see that the covers are a bit hit and miss, and always lean towards the more old fashioned side of things. But a lot of them are genre appropriate, which is important.

Their website is also a little old fashioned but it is easy to use and seems frequently updated. I also like how transparent they are on [this page](#), where they break down what they do as a publisher. They disclose some important information on this page, but also play some things close to the chest. They are upfront about paying advances, and about paying royalties off net (not ideal), but other than saying it is a higher percentage than 10% they don't disclose the details of this payment. They disclose that they do a content and a copy edit, which is also a good sign. They also disclose that they have about a 9-12 month turnaround time for publishing work, which is on the quicker side of things.

They do not publish poetry or sexually explicit material.

They only consider proposals, for both fiction and non-fiction. They share what they want that proposal to contain [here](#). You can submit via the post or email, but please only submit if you feel like your work is a good potential fit.

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

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.

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](#). They are not open to submissions at the time of updating.

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 20 and 30 works each year, and very few are published based on unsolicited submissions.

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

I am not a huge fan of the covers or of the design of the website, but that is a matter of personal taste. They do seem to be actively trying to make audiobook versions of their books, and that's a good sign. I did notice a couple of typos on their website.

They seem to lean Republican based on this 2022 [publication](#).

They are a rather small publisher, so they do expect their authors to do a lot of self-promotion. They are now producing more and more [audio books](#), which seems like a good idea.

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 only open to nonfiction queries.

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](#).

Blackwater Press

Blackwater Press is a new small press based in West Virginia, with an international team of editors. They also run an editorial consultancy, but when I reached out to the press directly the editors informed me that they did not direct writers submitting to the press to their editorial services and that they don't accept work they edited at their press.

They were prompt and forthcoming with the information, which is usually a good sign. In the very unlikely event that you do get re-directed, please email me at support@authorspublish.com.

They publish fiction, non-fiction, essay collections, short story collections, novellas, and memoir manuscripts. They are not interested in erotica or genre fiction. They are open to agented and un-agented queries. What is really rare is that they are open to unfinished manuscripts.

The covers are generally excellent and intriguing. They have not been around for very long. They have only been actively publishing for a little over a year.

They prefer book-length titles to be over 30,000 words. For short story collections, they ask that the majority of the work is previously unpublished. It was not clear if they had distribution or not.

All submissions must be made via email. Simultaneous submissions are allowed. When you submit please include Word document or PDF version of the opening chapters, and separate one page synopsis. If the work is uncompleted, please include a timeline for completion, and projected length. In the submission email they ask that you do the following.

- Format subject as name followed by type of submission (e.g. John Smith – Non-fiction)
- Include all contact details
- Include a brief biography
- Mention target audience and comparable title

Their full submission guidelines are [here](#). They are also interested in submissions about Interesting Lives which you can learn more about [here](#).

At the time of updating the guide they are closed to submissions.

Blair

Blair is a nonprofit press combining the lists of Carolina Wren Press and John F. Blair, Publisher. To learn more about the history of both presses which merged in 2018, go [here](#).

Based in the South, with roots in North Carolina, they strive to publish quality writing with a focus on authors and subjects historically neglected by mainstream publishers. This includes women, people of color, authors with disabilities, and LGBTQ+ authors. They take their inspiration from the many voices of the Southern US, and beyond. They publish poetry, literary fiction, and nonfiction. To get a good feel for what they publish, go [here](#).

They only accept nonfiction directly from authors (as well as agents). Submissions of nonfiction proposals must be submitted via email. You can learn more [here](#).

To submit unsolicited fiction, memoir, or poetry, you must do so through their contests, which generally do not have a submission fee. If they have an open contest, you can view the details [here](#).

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

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](#).

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.

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](#), and a [submission guideline 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 often not open to submissions in that genre.

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.

At the time of this update they are closed to submissions. 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 many more titles than is typical 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 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.

Their books are distributed by Ingram, which isn't ideal. Though, they also work with a variety of book wholesalers, which is helpful.

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.

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 a strong promotional plan.

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

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

Castle Bridge Media

Castle Bridge Media is an independent publisher that focuses on genre fiction, particularly horror, science fiction, thriller and fantasy. They accept direct submissions and also submissions from agents. They appear to list most of their agented deals on Publishers Marketplace, so if you're interested in seeing what they've accepted recently, and have a Publishers Marketplace membership, I encourage you to visit their listing [here](#). They are based in Denver, Colorado.

They are fairly active on social media including [TikTok](#) and [Facebook](#). On their [about](#) page, it's hard to learn much about the company and who is actually running it but they link to the media coverage their books have received, which is a good sign. I was able to do a little bit of Twitter detective work and discover that the co-publishers are [In Churl Yo](#) and [Jason Henderson](#).

You can get a good feeling for what they've published previously by visiting their catalog [here](#). You can get a good feeling for the covers, which I think are a bit of a mixed bag, but mostly genre appropriate. They have published a number of anthologies but submitting to those is based on invitation only. I was not able to ascertain who their distributor is.

They have [an imprint](#) that publishes books for younger readers, but they have so far only published one series, and don't appear to be open to submissions.

They accept all submissions through Query Manager. Manuscripts they publish are between 80,000 and 120,000 words in length. They allow simultaneous submissions and try to respond to queries within six months.

To learn more you can go [here](#). Read their submission guidelines carefully, and please make sure manuscript fit is good, before submitting.

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 is because of the fact that this practice no longer takes place and has not for years.

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

Make sure to review their submission guidelines carefully before submitting your work. They have separate guidelines for children's books, so make sure you are reviewing the correct guidelines for your manuscript. They accept manuscripts via email. They also are open to general submissions from freelance writers who would be open to working on a variety of books.

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.

City of Light Publishing

City of Light Publishing is a small press, with many imprints, based out of Buffalo, New York. In some ways City of Light is a new press, they only came to be known by this name in 2019, when they started to have more of a national, and international reach. Before that previous iterations were called Canisius College Press and Buffalo Heritage Press. You can learn more about their history [here](#).

They are distributed by [IPG](#), which had a bit of a mixed reputation in the past, but a fairly good recent track record, and a wide reach. It's one of the biggest distributors in the United States now.

They have six imprints, all with separate submission guidelines.

CrissCross AppleSauce is their children's picture book imprint. The covers are mostly excellent, and you can see their full catalog [here](#), to get a feeling for what they might be interested in publishing. They have a pretty substantial back catalog. Their submission guidelines are [here](#).

Cross Your Fingers is their early readers and middle grade imprint. You can read their submission guidelines [here](#). They have only published a few books in this category.

Cross Your Heart, their young adult imprint is even less established, as nothing is listed. I'm always nervous about publishers entering a new market for the first time, even if they are semi-established elsewhere, so that's something to keep in mind if you submit to Cross Your Heart. To see their submission guidelines go [here](#).

New Idea Press, is their non-fiction imprint, which has already published a wide variety of books, that you can read about [here](#). You can learn more about their submission guidelines [here](#).

Blacklight Press is their fiction imprint, which they describe as publishing "stories from new perspectives, with diverse, interesting characters." Their submission guidelines are [here](#). You can see all their fiction books listed [here](#), and it's clear that they have more limited experience in this area.

Buffalo Heritage Press, one of the previous names for the press as a whole, is still going strong as an imprint. It's not a surprise that this imprint focuses on "Buffalo authors telling Buffalo stories. These stories can be fictional or non-fiction. You can read their guidelines [here](#), and see their back catalogue [here](#).

To learn more visit their general submission guidelines [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 they 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. Not all editors are open to submissions, but at least two generally are.

They also answer some very helpful frequently asked questions if you scroll down on the submission guidelines. They accept previously published work as long as the rights belong to you.

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

Cleis Press

Cleis Press is the largest independent sexuality publishing company in the United States, and they focus on LGBTQ, BDSM, romance, and erotic writing for all sexual preferences.

They publish LGBTQ+ nonfiction as well as nonfiction on the topic of sex and sexuality, including self-help, sexual guides, LGBTQ+ and/or women's studies, feminism, dating and relationships, sexual health, and memoir.

They also publish erotic fiction. You can see their complete back catalogue [here](#). Their covers run the gamut from good to genre appropriate, to

They have detailed and specific submission guidelines that you must follow in order to submit. You can read them [here](#). If you have not heard from them 10 weeks after submitting, assume rejection. All submissions must be made via email.

I originally published this review when Absolute Writes was down, but it is now back up, and it's clear Cleis has had serious issues in the past, and as of 2018, did not have an ideal contract. To learn more go [here](#).

To get a feel for what they are releasing right now, go [here](#).

Codhill Press

Founded in 1998 by David Appelbaum, then editor of Parabola Magazine, Codhill Press has always focused on publishing books for the "serious seeker", and most books contain a spiritual element, many are still rooted in Buddhism. This includes work of fiction, poetry (including a chapbook series), and creative nonfiction. Their mission statement from the start has been *"There is no more important function of writing at this time than to call us to awaken. The state of siege under which human consciousness—human conscience—is living has not abated in the time since Blake wrote. The seriousness of the situation has only intensified. To serve our memory of what is truly important: to that the writer should be a guide."*

They publish between four and six books a year. They also run a yearly poetry contest. The current publisher is Susannah Appelbaum.

Because they publish so few books a year, please spend time on their site, researching the books they [previously published](#) to ascertain if your work is a good potential fit before submitting. One of the reasons we stress this, particularly with small publishers, is that often publishers we review get deluged with submissions that do not in any way fit, and they then have to close to submissions, sometimes permanently, sometimes temporarily. Our mission is to make information more accessible, but when subscribers abuse that information it can cause longterm harm.

They respond to all submissions they are interested in within 90 days, and if you have not heard back from them by that time, assume rejection.

They do not disclose who their distributor is.

To learn more about their submission guidelines go [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.

Their books are distributed by Ingram, which isn't ideal. Though, they also work with a variety of book wholesalers, which is helpful.

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.

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](#).

Dancing Lemur Press

Dancing Lemur Press is a small US Press that has been actively publishing work since 2009. They are based in North Carolina and seem to regularly participate in local events.

They don't have active distribution, which is to say that although they are distributed with Ingram, Ingram is not actively involved in placing their books in bookstores. On their about page they also don't disclose who works there.

Their main page focuses on promoting books versus recruiting authors, which is a good starting point. Their covers strike me as not particularly good, but you can judge for yourself [here](#).

They are currently open to the following genres:

Science fiction: Prefer adventure/space opera and military genres.

Fantasy - Paranormal: Prefer paranormal, open to others.

Middle Grade: All genres, especially historical. No picture books - chapter books only.

Christian: Inspirational and contemporary fiction.

They specify that "Salacious, negative, and R-rated material will not be considered." They also won't consider "memoirs, YA outside of contemporary, westerns, lgbtq+, poetry, text books, business, spiritual outside of Christianity, adult romance, strong horror, etc."

To me the ban on LGBTQ+ submitters stands out as not a good sign. Although most Christian publishers do not accept content containing LGBTQ+ material they do not explicitly state it. I was conflicted about reviewing this press because of this.

They accept submissions via post and email. They say that they have between a 2 and 4 week response time, which is very fast. They also run an imprint called Freedom Fox which is for more marketing savvy writers, and has different guidelines.

The submission guidelines also ask that you include a marketing plan. This makes it clear that ultimately the author holds most of the responsibility for marketing when publishing them. You can review their full submission guidelines [here](#). You must follow all of their submission guidelines to get a response.

duopress

I'm hesitant to remove them from the guide, but during this update their website is down, so it's impossible to verify if they are currently open to submissions.

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.

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.

Currently they state they are closed to submissions for now. You can check to see if they are open to new submissions, by going [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.

Farrago

Farrago, is an imprint of [Duckworth Publishing](#) (please read if you're considering submitting to Farrago). Farrago's tagline is "fiction to make you smile". All of the work they publish from mysteries to science fiction, have humor at the core. They do not publish memoir. You can get a good feeling for what they publish [here](#). Through their website they only sell eBooks but print versions are available on other sites. They have good distribution and are available at most mainstream UK booksellers.

The covers of their work are well designed and genre appropriate.

They ask that all submissions be made via email and include the following:

- A one page synopsis
- Two to three sample chapters, or better yet the completed manuscript
- Your CV outlining your writing experience

To learn their submission email address go [here](#).

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 blurbed 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. Their 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.

Golden Storyline Press

This small press bills itself as "is an independent traditional publisher with an ethos that matches our origins." They are open to publish a wide range of nonfiction and fiction books including, "Mystery/Thriller, Crime Fiction, Sci-fi/ Fantasy, Young Adult, Woman's Fiction, Historical Fiction and Suspense/ Psychological." They list memoir among the many nonfiction genres they are open to.

Based on the 34 books currently listed on [their site](#), they very much seem to generally favor thrillers and fantasies with a few exceptions. This could be interpreted as a good sign that they've discovered what their audience is most interested in. I couldn't really see examples of young adult or woman's fiction listed here, and very little nonfiction.

Their covers vary from passable to extremely dated. They do publish work in paperback as well as digital editions, although they appear to publish digital editions first.

Their website does a fairly good job at focusing in on the more recent publications on the landing page, which very much seems focused on readers over writers, which is a good sign. Although their featured recent publications stretch back almost three years. Although one of the books I looked into further was listed on the site as being published in November 2022 and on Amazon it's listed as being published on Jan 15th 2023, so they could be publishing even more books per year than it initially appears.

On their [about page](#), and elsewhere on the site, they talk about a global distribution network and promotion using vague language, with no actual proof or details. There are no named distributors, and they don't have a list of publications that have featured reviews of their authors, etc. More telling than that is the level of

attention/engagement their books seem to receive. Most of their books have between 1-6 users rank it by clicking on the Amazon stars, and between 0-3 actual reviews.

A lot of the pages that should contain substantial information -- like the publishing process one, don't disclose helpful information about what their publishing process is. The about page talks a lot about general ideas, and not when they were founded and who was involved. It's hard to know much about the staff/editorial process based on what they disclose, and the only name I managed to track down in connection to the press was the managing editor, David MacDonald, although I couldn't find out anything more about him or his experience.

Having seen a contract, thanks to an anonymous source, I can confirm that the royalties are based off of net (never as ideal as gross but standard for small presses) and that they are asking for a significant percentage of adaptation rights, which for me sets off some warning bells.

This is the sort of small press that seems to be the best fit for authors who have had a hard time finding an agent or larger traditional publisher, who also don't want to deal with the logistics of self publishing,

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

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](#).

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 2021 they 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](#).

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](#).

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.

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.

They are closed to submissions at this time. To learn more about submitting in the future, visit their website [here](#).

Hera

Hera is a new female-led, independent digital publisher. They focus exclusively on publishing commercial books, including psychological suspense, police procedural, and thrillers, 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](#).

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 also have an imprint focused on children's books as well as YA.

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](#).

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](#).

Interlude Press

Interlude Press and Duet Books for YA are boutique publishers of award-winning LGBTQ+ fiction. Books they have published have won including Lambda Literary Awards, IBPA Benjamin Franklin Awards, and Foreword INDIES Book of the Year Awards. They have also gotten lots of press and accolades. They only publish fiction and are interested in a wide array of genres including romance and science fiction although all must feature LGBTQ+ characters and treat "the readers, the characters, and the community with respect".

I am reviewing them together, because unlike most imprints with more than one name, their submission guidelines and website cover both presses/imprints, and it would be very tricky to untangle them in a way that would make sense to readers.

Both are looking for original novels with diverse casts, featuring lead characters from across the LGBTQ+ spectrum. They encourage manuscripts written by authors from all backgrounds.

They were acquired in Jan 2022 by Chicago Review Press, and you can read more about that [here](#).

You can get a feel for what they publish [here](#). Their covers run the gamut from wonderful to amateurish. Their distribution is through IPG and Ingram. I have seen several of their books in bookstores over the past year, and some have gotten a lot of press.

They do not accept simultaneous submissions and are not interested in books that promote rape culture. They also do not publish anything containing graphic sexual content between minors, or "gay for pay".

Submitted manuscripts must be 60,000 to 90,000 words.

To learn more, please read their submission guidelines [here](#). Follow their submission guidelines carefully. Please note that the catalog they link to on that page is out of date, and it is much more helpful to visit their [bookstore](#) to get a good feel for what they are publishing currently.

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 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](#). They've published some very popular books, including *The Lost Apothecary* by Sarah Penner.

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](#). They are currently closed to submissions but in the past have been open to submissions in the early fall.

Literary Wanderlust

Literary Wanderlust is a Denver based independent publisher. They were founded in 2014 and they publish print and digital books.

They currently are only open to publishing the following genres:

- Adult Romance (all sub-genres and heat levels)
- Adult Paranormal and Urban Fantasy
- Adult Crime, Mystery, and Thriller Fiction
- Adult LGBTQ
- YA Science Fiction and Fantasy

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.

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 must go through the submissions manager.

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](#).

Monkfish

Monkfish is an independent press that focuses on publishing religious, spiritual, and literary books from a diverse range of perspectives. They have published memoirs, fiction, scholarly works, and wisdom literature, which you can get a better feel for by downloading the catalog [here](#). They publish debut authors, as well as backlist work. They are based in Rhinebeck, NY.

Monkfish books are distributed in the US by Consortium Book Sales and Distribution. In Canada they are distributed by Publishers Group Canada and Raincoast. Beyond that they are distributed by Macmillan. I have seen their books in bookstores, personally.

They do not publish poetry or work aimed at Children. If you think your work would be a good fit for them, please query first with a brief description of the work, any advance endorsements the book has received, a short author bio, and an explanation of why you think Monkfish is the right publisher for your work. This means you should spend time with their catalogue and ideally their books, before submitting.

Only query with completed manuscripts. If they are interested they will ask for the complete manuscript and a book proposal, which should "include a 250 word description of the book, a 100-150 word author bio that includes previous titles published, and an explanation as to why the author is the right person to write the book submitted. It should also include similar titles published within the last five years with an explanation as to how your book is different. Lastly, the book proposal should also include a marketing plan which focuses on the resources you, as the author, can bring to the marketing of your book."

They only respond to submissions they are interested in.

They accept submissions via mail, reluctantly, and much preferred emailed submissions.

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

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 an 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](#).

One More Chapter

One More Chapter, HarperCollins UK's award-winning digital-first publisher, is currently open to submissions. They focus on publishing commercial fiction. Because they are a digital-first publisher, even though they are based in the UK, their eBooks are accessible globally. They don't have any mentioned geographic limitations in terms of submitting authors either, which is why we are reviewing them.

They are currently open to the following genres:

- Crime & thriller
- Historical
- Romance
- Contemporary
- YA fantasy

You can get a feel for what they've published in the past by going to their main page [here](#). You can learn more about their editors [here](#).

The one section of their website that I found lacking was the fact that they never fully explain what they mean by digital-first, because the term has been used by publishers and imprints over the years to mean many things. Sometimes it would mean that the book would only be available in print format later on if a certain number of copies were sold, other times print publication were guaranteed but print on demand only. Please keep this in mind if you only want to work with a publisher that will print your book, although as an eBook publisher, it's clear they do a good job in terms of marketing and sales.

To read their full submission guidelines, please visit their submittable page [here](#). At the time of this update they are open to submissions and have not yet announced a closing date.

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 within 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.

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.

Young Adult Fiction

“Please include a query (1 page) 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.”

In this section of their website there is a link that says “Call for YA Proposals for Marginalized Creators.” This link was broken at the time of my last update.

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.”

Horror Fiction (Adult)

This is a new genre for them. They ask that you submit three chapters and a query including a book synopsis and an author bio.

To learn more about submitting to them, please 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](#).

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 around 30 titles a year. They now focus on publishing adult nonfiction, including art/architecture books, cooking/cookbooks, culture, biography, humor, music, sports, and young adult fiction and nonfiction including regional history, biography, and adventure. They also publish middle readers including regional history, cooking, and adventure, as well as juvenile picture books including holiday, regional history, biography, adventure

They were purchased by Arcadia Publishing in 2019 and at first there were no major changes, but now their web presence has shifted to the Arcadia website and they've changed some of their genre requirements. Since the move their covers have generally improved. 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](#).

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](#).

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](#).

PM Press

PM Press is an independent, radical publisher of books and media. It was founded in 2007 by AK Press founder Ramsey Kanaan and several other members of AK Press. The goal of PM Press is to amplify the voices of radical authors, artists, and activists, and they publish a wide range of material, from speculative fiction anthologies, to coloring books to nonfiction work on mutual aid and unschooling.

You can see books they've recently published [here](#). Many of the authors they've published are famous and well regarded, or experts in a niche field.

At the very top of their submission guidelines they warn that they are scheduled pretty tightly for the next two years, but they are still open to submissions. As they put it: "We are accepting submissions, though to be honest, we're pretty much booked for two years. We will, however, take a look at what you send us and get back to you. There's always a chance, but just so you know, it's pretty slim."

They try to respond to all submissions within two months. They accept submissions via email and the post, but vastly prefer emailed submissions.

Their submission guidelines are comprehensive and detail oriented. You can learn more about them [here](#). Please follow them carefully.

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](#).

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 post calls for authors of "Quirk generated ideas". They are actively seeking submissions for two of these ideas right now, they are listed above the editors on the submissions guidelines page.

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](#). They are currently closed to unsolicited submissions but plan to reopen.

Radix Media

Radix Media describes themselves as "prioritizing the voices of typically marginalized communities to get to the root of the human experience. The name Radix comes from the Latin root of the word *radical*, meaning *to get to the root*."

They are currently accepting manuscripts for Full-Length Poetry, Chapbooks, Novellas, and Visual Narratives, as well as manuscript excerpts for Novels, Essay Collections, and Memoirs. They state "We especially love stories that intersect with progressive/radical politics and social justice". Please do not submit any work to them that does not fit within the scope of what they publish. You can get a better feel for what they have published in the past [here](#).

They have very specific submissions guidelines that you must follow to the letter, [here](#).

They started out in 2010 with custom made stationery and short runs of political pamphlets, but in 2018 expanded into literary publishing. All of their titles are edited, typeset, designed, and produced in-house, and the covers are very impressive.

They are still also a commercial print shop, offering offset, letterpress, and digital printing services - but if you submit to the traditional press, and get redirected to digital publishing services, please send us an email at support@authorspublish.com. It is becoming more commonplace to offer paid services as well as traditional publishing, and it is OK, as long as the publisher does not re-direct submitting authors from traditional options to paid one.

Rogue Phoenix Press

Founded in 2008 by a mother and son team, Rogue Phoenix Press is one of the few eBook focused and Print on Demand publishers that survived from that period.

There's an extensive thread on them in the [water cooler](#) at Absolute Writes that is very informative. They originally forced authors to buy copies of their own book, but that clause very much seems to have gone by the wayside, it still seems like an option to buy print on demand copies, but is in no way a requirement according to this [page](#).

The thread at the water cooler goes along with a lot of my feelings about the site and the publisher, which is still active and regularly publishing new work, so it is very much worth reading. Christine Young is the co-owner, and as you can see based on their [new releases](#) section, the author they publish the most frequently.

On their submission guidelines page they list a wide range of [genres](#), and specify that they are open to others as well.

They've also clearly updated their submission guidelines recently, as this note is included **“We do not accept manuscripts partially or completely generated by AI (artificial intelligence) software such as ChatGPT.”**

They are not going to place work in brick-and-mortar bookstores, and all of the promotion is up to the author.

Their complete submission guidelines are [here](#). At the time of this update they were not open to submissions.

Roxane Gay Books

Roxane Gay Books is a new imprint of Grove Atlantic. Roxane Gay has written about this new imprint [here](#). Roxane Gay is the award-winning and bestselling author of a number of books including *Hunger* and *Bad Feminist*. She's a respected essayist, professor of writing, and one of the original co-founders of PANK.

Roxane Gay Books accepts submissions from both agented and unagented writers at least once a year, usually during the summer.

This is what Roxane Gay has to say about what she plans to publish:

“I am going to publish books I love from interesting writers. That could, of course, mean anything. I am looking for beautifully written, compelling books that challenge, delight, and entertain readers. I love literary fiction but your story has to have an interesting plot. Things have to happen. I want books I simply cannot put down and that, when I finish, I can't stop thinking about. I love stories about difficult women. I welcome your so-called unlikable protagonists. I enjoy dark, gritty stories but I am also open to happy, joyful but unsentimental stories that reflect faith in the overall goodness of humanity.”

Roxane Gay Books prioritizes underrepresented writers.

The imprint will publish novels, short fiction, memoir, essay collections, and nonfiction. She adds the additional disclaimer, “Most genres are welcome but my tastes skew to not only literary fiction but contemporary romance, and science fiction and fantasy. I am always open to being surprised but I will not likely be drawn to stories about sad white people marriages or autofiction. I am not interested in police propaganda narratives. Historical fiction, Westerns and the like will be a hard sell and there are other imprints that are a better fit for those stories.”

Additional information about what she is looking for is available [here](#). It should be read carefully and thoroughly before you submit. All submissions will be responded to, although not personally.

Submissions must be submitted via Submittable. Response times should be between three and six months. There is no official deadline in which the imprint will close for submissions. She's made it clear that it will not always be open to direct submissions, and that it depends on volume. If the imprint closes to submissions because of this review that is very understandable, and it may well open again soon. Please check back.

To learn more about their submission guidelines, go [here](#). At the time of this update they were only open to agented submissions.

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.

Sapere 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 print and digital 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.

They are currently closed to fontlist books, but are open to submissions of books that have gone out of print. 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. Ensign Peak is no longer open to unagented submissions.

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.

As of 2022 they are only open to submissions for the following periods, presumably on an annual basis:

- March 1 through March 7
- June 1 through June 7
- September 1 through September 7
- December 1 through December 7

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

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](#).

Small Town Girl

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 were founded in 2018. 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 just started a new imprint called Small Town Girl. They are looking for manuscripts that take place in or about the 80's. Fiction and non-fiction is allowed.

When you submit they ask that you include a query letter, synopsis, first chapter, author bio, as well as a marketing plan. The marketing plan should discuss your author platform, its scope, and the ways in which you plan to reach potential reviewers and readers. Please link to your website, social media, etc. They are also interested in any other promotional opportunities you have access to.

To learn more go [here](#).

Stone Pier Press

Stone Pier Press is a niche publisher that describes themselves as "an environmental publishing company with a food focus". They are a San Francisco based non-profit that is focused towards a climate-friendly food system. They say they do this by "publishing [good books](#) about good food and producing [solutions-oriented news](#) and [tips](#). Much of our focus is on how to grow, eat, and dispose of food in a way that's good for the planet."

They are partnered with the established publisher Chelsea Green to distribute their books. We've reviewed Chelsea Green [here](#). Chelsea Green has come under fire for publishing medical misinformation, as well as other issues which you can learn about [here](#). Of course this sort of information does seem outside of Stone Pier Press's focus and mission, but it is still worth knowing before proceeding.

The three primary categories of work they publish are children's Books, cookbooks, and gardening books. You can visit their catalogue [here](#). Although on their submissions page they say "We are accepting books in the following categories: narrative nonfiction, memoirs, guidebooks, biographies, young adult fiction, and literary fiction. We will consider cookbooks as well."

Of course all of these categories have to be tied to food and the environment.

At this time it is important to note that they are not accepting children's books, which is a note at the end of their submission guidelines.

Entries should include the first two chapters of a manuscript plus a cover letter introducing yourself and whether or not you've been published. They are only interested in electronic submissions, which must be made via email.

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

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.

Sword and Silk

Sword and Silk bills itself as "a small traditional publisher of a variety of genres focused on uplifting and supporting womxn everywhere."

They published their first book in June 2021, so they've actively published work for over a year, both in print and electronic formats. You can get a feel for what they are currently focused on publishing [here](#).

They are actively involved in marketing, both in terms of their books and their brand as a small press. They have a podcast and a street team. You can learn about these things in the [FAQ](#) section of their site. It is important to note that they have a fairly large staff for a small press, and that staff includes a marketing director who is listed [first](#).

They do accept work from male authors, they just ask that the novel has strong women written well. They encourage submissions from trans, non-binary and gender fluid individuals, as well as BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and disabled writers.

One of the things that stands out about Sword and Silk is they do accept previously self-published work as long as all the rights still belong to you.

This is the list of genres they are currently the most interested in:

- Gripping mystery/thriller (especially women sleuths)
- Ghostly paranormal (all levels of spice and romance)
- Horror novels with just the right amount of creepiness
- Contemporary Romance with unique concepts
- Adult Fantasy Romance with spice and whimsy
- LGBTIA+ and other intersectionalities in underserved genres such as fantasy and contemporary romance
- #ownvoices (ND, chronically ill, disabled, BIPOC, etc) stories of all kinds woven into plots that pack a punch

They publish work aimed at young adults, new adults, and adults. They are one of the few publishers that are specifically seeking new adult fiction.

Their complete submission guidelines are [here](#). All submissions must be made through their submissions portal. They were closed to submission during this round of updating the guide.

TCK Publishing

TCK Publishing was founded in 2011 by Tom Corson-Knowles. [Tom Corson-Knowles](#) is also an author and has published a number of his own books through TCK Publishing. It's not clear if he started TCK Publishing as a way to self-publish, but it is clear that TCK has moved past that, publishing many books, on a number subjects, by many [authors](#).

TCK Publishing describes themselves by saying: "We publish fiction and non-fiction eBooks, print books, and audio books in all major genres and niches." While this is technically true, they mostly publish general nonfiction and business nonfiction. These appear to be the books they have the most experience selling. In most of the fiction genres, only two to four books are listed, many books showing up in multiple categories. They've published more historical romance than any other genre, and still only ten books are listed at the time of reviewing. They have previously published about ten books a year, and are now planning on publishing approximately twenty books a year.

Originally the TCK Publishing website was focused entirely on recruiting authors, rather than readers, both in terms of submitting manuscripts and in attending their courses. In the past few years they have switched away from this method and now their website is reader focused, although they still do offer courses, and the section of the website geared towards writers is still significant. For example when you click on the nonfiction authors section, you do not get a list of the nonfiction authors they represent, but a pitch for the reader to [submit their nonfiction manuscript](#). It includes a mention of how many nonfiction books they have sold and resources for potential authors. They do not offer similar stats for fiction writers, but they do have [other resources](#). This is not standard practice, and I assume this was also part of their former author geared site.

TCK Publishing has reached out to me to request that I list them more than any other publishing company, over the past five years. Originally I declined because of the focus of the website and some concerns raised [here](#) that have been largely resolved recently, when they changed their method for calculating royalties (You can see the full breakdown of how they now structure royalties [here](#)). They are very forward about promoting themselves, but as long as this is also happening in terms of the books they are publishing it is not necessarily a bad thing. They also do [talk](#) a fair amount about marketing in terms of writers, which is a good thing.

They also have made it clear that they now offer intensive editing to the books they accept, which was a previous sticking point. Their distribution is Ingram, which is not particularly helpful. It means a local bookstore could special order your work, but it is unlikely to be on the shelves otherwise.

You can learn more about their submission guidelines [here](#). At the time of this update they were closed to fiction submissions.

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 like the way their bookstore is organized as it does not focus attention on their most recently published work, although thankfully their landing page does.

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](#).

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](#).

They only respond to submissions they are interested in.

Three Rooms Press

Three Rooms Press is an independent press that is inspired by "Diversity, Dada, Punk, and Passion". They were founded in 1994. They have good distribution and I've encountered their books in libraries and bookstores. You can learn more about their history [here](#).

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.

Include the following with your proposal:

- 1-2 paragraph synopsis of your book
- Why Three Rooms Press is a good fit for you
- At least 3-4 similar books published within the past two years
- A basic marketing plan and a description of how you can contribute to publicity
- The first three chapters of your book, or at least 50 pages

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](#).

Tin House

Tin House is an established and respected small press. They used to be responsible for one of the most respected and established literary journals, although that closed a few years ago. They still run residencies, workshops, and bookstore in Portland, Or. They still publish a wide variety of respected and admired books, including some bestsellers. They publish fiction, nonfiction, memoirs, and poetry. This includes essay and short story collections, as well as novels. They also are open to graphic nonfiction and graphic novels.

They have excellent distribution, have published some of my favorite books in the last decade, and publish books with appealing covers. They recently brought on one of my favorite writers, Hanif Abdurraqib, as their Editor-at-Large, and he will acquire three nonfiction books a year for them.

This is what Abdurraqib has said about what he's searching for:

“My world was built reading writers who wrote, relentlessly, away from the comfortable center and into the so-called ‘margins,’ where one could be a little more free, a little more playful, a lot braver. Punk writers who scrawled things in zines, aspiring rappers who filled notebooks that few people would ever read, and so on. This is the work that renews me and that challenges my own writing.”

In the past decade they have not really been open to unsolicited submissions, but recently they have announced that they will be open to three submission periods a year for fee-free submissions in the hopes of finding more previously underrepresented writers including "—but not limited to—those who are Black, Indigenous, POC, disabled, neurodivergent, trans and LGBTQIA+, debuting after 40, and without an MFA."

In order to submit you must not currently have an agent, and you cannot have previously published a book (although chapbooks are permissible).

The following is their proposed schedule for reading periods in 2023:

First weekend in January (1/7–1/8, 2023): Debut novels (including Graphic novels)

First weekend in May (5/6–5/7, 2023): Poetry collections + Short Story collections that focus on Food and/or Place

First weekend in September (9/2–9/3, 2023): Nonfiction Nature Writing (including Memoirs, Essay collections, and Graphic nonfiction)

They have not announced the 2024 schedule yet.

To learn more or to submit (during a reading period), [go here](#).

Tiny Fox Press

Founded in 2015 as a collective of writers, Tiny Fox Press originally focused on publishing work by the editors. This is a form of self-publishing, but they have branched out since then, although they are still publishing some books by the editors.

They have a regularly updated blog, a well-organized website, and some excellent covers as well as some mediocre ones. Their [About Us](#) page conveys a lot about editors and preferences in a helpful way, and it makes it clear that some of them have experience, but it doesn't disclose much about the structure of the company, or its origin story (I was able to find that out the little I know [here](#)).

They publish print and eBooks at the rate of 1-3 new authors a year. They offer an advance and they say they offer competitive royalties, but the details are sparse and mentioned [here](#). They don't mention a distributor, so I assume if they have one it is Ingram.

This is what they mention being most interested in currently, specifically with series potential:

Fantasy — Norse Mythology, Gaslamp, Humorous

SciFi — Steam Punk, Space Opera, Post Apoc, Humorous

YA — Something fun, adventurous and with plenty of magic

They also note “Another 10 pts — Dark Romance minus the vamps, Cozy Fantasy / Cozy-Sweet Witchy, Something Studio Ghibli-ish”

They will also consider, under the right circumstances, the following genres: Magical Realism, Historical Fiction, Funny/Satirical Cozy Mysteries, Commercial, Bizarre.

Do not submit if your work is not a good fit for them. Reviewing their [catalogue](#) is also helpful.

They ask that you submit the first 10 pages and a query letter in the body of an email. They will not open attachments. If you have not heard from them in three months, they encourage you to query.

Please follow their guidelines carefully and do not submit to them unless you feel like your work is a good fit.

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

Tule Publishing

Tule Publishing started out as a romance epubliher 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 that they have published. 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.

They re-opened to submissions on September 5th, and added these two notes about publication timing:

MYSTERY TIMING: Please note that our mystery editorial calendar is completely full for 2023. We are still accepting for 2024.

ROMANCE TIMING: Please note that our editorial calendar is completely full for 2023. American Hearts, Holiday, Montana Born, and Texas Born are still accepting for 2024.

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. They publish everything from mystery to self help books.

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](#).

You can see their submission guidelines [here](#).

Ylva Publishing

Ylva Publishing is the home of lesbian fiction and fiction about women-loving-women, and not surprisingly given the context, they only publish women. They mainly publish in the romance genre, but they are open to other genres, including historical fiction, crime, action, mystery, young adult, and erotica.

They state: "We want our books to have a rich diversity and we're committed to representing authors from a wide variety of backgrounds, both already published and due in the coming year. We actively encourage submissions by authors of color and writers with disabilities. Writers of any religion, nationality, and age are welcome at Ylva." Which covers a lot of ground, but doesn't make it clear if they accept work by non-binary writers. I have assumed, because they have not stated otherwise, that they are open to the writing of trans women authors.

They do not disclose any details in terms of royalties, and they do not mention advances. They make it clear that the pressure is placed on the author to self promote their work. Their covers are mostly mediocre, but fit within genre expectations. You can get a feel for what they most recently published [here](#). They have started to produce audiobooks which is great.

They try to respond to all submissions within 8-12 weeks, and have specific manuscript formatting guidelines you should follow.

You can read their full manuscript submission guidelines [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 publishes 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](#). They are closed to new submissions till September 40th, 2023 (please note that they've already delayed this from the 1st of September, so another delay may happen).

Welbeck Publishing Group

Welbeck Publishing Group was formerly known as the Carlton Publishing Group. It is a London-based independent book publisher of fiction, non-fiction, gift and children's books. It was established in 2019. They have good international distribution and a large team, you can learn more about [here](#).

An independent publisher, they have four main focuses, which you can see [here](#), and a number of imprints within these larger categories. You can see the details about their various children's imprints [here](#). Their [nonfiction](#) division is divided into categories, illustrated and narrative, which includes everything from memoir to soft business. For [fiction](#) they focus on popular work. [Orange Hippo](#) is the name for their gift imprint which includes cookbooks.

They are not interested in poetry or academic books, but are open to most submissions outside of this.

All submissions must be made via email. They generally only respond to the work they are interested in. They accept very little of what they receive.

Submit a covering/query letter as well as a short synopsis, a list of selling points, a professional biography, as well as information on competing titles and up to two chapters or 20 pages of the manuscript.

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

Wesleyan University Press

Wesleyan University Press focuses on poetry, music, dance, science fiction studies, film-TV, and Connecticut history and culture. They have been actively publishing since 1957. Books they have published have won the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award. They are an established and respected university press.

Currently they are accepting proposals for books in the areas of dance and music. They are also open to submissions for their Hartford Books Imprint, which publishes nonfiction work focused on Hartford, Connecticut, you can see the three previous titles they've published in this series [here](#).

Poetry submissions are currently closed.

Please inquire by email and include the following:

- cover letter
- a table of contents
- a sample chapter or two
- the anticipated length of the manuscript
- the anticipated date of completion (if still a work-in-progress)
- anticipated market for your book
- cv

Do not submit your completed manuscript unless they have directly requested it.

To learn more, you can see their submission guidelines

<https://www.wespress.org/submission-guidelines/>

Wildhouse Press

Wildhouse Press (WHP) is a small press based in Boston. They started actively publishing work in 2021. Their tagline is “Adventurous Spirituality – for unconventional people.” According to the website the press was founded by [Wesley J. Wildman](#).

They currently have published seven works of nonfiction, and one work of fiction, and have clear plans to expand into poetry, although please note that their first poetry chapbook contest has a fee attached. None of their other imprints charge a fee at this time and it is not unusual to charge for contests.

Because they are a new press, and lean towards non-fiction there are a couple of things on the site that are a little unusual, and might qualify as orange flags.

The first is the [services section](#). To be clear they are not actually offering “editing services” at a cost here – which many publishers do, but they are making it clear that they don’t seem to know that the services section usually consists of on a publishers website. They actually make it very clear in this section that they are a traditional press and authors are paid varying amounts depending on how much help they need.

They refer to an author writing their own work as the conventional acquisitions channel. If an author needs to partner with an editor at WHP they call this the partnership acquisition channel. Both options involve royalties. This is what they have to say about royalties “For the conventional acquisitions channel, royalties are set at 15% of net revenue on each print copy sold and 30% of net revenue on each e-copy and audiobook sold. For the partnership acquisitions channel, which is much

more expensive for WHP, author royalties are set at 5% of net revenue on each print copy sold and 20% of net revenue on each e-copy and audiobook sold.”

To be clear, off net is not ideal, but is pretty standard for small presses.

Also at the bottom of the Services page there is a little note that says this “WHP helps authors embarking publishing journeys by curating information about the highest quality services available. For queries about any additional help you need, please contact us using the form on the contact page or by emailing your WHP contact. We can point you in the right direction.” And this is a little unusual.

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

One of the other warning signs is that their onsite [store](#) is broken at the time of updating and has now been broken for almost a year. But there are many other ways to buy their books and they have links to that.

Generally, though, the signs are good. They have an extensive [staff page](#). Their covers are [good](#). Their [submission guidelines](#) are clear. All submissions must be made through Submittable.

To learn more you can go [here](#). Please respect their submission guidelines.

Woodhall Press

Woodhall Press is a small press. They publish fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. They are distributed by IPG. They have a [detailed staff page](#), and some of their staff members do have an excellent track record, albeit in different markets. They seem to actively promote their own books, through events and social media. Their covers are good, and their website is well organized. I could not see when they were first founded, and the books they published were not listed in order. The oldest book I found was published in 2020.

There are a few sources of concern from my perspective. One is how they describe themselves on Facebook: "Offering a full range of editorial services, Woodhall was created by writers for writers. We raise emerging writers into the global marketplace and partner with seasoned authors to promote their past and current projects." Leading with editorial services that way generally implies that they require payment, although nowhere on their site is that stated.

Another source of concern for me is [Wild Pine](#), which is editorial services that they started to offer recently. A number of small presses have similar services, and that in and of itself is acceptable. It's just that some publishers who do so re-direct submissions from their traditional publishing imprint to their self publishing arm, which is not acceptable.

You can get a good feel for what they publish [here](#). They were very much focused on selling books versus recruiting authors, which is always a good sign.

Since this review went out, it has been made clear to me that they have asked to see a lot of full manuscripts (which is unusual), and that they also expect authors whose work they've requested a full manuscript from to answer a tip sheet, with marketing information, etc.

Only a small number of people were offered a contract after that, and the contract I saw was relatively standard with royalty percentages on the lower end for a small press.

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

Yale University Press

Yale University Press (YUP), like most university presses, is open to direct submissions and manuscript proposals. Yale University Press was established in 1909 and you can learn more about their history [here](#). You can see their current catalog [here](#).

When you submit to YUP, submit to only one editor. The editors are listed [here](#). Please do your research before picking which one to submit to.

They only focus on publishing non-fiction, outside of the Margellos World Republic of Letters, an award-winning series of global literature in translation. That is overseen by [Abigail Storch](#) who says, "I am particularly interested in works by writers in Latin America, Africa, and the Caribbean."

Like most academic presses they are seeking qualified experts in their particular field to write books on that topic. For that reason they ask you submit a CV along with a more traditional submission packet.

To learn more of the details involved in submitting or proposing work to them, please go [here](#). Please carefully review their submission guidelines before submitting.

Science Fiction, Horror, and Fantasy Publishers

Science fiction, horror, and fantasy are interesting markets. Historically 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.

Although a number of science fiction imprints and publishers closed or closed to unagented submissions at the start of the pandemic, and the genre as a whole seems to be shifting more and more towards agented submissions.

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.

There has been a real increase in publishers focused on horror, or who now accept horror in addition to other genres.

Ananke Press

Ananke Press, a small New York City based press that only publishes speculative fiction. They are open to submissions from June 1st through August 30th, according to their [Poets & Writers listing](#).

They say they offer above-standard royalties, but do not state what those rates are, or if they are off gross or net. They do not offer advances. They do not disclose having a distributor.

According to their website these are the writers they love best, and who inspire their work:

Our favorite artists are the ones who defy definition. If you aspire to sophistication of [Gene Wolfe](#) and sensuality of Samuel Delany, if the fearless imagination of [Octavia Butler](#) and uncompromising integrity of [Ursula Le Guin](#) inspire you, if the compassionate realism of [Jim Sheppard](#) and heartbreaking lyricism of [Michel Faber](#) touch your heart, and, finally, if your favorite music is by [David Bowie](#)—we want to read your book.

A speculative element is a requirement. Speculative fiction is an umbrella term that broadly covers fantasy, science fiction, slipstream and weird fiction, while also including magical realism. You can get a good feel for what they've previously published [here](#).

They are open to novels or short story collections between 80,000 and 110,000 words in length and are not interested in novellas. In the subject line of the email write QUERY and the title of your novel.

Queries should be addressed to Cate Hendrikson, the acquisitions editor. In the body of the email include a one page synopsis and the first three chapters or first 50 pages, whichever is longer. Do not include any attachments. They will remain unopened.

Simultaneous submissions are fine. They respond to every query, but it takes time, they don't start responding to queries till they close to submissions for the year.

To learn more, visit their submission guidelines [here](#). At the time of updating the guide they were closed to submissions. They released books in 2023, but have yet to update their submission guidelines or declare a reading period in this year.

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](#).

At the time of this update they are closed to submissions from unagented authors, except for Black authors. You can learn the details about that call [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 shorter 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](#).

Candlemark & Gleam

Candlemark & Gleam is a publisher of Speculative fiction novellas, novelettes, and novels as well as linked short story collections. They are open to publishing "Cross-genre/interstitial and SF/F hybrid works" but have a preference for "ones with mythic/historical echoes". They are only interested in publishing work aimed at adults and are not a good fit for traditional horror, unmodified steampunk or anything with a lot of explicit erotica. They link to [this anthology](#) as a good way to get a feel for what they are most interested in publishing. They only publish a few books a year, so please spend some time with their [catalogue](#) to determine if they are a good fit, before submitting.

They are distributed by Ingram, which is not ideal. Their covers are generally excellent, and some of their books have received a lot of attention, which is good for a small press.

There is one issue in their past of note, which is that in 2014-2015, they ceased communication with an author who had signed a contract with them, and whose book was at the last stages of production, you can read the details of this [here](#), if you scroll down to the post by GayleenFroese. The editor at the time of the incident, Kate Sullivan, the founding editor of the press, stepped down shortly after, but she is still the lead designer, and listed on the website as such. Athena Andreadis, is the current editor, and you can learn about her, and the rest of their staff [here](#). Obviously a long time has passed since 2015, and there have been no reports of this nature since then, that I know of, but I think it's very important to approach a publisher knowing as much as possible.

Other authors have published more than one book with them, which is generally a good sign.

You can learn more about their submission guidelines [here](#). Please follow them carefully before submitting. All submissions must be made electronically.

They are closed to submission at this time because of issues related to ChatGPT, but plan to reopen in the future.

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.

At first they were solely focused on publishing their own work outside of anthologies, but that changed in late 2020 when they launched the Debut Horror Novel Series.

Cemetery Gates Media has 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. So far they have mostly met this goal. The first two books in the series are as follows.

#1 – [*Beulah*](#) by Christi Nogle (Published Jan 25, 2022)

#2 [*The Briars*](#) by Stephanie Parent (Coming in May 2023)

It is worth learning more about these books if you are serious about submitting, because the editors are seeking something along the same lines.

Authors can not submit if they have published a full length manuscript in the past but are still eligible if they have published novellas and short story collections. The manuscript must be previously published.

They are offering a \$500 signing bonus + \$500 advance upon publication. As for the royalties, 60% go to the author on physical and electronic editions of the book.

In earlier editions of this call they stressed that all authors must have two paid writing credits. It is still mentioned that you must have two writing credits (no mention of payment), but only briefly. Please do not submit to them unless you have two writing credits.

To learn more about their formatting requests go [here](#) or to learn more about this particular call for submission, go [here](#).

They reopened to submissions on May 1st, 2023. To learn more or to submit, [go here](#).

Haunt Publishing

Haunt Publishing is a small Scotland-based press founded in 2018 that focuses on publishing Gothic, Horror and Dark fiction. They are searching for work that is "unputdownable." They have started hosting new reading periods in the summer. In 2022 this reading period was during July.

They've historically published one book a year, but this year they are planning to publish two. You can see their back catalog [here](#).

If they have distribution they do not list it. All their books are available in print and eBook format, and two are also available in audiobook format.

Their [submission guidelines](#) are very detailed and helpful. They even have a thoughtful list of books they love.

They ask that everyone who submits work includes

- A one-page covering letter that includes an author biography, a short pitch about the book (100-ish words), and the word count.
- A 1,000-ish word synopsis that details the complete plot of your book, including twists and ending (don't leave us hanging!).
- Either the first three chapters or 10,000 words of your typescript (title page too, please!).
- Please format your email subject line as: SUBMISSION: Title (Novel)

Work should ideally be between 60-120,000 words in length.

After signing the contract they offer £200 to every author, not as advance against royalties but in acknowledgement of all the work they've put into the book. They have

a 15% royalty rate on print sales, 50% on audiobook and ebook sales. They do not make it clear if this is on gross or net.

They "particularly welcome submissions from the BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ communities as well as from people with disabilities and those from low-income backgrounds."

If you want to know more about what their process looks like, you can go [here](#). To learn more about their submission process, go [here](#). They are closed to submissions at the time that the guide was updated.

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.

Hydra Publications

Hydra Publications is based in Indiana, and should not be confused with Random House's Hydra imprint, or Hydra House, a Pacific Northwest based publisher of speculative fiction. Hydra Publications started out publishing a wide variety of genres, but now publish mainly speculative fiction, with a few imprints outside of that.

Hydra also has a number of other imprints. These seem to be active to varying degrees, but if you are interested in submitting to one of them, you can sign up to be notified [here](#).

Their website is a little hard to navigate and not particularly well designed. It appears to be mostly a one-man operation, run by [Tony Acree](#). They talk about winning the 2015 Jason Sizemore Award for Outstanding Small-Press Publisher, which they won again in 2021. But I can't find any more information about the awards online, outside of their site and press releases. This means I do not know if the award means anything, or which other presses won it. I do assume that it was given out by this [Jason Sizemore](#).

Tony Acree has published his own books with Hydra, but he has primarily published other authors. Most of the books they've published have reviews, which is always a good starting point. Some of the anthologies they have published, including [Writers Workshop of Horror 2](#), which is forthcoming, feature major authors. They do not list print distributors.

Hydra Publications is currently open to submissions. They are accepting works of speculative fiction, including thriller, horror, fantasy, sci-fi, steampunk, and dystopian. They are particularly interested in LitRPG submissions. If your submission is LitRPG, please say so in the subject line. LitRPG stands for Literary Role Playing

Game, and is a genre that combines the conventions of computer RPGs with other genres. They list subtypes as "VR, no logout, sci-fi, fantasy, thriller, dungeon core, harem, crunchy, light, moba, portal fantasy, town builder, and LitFPS".

All manuscripts must be a minimum of 70,000 words, but LitRPG should be around 100,000 words in length. Manuscripts can not be previously published in any format. They need not be professionally edited but the excerpt should be relatively error free. To learn more or read their complete submission guidelines, 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](#).

JournalStone

JournalStone is a horror publisher that bills themselves as "your link to artistic talent". They also run a number of magazines, websites and presses, including Dark Discoveries and Horror World. You can get a good feel for what they publish [here](#).

They have a slick, easy-to-navigate, well-designed website that focuses on promoting books. It is a little hard to find out anything about the history of the company, their editorial board, or distribution on the website itself, but that is not that unusual with larger genre publishers who have a consistent audience of readers they focus on.

They are open to submissions once a year, generally from the 1st of September through the 31st of October, which is the case this year. Work submitted during this period will also be considered for the imprint Trepidatio Publishing.

According to their website they are seeking "Horror in all its forms—from literary to weird, Gothic to psychological, and (almost) everything in between. We're looking for amazing stories from amazing authors, regardless of race, gender, religion—if you've got something good, we want it."

Do not submit YA, Romance, erotica, or religious fiction because they do not publish in these genres.

They ask that you not submit multiple submissions or PDFs.

Their current turnaround time is between six and eight months, and they have detailed submission guidelines you should read and follow carefully, [here](#).

Parts of their website are out of date, but they are still actively releasing books.

Submissions should be made via email and formatted [the Shunn way](#).

Luna Press

They generally have three limited reading periods a year.

Luna Press Publishing is a small Scottish press established in 2015, and you can learn more about their founding [here](#). They generally have three limited reading periods a year each with a different focus.

They were founded by an author who did not appear to have past experience running a publishing house, but they've made it this far. It is not clear who their distributor is, or if they have one. You can get a good feel for what they've previously published by visiting their shop [here](#).

They also do not disclose royalty rates.

They publish speculative fiction, science fiction, fantasy, and dark fantasy.

They ask that all submissions be made via email. In the body of the email they ask that you include a brief author bio, title, and word count (60,000 words and up). In the email itself attach a word document containing the first three chapters, and another word document containing a full synopsis of the book - including the ending.

To learn more about what they are looking for, read their detailed submission guidelines [here](#). They will only consider submissions that follow all of their guidelines.

Their next open submission window is the 6th, 7th and 8th of October, 2023. They will reveal their 2024 schedule in November.

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. They also recently started accepting horror. They publish books aimed at young adults and books aimed at adults.

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 staff behind The Parliament House 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.

They ask that all work be between 50,000 and 140,000 words in length. They do not want stories that were in any way written by, or co-written with AI.

They have very specific submission guidelines that you should follow before submitting.

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

Severed Press

Established in 2008, Severed Press is an ebook and print on demand publisher focused on publishing horror and science fiction. They are established and respected within these genres, and the books they publish have excellent genre-appropriate covers.

Many authors have worked with them for many years, and published many books with them, which is generally a good sign. Although because they are print on demand, their distribution is less than ideal. They are not open about royalty payments, but many Severed Press authors have said they are within industry standards. They do not offer advances.

You can learn more about authors' personal experience with Severed Press [here](#). The press itself responded on the forum which you can see [here](#), and the thread as a whole covers a number of concerns, and if you are considering submitting to them, I would read all of it.

Currently they are considering work in the following genres.

- Killer sea creatures or monstrous kaiju fiction: Creature features about monsters that come from the deep, or maybe even somewhere more terrifying. Minimum word count 30k.
- Dinosaurs : Lost world adventures featuring terrifying creatures from the past. Minimum word count 30k
- Military horror/sci-fi: Like Predator or Aliens, a military unit faces off against an unknown threat from beyond the stars or from another dimension. Minimum word count 40k
- Apocalyptic or post-apocalyptic scenarios (including TEOTWAWKI or SHTF): Stories that explore the end of the world or life after it: zombie

outbreaks, alien invasions or whatever else may serve as a harbinger of the end times! Minimum word count 60k

- LitRPG: Stories where characters are transported or trapped within an online game, usually a MMORPG . LitRPG blends traditional science fiction and fantasy with gaming elements and mechanics. Minimum word count 30k.
- LitFPS: Stories that blend fiction with First Person Shooters. Minimum word count 30k.

All submissions must be made via email. Please review their submission guidelines closely.

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

Sourcebooks Horror

We've reviewed Sourcebooks before [here](#), and their Romance imprint [here](#). However recently they have started a horror imprint that is consistently open to submissions. Because so many small horror presses open and close in a matter of years, this new imprint stood out, because of the overall stability of Sourcebooks. I checked on the page of editors, and currently there are no editors listed specifically for horror, so they are still clearly sorting the details out.

Their book covers for this imprint are really well done. But the imprint is so new that as far as i can tell only four books have been published in it. If you go here, you can scroll to the bottom and see [them](#). All four are notably by the same author, Darcy Coates, a USA Today Bestseller. But there is no formal Horror category on the site otherwise, currently, and using the search bar is not helpful - unearthing the YA horror they've published, instead of Darcy Coates Books.

They are actively seeking agented and unagented submissions of horror fiction between 80,000 and 100,000 words in length. They are looking for "strong writers of all ethnicities, races, sexualities, gender identities, abilities and ages, whose stories have something fresh to offer in the Horror genre."

All submissions must be made via email with word attachments. Include a 1-3 page synopsis which discloses the ending, a short query letter in the email itself, and if you have a track record include your sales history. You should also attach the full manuscript. They try to respond to all submissions within 8-12 weeks.

To learn more and to see their full submission guidelines go [here](#).

Talos Press

Talos Press is 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 affected 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.

Last year they seemed to be struggling with a significant backlog, but they appear to have overcome that in the past year.

To learn more, visit their submission page [here](#). They were not open to general submissions at the time of this most recent update.

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](#).

Tenebrous Press

Tenebrous Press is a publisher of New Weird Horror. They know this genre is one that needs further definition, because they have an entire page of their website devoted to defining it. You can see that webpage [here](#) if you are not already familiar with the genre, which was according to the web page, invented by the press, although the term "New Weird" has existed for some time, they added the focus on horror.

They are a new press, as they published their first book in 2021. You can find out more about the editors [here](#).

Tenebrous is currently open to submissions of novels, novellas, and projects that fall under the graphic novel/comics umbrella, or other outside the box approaches to New Weird Horror. They are not at this time open to short story submissions.

They offer advances and "industry standard royalties. They are seeking work that starts at 20,000 words. They have no fixed upper limit. They are upfront about the rights they are asking: " World English first rights in print, electronic, and ebook, and a three-year exclusivity period. All copyright belongs to the author". They try to respond to all submissions within three months.

You can get a feel for what they previously published [here](#). They also [share samples](#) if you want to get a better feel for the actual books.

They seem to really understand the niche they operate in. Their covers are great, and genre appropriate, and the books I looked up that they've published all got a lot of reviews for a small press offering and these reviews were mostly positive. You can see one of their books Goodreads page [here](#).

I'm not sure who their distributor is or if they have one.

To learn more, and potentially submit if your work is a good fit for them, go [here](#).

Three Ravens Publishing

Three Ravens Publishing is a fiction publisher focused on genre work, particularly science fiction and fantasy, but are open to other genres as well. They are active on social media, and attend various conventions, both good signs. They also appear to obtain part of their funding from Patron, which is unusual, but hopefully indicates a strong supportive fan base.

On their [About-Us page](#) they are open about the fact that they started out in 2019 as a self publishing collective to publish the original partners work, including: Benjamin Tyler Smith, R.J. Ladon, and William Joseph Roberts. If you look at their current list of authors it's clear they've expanded well past that.

Their website is geared towards readers, not writers, which is always a good sign. While they don't disclose who their distributor is, their Upcoming Events calendar, which is about halfway down on the right hand column of every day, makes it clear that they make a serious effort to publicize work on a regular basis. They do have [a page](#) devoted to recordings from past events which some may find helpful.

They are not interested in fanfiction, gratuitous sexuality and or abuse/violence. They also have more thorough notes about discrimination, message fiction , and RPG and game-based stories which you can read [here](#).

They are open to re-prints and previously published work as long as you have the rights to that work. They determine payment rates at the time of the contract, and they range from 50 to 70% of sales. They try to respond within 9 months to a year.

You must follow their formatting guidelines if you are submitting, they link to a template at the top of the [submissions page](#). You can get a good feeling of what they've published in the past [here](#). Their covers vary wildly.

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

Their current calls for submissions are as follows:

Assault Team

Due Date: December 1, 2023

Military Science Fiction

Convoy Chaos

Due Date: February 1, 2024

Car Wars GameLit Fiction

Contested Landing

Due Date: February 1, 2024

Military Science Fiction

The Beast Hunt

April 1, 2024

Speculative Fiction

The Fires of Retribution

June 1, 2024

Speculative Fiction

Broken Highways

Due Date: August 1, 2024

Car Wars GameLit Fiction

Tales from the Nightside

Due Date: December 1, 2024

Car Wars GameLit Fiction

Learn more [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.

Agora Books

Agora Books is a diversity-focused imprint of [Polis Books](#) devoted to crime and noir fiction. is focused on publishing. In 2018, Publishers Weekly published [this article](#) about the initiative, and in 2019 Agora actively started publishing work. So far, even though they have only been active for a few years, they've published a fair amount of books, and mostly by debut authors.

It can be hard initially to get a feel for what Agora publishes, as their books are not listed in a separate catalogue, or even listed separately directly on the website.

However on their submission guideline page, they list a number of Agora authors, including [Gabino Iglesias](#), [Gary Phillips](#), [Sung J. Woo](#), [Johnny Shaw](#), and [Andrea J. Johnson](#). You can see the complete listing at the bottom of their about page [here](#). You can also learn more about the editor of the imprint, Chantelle Aimée Osman directly above the author listing on that page.

I really encourage you to spend time with the some of the books Agora has published before submitting. I'm not sure based on the about page, and submission guidelines if you submit directly to Osman via the email she shares on the about page, or you should submit through their general submission guidelines address which you can see [here](#). You should certainly follow their submission guidelines when submitting to Osman. If you do submit through the general address make it clear that you are submitting to the Agora imprint in the query letter. The editors will not respond if not interested.

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

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](#). To learn more about submitting go [here](#). They are currently closed to all submissions and plan to reopen in late 2023.

Crooked Lane

Crooked Lane was established in 2014 as a press specializing in crime books. They have an experienced staff and have managed to publish some well known authors already. They publish a range of mysteries that lean towards the cozy, and they are not opposed to publishing a series of books. You can see their [catalog](#) here.

Their distributor is the Legato Publishers Group, a member of the Perseus Books Group. They are also represented by Biagi Literary Management for subsidiary rights licensing in foreign and domestic markets. Their business relationships include Bookspan, home of the US's largest book clubs, and Blackstone Audio, one of the largest independent audiobook publishers. I really like how upfront they are about the business end of publishing.

They are also upfront about editorial staff. Most came to Crooked Lane from major publishers including Penguin and St. Martin. You can learn more about the staff by going [here](#) and scrolling down. It is a truly impressive list.

They do offer advances to their authors but I don't know how much and they have a reputation for paying royalties on time.

All submissions should be made via email and include a query letter. Send your query letter as well as the first two chapters of your manuscript. Make sure to include contact information. Because they receive so many submissions they only respond to queries they are interested in. If you haven't heard from them in two weeks, assume rejection.

You can learn more [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.

They are closed to submissions at this time. 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. The publisher seems to be doing 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.

The only issue is that Jasper Joffe also ran another company called Not so Noble Books, which no longer exists, but near the end of their existence had issues with author non-payment. According to Joffe he was not involved at that time.

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](#). They have also recently started to host pitch parties.

Severn River Publishing

According to their website Severn River Publishing “was founded by military veterans and family members who shared a love of story.” They were founded in 2018, and focus on publishing thrillers and mysteries, but are also open to submissions of historical fiction. All of the works of historical fiction they’ve published so far, focus on the military. They publish eBooks and in print. The print books appear to be print on demand, which is not unusual with a small publisher. They also have audiobooks available for many of their books, which is nice.

They are active on social media, and have genre-appropriate covers. I could not find anything about distribution on their website, and when I reached out to them, I did not receive a response.

It did make me nervous that their website, including the main page, was geared towards writers as well as readers. The screenshot below was taken about halfway down the main page, and struck me as something one commonly encounters on a vanity or hybrid press. It’s good that they are upfront about these things, and some of their books do appear to sell well (*Misjudged: A Legal Thriller* by James Chandler has 4,828 ratings on Amazon), but most presses that do this have vanity or hybrid ties.

The publishing industry has rapidly transformed into an increasingly competitive marketplace. Severn River Publishing helps our authors break away from the pack.



The infographic consists of four white rectangular columns on a dark, misty forest background. Each column has a green icon at the top, a title in orange, and a paragraph of text in black. The icons are: a rocket for Brand Management, a line graph for Advertising Expertise, a book for Top-notch Cover Design, and a price tag with a dollar sign for Your Fair Share, Faster.

- Brand Management**
With brand management experience from some of the world's top companies, we're 100% focused on growing your brand and reader following.
- Advertising Expertise**
Our marketing team stays on the cutting edge of digital book ads, using data analytics and proprietary tools to get the best performance possible.
- Top-notch Cover Design**
We work with only the best designers, creating premium covers that captivate and attract the right readers.
- Your Fair Share, Faster**
Our standard contract provides authors with 50% of net profit, across all formats. Royalties are paid monthly, so you get your earnings faster.

They also have quotes from authors on the main page about how good they were to work with, which again is unusual in traditional publishing.

In addition, it's important to point out that 50% of net is not unusual when it comes to small presses, and net is much less ideal than gross, in terms of percentage. There is no mention of editing, which is generally an important part of the traditional publishing process.

Overall though, they appear to do a good job, publishing consistent quality within a niche.

Unlike most presses they ask that you submit your complete manuscript along with your query letter.

To learn more, please visit their submission guidelines [here](#). They plan to re-open to submissions in summer 2023, but have not yet opened at this time.

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.

They have a clean and easy to use website, which is focused on selling books. You can browse their catalog [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.

When they first launched, they were open to direct submissions. They then temporarily closed to submissions, but they may re-open at any time. You can refer to their submissions page [here](#).

To learn more visit their website [here](#). At the time of this update they are closed to submissions.

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.

Albert Whitman & Company

In 2020 they had serious non-payment issues with a number of authors. As authors and agents came forward with these stories, information about other questionable practices came to light. You can read all about these issues [here](#). In 2021, Publishers Weekly published a follow up article, where some of the issues are [addressed and resolved](#). We only continue to list them because they do seem to be putting the work in, but I would still approach them with caution.

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.

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.

Annick Press

One of the top Children's book publishers in Canada, Annick Press got a strong start early on by publishing Robert Munsch, back when they were based out of co-founder Anne Millyard's basement (you can learn more about that [here](#)). Annick is currently accepting submissions of picture books, middle grade fiction, YA fiction, and non-fiction for kids of all ages.

They accept submissions from everyone, but they also stress that they "are committed to publishing diverse authors and illustrators and believe strongly in producing books that reflect our readers' own experiences while broadening their perspectives". They go on to say "In considering submissions, we prioritize #ownvoices representation of underrepresented and marginalized communities and identities. We encourage creators who identify as LGBTQ2SIA+, Indigenous, Black, and people of color to submit their work. We also encourage submissions from creators living with disabilities. " As part of this they run [a yearly editorial mentorship](#) for writers from historically excluded communities.

To get a feel for what they are currently seeking, spend some time with their new release catalog [here](#). Don't submit unless you feel like their books are a good fit. You can also generally find recently released Annick Press books in bookstores and libraries, particularly if you live in Canada. They have excellent distribution, generally great covers, and are well presented.

They don't specifically mention prioritizing Canadian writers, but based on their backlist it's clear that they do. In fact, the reason I hadn't reviewed Annick in the past (in spite of owning a lot of their books) is because I assumed that they were only open to work Canadian authors and illustrators. This is in part because they, like many Canadian publishers, are partially funded by the government of Canada.

You can read their full submission guidelines [here](#). Follow all their guidelines carefully before submitting. They do not respond to submissions unless they are interested.

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 in.

They have redesigned their website since our original review and it is now easy to use and visually pleasing. The new site is a huge upgrade.

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

Bala Publications

Bala Publications is an imprint of Shambhala Publications, an independent publishing company based in Boulder, Colorado. They are distributed by Penguin Random House Publisher Services.

Shambhala Publications was founded in 1969 and "is dedicated to creating books, audio, and immersive courses aimed at improving lives—in ways big and small—in the hope of contributing to the development of a thoughtful, kindhearted, and contemplative society".

Bala Kids is dedicated to encouraging the values of wisdom and compassion for children with books on Buddhism, meditation, yoga, mindfulness, and more.

Their books are focused on connecting with kids ages 0-8. You can get a good feel for what they focus on publishing by visiting the main page of their imprint [here](#).

All manuscripts, along with any accompanying illustrations, must be submitted with a cover letter. The cover letter should include a short author biography, and a book summary. The email must contain the words "Bala Kids Submission" in the subject line.

Illustrators that are interested in working with them should submit samples, along with a brief biography and contact information.

To learn more, including the appropriate email address, go [here](#).

Kane Miller

Kane Miller was an award winning publisher of educational children's books. In 2019 they bought Boyds Mills from Highlights and are temporarily known as Boyds Mills & Kane. They have now re-claimed the name of Kane Miller.

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.

At the time of updating the guide this year, they are closed to submissions. To check on their submission status [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.

This year when I was updating the guide they were closed to submissions, but were seeking freelance writers and work for hire illustrators and writers. To learn more read their complete submission guidelines [here](#).

Cardinal Rule Press

A respected children's picture book publisher only open to submissions during certain times of year.

They 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 up 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](#). Their next submission period starts January 1, 2024.

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 have passed, feel free to submit elsewhere.

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

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.

They do not appear to do much in terms of promoting books or editing them, so that is not ideal.

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 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.

You can read their complete submission guidelines [here](#). You can browse their website [here](#). At the time of updating the guide this year, they are closed to submissions.

Enchanted Lion

Enchanted Lion is a children's book publisher based in Brooklyn that was founded in 2003. You can learn more about their team [here](#). Their books are well designed, engaging, and have great covers. Many of the books they have published have been featured in the New York Times, and won awards. They are well distributed and my local library has a large number of their books.

They really support international authors and have published a number of books in translation. All of the books I saw had a visual aspect, although some were aimed at older kids (up to the age of 14).

They are open to [donations](#), and have done Kickstarters in the past, which is not unheard of for a small press, but also isn't expected either.

They don't have detailed submission guidelines even when they are open to submissions.

Please spend an extended period of time with their catalogue [here](#), and with their mission statement [here](#) before considering submitting. This is a very small press, the kind that often ends up closing to unsolicited submissions permanently, if they get too many submissions that indicate a lack of research or appreciation of fit.

To learn more, go [here](#). They are closed to submissions at the time of this update but plan to reopen soon.

 **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 works 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](#).

Flyaway Books

Flyaway Books is a children's book publisher focused only on children's picture books. The focus of their books is on "diversity, inclusivity, compassion, care for each other, and care for our world". They are an imprint of Westminster John Knox Press which is part of the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation, but many of the books that Flyaway publishes are not faith based, and the ones that they do publish that are faith based are "appropriate for progressive churches, religious schools, and readers who value faith inside and outside of a church setting".

They have published some really established authors including Katherine Paterson, Kathleen Long Bostrom, and Barbara DiLorenzo, You can get a feel for what they publish by visiting their "[Our Story](#)" page. You can also get a feel for what they publish by spending time with their [catalog](#). They have many great book covers.

Their distribution is through Ingram, which is usually not a good sign, as Ingram will distribute books of any kind, but they work directly with the Two Rivers division, which you can learn about [here](#). Two Rivers only distributes work by select publishers, although not all of them are legitimate traditional publishers, most are.

If you are submitting to them, please only submit via email. Send your complete manuscript within the body of an email. They ask that you " do not send a file attachment, a partial manuscript, or a query without a manuscript. You may submit more than one manuscript at a time if each is sent in a separate email."

Please read and follow [their submission guidelines carefully](#), and only submit your work to them, if you think it is a good fit. They respond to submissions within six weeks if they are interested. Otherwise assume rejection.

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](#).

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 reported 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.

At the time of this update they are closed to submissions of work, but hiring for writers-for-hire. To double check or learn more 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](#).

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.

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.

Owl Kids

Their books have been mentioned or reviewed in the following publications: *The New York Times*, the *Globe and Mail*, CBC, *Kirkus*, *Booklist*, and *School Library Journal*, and selected for numerous awards. In 2022, the press was nominated for the Bologna Prize for Best Children's Publisher.

Their website is easy to use and well organized and their covers are generally excellent. They publish picture books, nonfiction for children, and middle grade fiction. You can get a good feel for what they publish by visiting their catalogue [here](#).

On their website they also stress that they care about the following.

- Creating books that reflect and include a diversity of voices, communities, and experiences;
- Ensuring that all children can see themselves represented in the books and magazines they read;
- Helping to address the systemic anti-Black and anti-Indigenous racism and other prejudices that exist within our industry and which have limited the types of stories, information, and role models that children have access to;
- Looking inward and recognizing that change starts with our own company culture, our hiring practices, the creators we publish, and the content we produce.

They are only open to queries made via their submissions manager form, during the pandemic, although outside of it, they do accept mailed submissions.

They only accept submissions by people age 18+. You can learn more about their submissions guidelines [here](#). Please follow them. Some of their open submission windows have a limited demographics and sometimes they are open to submissions from everyone.

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](#). At the time of updating this year's guide they were closed.

Pelican Children's Books

Pelican Children's Books has always been an imprint of Pelican Publishing. In 2019 Arcadia Publishing purchased Pelican Publishing, and now Pelican Children's Books is an imprint of [Arcadia](#).

Pelican Children's Books is based in New Orleans, as it always has been, they've published a lot of regional children's books, although they are open to submissions regardless of author's location. In fact some of their regional picture books are based in Texas and New York. You can see their list of past publications [here](#). Their covers lean a little old fashioned for my taste.

They primarily publish illustrated children's books, but they are also open to middle grade books, as well as non-fiction and fiction intended for a young adult audience.

To learn more and see their full submission guidelines visit their website [here](#).

Reycraft Books

Their mission is to create books of interest for all children. Founded by Sera Reycraft, a Korean who immigrated to the United States as a child, they mostly focus on publishing diverse books from underrepresented communities, particularly by [#ownvoices](#) authors. What they publish covers an interesting and vibrant range, from [the story of a girl writing her Abuelo in Mexico](#), to [the story of a trans boy meeting a new teacher](#), to [the biography of Spotted Tail](#), and [the story of a girl with cerebral palsy learning to paint](#). You can get a feel for what they publish [here](#).

Reycraft Books is linked to Newmark Learning and Benchmark Education.

They publish original and licensed works from authors and illustrators around the globe. They accept direct submissions as well as submissions from agents. All of their covers are beautifully illustrated. Their books are all hardcovers. Many receive Kirkus Starred reviews and a number have won other awards.

Their editorial team is experienced and also primarily from diverse backgrounds. To find out more about them, you can scroll to the bottom of this [page](#).

They accept work for children ages 5-12. They are not interested in work aimed at young adults at this time.

If you are submitting a picture book or early reader, please submit the cover letter + full text, without art, unless you are a professional artist. They ask for the cover letter and full text of chapter books. Illustrators can also submit their work.

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

Sleeping Bear Press

Sleeping Bear Press is a well regarded publisher of board books, picture books, and select middle grade readers. 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 are 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](#).

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, middle grade 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](#).

Tiny Ghost Press

Tiny Ghost Press is a small press that focuses on publishing YA fiction that centers LGBTQIA+ characters. This means that in their own words, they want "YOUNG ADULT novels, written from a QUEER perspective, That is stories featuring a queer protagonist or from a queer author. We're interested in everything from contemporary romance, to dystopian adventures, and if your story dabbles in the spooky, the supernatural, or the paranormal, or has a speculative element even better!"

They go on to say "We're especially looking for stories featuring trans, BIPOC, and neurodivergent characters in lead roles written by authors from these communities." They also state "#OWNVOICES preferred." Which is to say that they prefer to work with authors whose identity and experience matches that of the POV character. It is not a requirement, at this point, but if you are submitting to them and it is an #OWNVOICES manuscript, you should make that clear in the query letter.

At the time of this initial review, they've published five books, with two more forthcoming. Most of the books have good covers that feel genre appropriate (and perhaps fanfiction influenced?).

They are very active on social media and for a small press they get a lot of engagement. If you go their [About](#) page you can scan down to access all their socials. Their About page unfortunately doesn't disclose many specifics about the company, including the identity/experience of the editors. I also was unable to discover if they had traditional distribution.

Some of their books, such as [The Alpha's Son by Penny Jessup](#), have a lot of engagement on Goodreads, even if not all the feedback is good (including specific critique of the editing). Part of this is clearly that they give out a lot of ARC's (advanced reader copies). The book they most recently released, [Against the Stars](#),

has a lot of engagement for a small press book, and no critiques against the editing that I saw.

If you are submitting to them, please only submit via email and include the following:

- A brief QUERY LETTER with a little bit of information about you and your story.
- A SUMMARY of your novel (including the ending), no longer than one page.
- The first THREE CHAPTERS or 10,000 words of your novel, whichever comes first.

In the subject line please write: SUBMISSION - STORY NAME

To learn more, please visit their submission guidelines [here](#). As always only submit if you think they are a good fit for your work. Please do spam this publisher if you are not a good fit.

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. At the time of this update they were closed to submissions.

Walker Books

Walker Books, an established and respected UK based publisher of Picture books, is open to direct submissions, but only of work that is already illustrated. So if you have an un-illustrated picture book, this is not the right home for it.

Walker Books is part of The Walker Books Group is one of the world's leading independent publishers of children's books. Their international imprints include This vibrant international Candlewick Press in the United States, and Walker Books Australia, which has locations in Australia and New Zealand. They've published many of the most established writers and illustrators, and my bookshelf contains a lot of the books they've published. You can get a good feel for their catalog [here](#).

As part of their submission guidelines, they link to two resources. One is [Writers Advice for Children's Book Authors](#). I've encountered them before because they publish Children's books through their imprint, [Wacky Bee](#), but I have not reviewed them, because they heavily encourage writers to use their paid feedback services, before submitting to their publisher. I'm not saying that their feedback isn't good, but this sets off all sorts of alarms for me, especially because they charge a fair amount for all their resources, which do seem to be personalized.

The other company Walker links to, is [Writers & Artists](#), which also offers paid services, but gives a lot of what appears to be quality information away for free.

They accept submissions by email and post, and are open to submissions just by illustrators as well. They take over three months to respond to submissions via post (and only if you include a SASE), and they only respond to emails submissions if they are interested.

Please follow their submission guidelines carefully and only submit if you feel like your work is a good potential fit.

You can access their submission guidelines [here](#).

Christian Publishers

These publishers publish Christian books covering a wide range of categories from academic to children's books. There are a few other publishers that publish Christian books listed in the romance section. Some of the Christian publishers are open to less overtly religious work, most are not.

Abingdon Press

Founded in the 1920s, Abingdon Press is a cross-denominational religious publisher. They are an imprint of The United Methodist Publishing House, which has been in operation since 1789. They offer a wide variety of products, including books (Christian living, academic, leadership), church supply items, church program resources, curriculum resources, and a host of other print and digital media.

They publish a wide variety of work, as you can see in their catalogue [here](#). It's good to spend time reviewing their past publications to see what they are most interested in.

They encourage prospective authors to first submit for consideration a proposal (including short summary, intended audience, chapter outline, author biography, platform, and marketing plan) as well as 1-2 sample chapters, one of which is the first chapter.

All of this should be filed via their [Submittable](#).

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

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.

They've had serious issues regularly updating all of their website recently, some sections are very old and some are recently updated.

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

They have three imprints that are sometimes open for submissions: Anaiah Romance (20,000 – 90,000 words), Anaiah Surge (50,000 – 90,000 words), Anaiah Adventures (up to 50,000 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](#). They are closed to submissions at present but plan to reopen in September 2023.

Enclave Publishing

Enclave was formerly known as 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](#).

Orbis Books

Orbis Books was founded in 1970, and they are the publishing arm of Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, a Catholic organization. of leaders in religious publishing since 1970. Within that scope they publish a wide range of books on prayer, spirituality, Catholic life, theology, mission and current affairs. The work they publish tries to encompass "the global dimensions of faith, inviting dialogue with diverse cultures and traditions, and serving the cause of reconciliation and peace". You can get a better feel for what they've published [here](#). They are not interested in publishing fiction or anything outside of the scope listed above.

Learn more about the history of the press, go [here](#).

Submissions can be made via email or post.

They go into details of what needs to be submitted on their website [here](#). Please only submit to them if you feel like your work is an excellent fit.

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 [Brudershof](#), 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,

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](#).

Upper Room

Upper Room is a Christian press that focuses on "Christian spiritual formation". The work they publish is designed to appeal to both clergy and lay people. It is designed with individuals and small groups in mind. They "seek writers who offer insights and guidance on these topics: prayer and other spiritual practices, spiritual formation, Advent and Lent studies, living a faithful Christian life, relationships, healing and wholeness, aging, and creativity and spirituality". To learn more about what they are actively publishing, visit their bookstore [here](#).

Upper Room was founded in 1935 as a daily devotional guide, it has grown significantly over the years, the press just one part of a larger non profit, inter-denominational organization. To learn more about the press and the organization as a whole go [here](#).

As a press, Upper Room encourages "the use of inclusive language in reference to God and humanity". They are only interested in non-fiction proposals and are not interested in fiction or poetry.

They only accept proposals via the post, and they outline what they expect proposals to include [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](#). When I last checked they were closed to submissions.

Westminster John Knox Press

Westminster John Knox Press (WJK) is the academic and trade imprint of the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation. They have published many established Christian scholars, including Marjorie Thompson, Cornel West, and Rowan Williams. They are just a faith based publisher which means all of their work is rooted in Christianity, and they are not a good publisher to approach from outside of that perspective (although their Children's imprint [Flyaway Books](#) was established in 2018 and includes work that is focused on things outside of Christianity).

WJK publishes "books in theology, biblical studies, preaching, worship, ethics, religion and culture, and other related fields for four main markets: scholars and students in colleges, universities, seminaries, and divinity schools; preachers, educators, and counselors working in churches; members of mainline Protestant congregations; and books specifically related to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)".

It's a good idea to get a feel for what they publish by visiting their main page, or searching through the [book section](#) of the site. They are very much focused on readers rather than writers, which is always good.

They do not consider fiction, memoir, poetry, dissertations or Festschriften for publication, and do not consider kids' books outside of their Children's imprint, which has separate guidelines.

They are only interested in considering proposals and have detailed information about writing academic book proposals, professional book proposals, and general reader book proposals on their website. Please read them carefully before submitting a proposal that follows the guidelines they have established.

To see their full 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.

Zondervan

Zondervan is one of the largest and most established Christian media companies.

They are based in Grand Rapids Michigan, but have an international presence. They are now owned by HarperCollins. They are a founding member of the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association.

They only have two imprints that are open to direct submissions:

- **Zondervan Reflective** books aim to be good, engaging reads that encourage deep reflection, inspire action, and call for a response. The goal for books in this imprint is to be part of the conversation, to engage readers, and to explore from historically orthodox Christian commitments the really tough questions Christians face today. Topics for such books include leadership, ministry, the intersection of faith and culture, and biblical and theological perspectives on contemporary issues. The authors of such books are expected to have demonstrable expertise on the subject being addressed.
- **Zondervan Academic** books seek to show the breadth and diversity—both theologically and globally—of Christianity in its broadly evangelical expression. College and seminary textbooks, Bible commentaries, reference books, and scholarly monographs in the biblical, theological, and related disciplines are included in this imprint.

All submissions to either of these imprints must be made via email. You should make it clear which imprint is the best fit in the subject line of the email.

They ask that your proposal be no more than 5 pages and include the following:

- A brief description of the proposed book
- The unique contribution of the book and why you feel it must be published
- The table of contents, including a two or three sentence description of each chapter
- Your intended reader
- Your curriculum vitae including your qualifications to write the book

It's important to note that on their submission page they share the link to their vanity imprint run by Authors Solutions. We've written about imprints like this [here](#), and they should very much be steered clear of.

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

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.

Because of the nature of this work, some of the websites will be contain content not appropriate for those under the age of 18 and also not safe for work. Because this is part of my job, I have to look at them for 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.

Afterglow Books

Afterglow Books is a new imprint of Harlequin. You can read our review of [Harlequin](#), and their digital imprint [Carina](#), if you want to learn more about the company as a whole.

Their tagline for Afterglow books is "From showing up to glowing up, these characters are on the path to leading their best lives and finding sizzling romance along the way. ' This is how the editors describe what the new imprint is seeking "Depth, relatability and sizzling spice, too: these characters are determined to live their best lives — and find the romance that makes them feel seen, unapologetically. In the pages of Afterglow Books, characters from all walks of life, all types of diverse identities, will pursue their dreams and discover love isn't far behind. Because everyone deserves a happily ever after that's true to who they are."

The work they are seeking is between 65,00 and 70,000 words.

They are specifically seeking writers from underrepresented backgrounds, but they don't have any details or rules listed in the context of that.

They are planning to publish two books a month. You can get a good feel for what they've published so far by going to their website [here](#). They started out by publishing some already established authors which is a good sign that they are investing in this imprint.

If you want to learn more about their specific submission guidelines for this line, go [here](#). All submissions must be made through Submittable.

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. 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.

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 in 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 their board of acquisitions, or a 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 suggests 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 it will not be edited much beyond that. Although they do not explicitly state that on their website. Individuals who have worked with them have commented on that fact. Also, they appear to be leery of working with agents.

However, 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 have 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 HarperCollins a few years ago.

In the fall of 2022 they made a big deal about changing the name of their primary imprint and some of their stated goals, but I've yet to see any signs of a major shift in March 2023.

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](#).

You can also visit their submittable [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 presented for the most part but the Inkspell books main page is not well organized and features older work first. The other 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 this time.

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

Love Inspired and Love Inspired Suspense

Love Inspired is an imprint of Harlequin that focuses on the Christian romance market. They describe themselves as publishing "Contemporary inspirational romances that feature Christian characters facing the many challenges of life and love in today's world. You can see the catalogue for this imprint [here](#).

Love Inspired Suspense is an imprint of Harlequin that focuses on publishing work where both romance and suspense are both major elements. They describe the work they publish as "Edge-of-the-seat, contemporary romantic suspense tales of intrigue and romance featuring Christian characters facing challenges to their faith...and to their lives". You can see the catalogue for this imprint [here](#).

You can read our review of [Harlequin](#), if you want to learn more about the company as a whole, but this article very much focuses on these two related imprints. I don't usually group two imprints together and I don't often review imprints period if the publisher as a whole mostly publishes one genre. However these imprints are clearly linked by their name and their focus on the Christian market, which also sets them a part from the Harlequin catalogue as a whole.

Like all Harlequin imprints you submit your work through Submittable. Both imprints are seeking complete manuscripts that are 55,000 words in length, along with 3-5 page synopsis of the book. Both imprints want the book to reflect a Christian worldview and contain wholesome values. Both imprints are seeking books featuring "relationships that emphasize emotional intimacy rather than sexual desire".

There are lots of other details about the specifics the imprints are seeking, the editors involved and their promotional plans. You just have to go to [Harlequin's submittable](#)

[account](#) and scroll down to the end of their imprint list to get details about both publishers. Follow the submission guidelines carefully before submitting.

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 & Boon 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](#).

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](#).

Sourcebooks Casablanca

Sourcebooks is a major independent publisher in the US whom we have reviewed [here](#). Sourcebooks was founded in 1987, and in 1996 Sourcebooks Casablanca joined the family. Three other imprints followed. They have major distribution and good covers.

While their other fiction imprints open and close to unagented submissions, they are almost always open to unagented Romance fiction for their Casablanca imprint. This includes Own Voices, marginalized voices, inclusive and diverse romances. They are looking for strong writers that are excited about marketing books and building communities of readers, and whose stories have something fresh to offer within the genre. They publish romances that fall within the following subgenres: paranormal romance, romantic suspense, contemporary romance, erotic romance, and historical romance (prior to 1900).

They try to respond to all submissions in 8 to 12 weeks. If they do not respond to you, please assume rejection.

Completed manuscripts must be between 85,000 and 100,000 words. They expect you to submit the completed manuscript as a word doc or docx. If your work has been published before please include a sales history, and mention what you are hoping for in terms of your long-term career.

Also include a query letter and the full synopsis.

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

You can view the full list of submission guidelines for all of their imprints [here](#), so you can see which imprints are currently open to unagented submissions.

Here's the link to the [submission guidelines for the Casablanca imprint.](#)

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](#). At the time of this update they are only accepting submissions from authors who have previously worked with them or when an author is directly requested by an editor. You can learn more [here](#).

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

Their authors page which you can access [here](#), contains helpful additional information. At the time of this update they are only open to submissions from authors they've previously worked with.

Vinspire Publishing

Vinspire Publishing was founded in 2004. They were originally called Vintage Romance Publishing, because they started only publishing 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](#).

Additional Publishers

The following lists mention some of the same publishers in this book, but many contain publishers that have never received a full review from us, not because they aren't good publishers, but because they have limited focus in terms of niche, or largely focus on poetry, or have geographic limits.

[56 Manuscript Publishers with Geographic Restrictions](#)

[95 Poetry Manuscript Publishers](#)

[45 Specialized Manuscript Publishers](#)

FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)

Because all the questions I'm answering here we've received many times, the question shared is paraphrased. I'm not directly quoting any individuals here.

Question: Why do you only list some publishers and not others?

Answer: We receive a lot of emails every week asking us why we haven't reviewed a certain press or requesting that we do review a certain press.

Sometimes it's easy to send out a one sentence answer, which is often this: "We have never heard of this press before, but we'll look into them".

But often the answer is more complex than that, but it is usually for one of the following reasons.

1. They don't align with our guiding principles

You can read our complete [guiding principles here](#), but the main takeaway is this -- we don't review presses that aren't traditional publishers. Traditional presses are publishers that pay their authors, not the other way around. We also won't cover publishers that only charge reading fees, which is something that is becoming more and more common. Some presses charge some authors but not other authors, we do not consider these to be traditional presses either, unless they have a clear vanity publishing imprint that they don't re-direct submissions to. We also only review presses that are open to submissions regardless of the identity of the writer or their geographic location. Although we do cover presses with geographic and other limitations as part of larger focused lists.

2. They haven't been actively publishing books for a year

This is technically part of our guiding principles but it bears repeating. Most brand-new presses don't make it past the starting gate. I add all new presses I come across to a list, and most never ever publish one book, never mind more. I do make exceptions for imprints of established presses.

3. They've behaved in a way that raises major red flags

If I research a press and I discover they've promoted hate speech, or been accused of not paying their authors, or any other kind of serious problematic practice, I don't review them.

If a press I've reviewed in the past becomes guilty of any of these things, I update the review at the top, to make it clear what has happened.

4. They've behaved in a way that raises minor red flags

I've also not reviewed presses because I've heard from authors that they weren't allowed to promote their own book, and that the press didn't either, or there just was something about the site that made it hard for me to promote it, like a website with hard to read fonts. You can learn more about evaluating a publisher's website [here](#).

5. They've always been closed to submissions when I'm ready to review them

There are some presses that have really short and/or irregular submission windows and I just keep missing them.

6. I simply haven't seen them yet.

I'm always happy to see a question about a press I haven't encountered yet, enter my inbox at support@authorpublish.com.

Question: Why do you review presses that have done questionable or outright unacceptable things in the past? And why do you detail those things in your review?

Answer: There's more than one reason for this. Sometimes we don't know about the press's behavior when we review it, or that bad behavior hadn't happened when we first reviewed the publisher, and we had to add those details after the fact. It's not that we don't de-list presses (we do!), but we try not to. We'd rather have writers have a full picture of what's going on, then for the publisher to simply vanish.

Sometimes we will de-list a publisher from the guide but keep the review up on our website because it warns people not to submit and gives details because. The only way most people would encounter these negative reviews is if they have already found the publisher and are considering submitting to them, and they are googling the press to find out more. We hope our information will help them steer clear.

Often, the questionable or unacceptable behavior happens after we review the press, and again our priority is for readers to be as informed as possible.

Also, just because I think certain behavior is questionable or unacceptable, readers may, and often do disagree. For example, we've reviewed a publisher that promotes misinformation about COVID, which we consider to be a serious issue, and many subscribers have reached out to us that they feel differently and have submitted to them for this reason.

The other factor is this: if I only reviewed publishers that had completely clean slates and had never done anything that anyone found questionable, I'm not sure how many publishers there would be in this guide, but it would probably be under a hundred.

Our reviews aren't recommendations, I personally would not submit my own work to some of the publishers we've reviewed, but the reasons that keep me from submitting

to those presses (ugly covers, lack of distribution, etc), are detailed in the review, and often involve personal preferences. I want readers to know as much as possible before submitting, and their ideal publisher may look very different from my ideal publisher.

Question: Why do you make mistakes?

Answer: There's actually a lot of answers to this question, but first and foremost, I'm human, and humans all make mistakes.

If you see one please point it out to me in a polite way and I will fix it. You can always email me at support@authorspublish.com. User feedback is very helpful and an important contributor to this guide.

As far as spelling and grammar mistakes go, I really try my best, and I've written more about this [here](#).

Question: Authors Publish provides a lot of quality free information. How can you afford to do this?

Answer: We initially supported all the free work we gave away through ads. This worked really well for six years and then in 2018 our ad rates mysteriously halved. Thankfully we had savings, and we continued to pay our authors while figuring out next steps.

In early 2019 we started offering [courses](#) in order to continue supporting our free offerings. The courses have a cost attached to them, but they are well within the price range of other courses offered by other organizations. We pay our teachers and support the continued existence of Authors Publish through the courses, which have received overwhelming praise and have had many repeat students.

It's a good thing we did that because in March 2020 our ad rates halved again and have never recovered. We've now gotten rid of 80% of the ads on the site. We've also been able to expand into offering a [free lecture](#) series featuring some amazing authors and industry professionals.

Question: Why don't you feature more publishers that are open to previously self-published manuscripts?

Answer: There are very few publishers open to previously self-published manuscripts and in my experience these presses often either close entirely or close to previously self-published manuscripts within a year.

I wish this wasn't the case, but I do not create the guidelines (although once a publisher asked me to write his submission guidelines for him, I declined the offer).

Question: How long does it take you to update the guide every year?

Answer: I don't really want to think about it but I think it takes about one whole week worth of eight hour workdays. I don't do this all at once, because I have lots of other work on my plate as well.

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 of 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 publication exclusive rights to publish your work first. After they publish the 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.

Hybrid Publishers

Hybrid publishers are different than traditional presses, as they have two sources of revenue. Like traditional presses they make money off the books they sell, but they also charge fees to the authors. Hybrid publishers like to point out that they are different from vanity presses because they curate the books they publish. This really varies from press to press, in my experience, with occasional notable exceptions like

[She Writes Press](#), they largely are un-curated. We do not review hybrid presses, because they are not traditional publishers. We consider them to be vanity presses.

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. Some publishers do this as well. You can learn more about being a volunteer reader [here](#).

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 a publisher directly requests. 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 times 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 sometimes called assisted publishing, self publishing, and hybrid publishing. Any publisher that charges you 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/>