Authors Publish

THE 2026 GUIDE TO Manuscript Publishers

300+ TRADITIONAL PUBLISHERS

No Agent Required

Emily Harstone

Authors Publish

The 2026 Guide to Manuscript Publishers

300 + Traditional Publishers

No Agent Required

Emily Harstone

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The Authors Publish Guide to Manuscript Submissions

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How to Craft an Emotional Journey for Your Readers

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Introduction

Over the past decade, I have reviewed fifty-two publishers and imprints a year 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 that we undergo twice a year.

Well over one hundred publishers have been removed since the first edition of this book was published a decade 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.

We review several traditional publishers with a vanity or hybrid imprint, but we limit these reviews only to those who don't attempt to redirect potential authors from the traditional imprint to the vanity one.

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 and we will remove them from the guide and any lists they are on.

During the last three years there has been an ongoing and marked increase in scams targeting hopeful authors. One of the ongoing issues is scammers taking Big Five publishers' names, another is scammers pretending to be legitimate agents.

There has also been a significant increase in vanity imprints behaving aggressively and misleading writers. I have had to become increasingly on guard for presses that call themselves traditional yet still charge authors, which I've written about here.

The increase in printing cost, decrease in grants and funding for the arts in the USA, and other general economic pressures have also not been ideal. That said, fewer presses have closed so far than I've expected.

Generally, if we hear any major negative updates about a press we will remove them from the guide and listings, but keep the review updated on our website in case anyone Google's them, so they can learn what we have found out. We don't want to lead anyone to these presses directly, but we want people who already know about them and are considering submitting to them to have as much information as possible. Some presses remain in the guide, even with major marks against them, because they are so well known that people will request them repeatedly if we remove them, and because we'd rather readers approach them with clear knowledge about the situation.

There's good news too. More imprints of Big Five presses are having open reading periods, sometimes just for historically underrepresented authors, sometimes for everyone. If it's just for historically underrepresented 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 in our free magazine.

In general, established small presses seem to be trying to have more open reading periods as well, realizing that agents aren't the only or best way forward.

A number of the smaller presses I reviewed many years ago have now really grown and gotten good distribution. I'm now encountering more of their books in stores and at the library, which is great. Some of the newer presses I'm reviewing seem to really be ambitious and thoughtful in terms of launching their company.

I've also reviewed a number of exciting new literary presses that seem to be pretty ambitious and aware of how much of a role marketing plays in selling books.

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 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. We already disclose everything we know in the review itself.

The best place to go for third party feedback about publishers is the thread formerly known as "the index" at Absolute Write. Keep in mind that they have had to deal

with a number of month-long hacks in the past and because of that, they've been less active than they were previously. They also block access from individuals in certain countries because of these hacks, which is a far from ideal solution.

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 spoonful 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 about publishers that they share, particularly on their blog.

The book is divided into the following categories: nonfiction publishers, literary fiction publishers, multi-genre publishers, science fiction, fantasy, and horror 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, we also review any comments shared about the publisher 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 who 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 most years. 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.

Sometimes people call the reviews this book contains “recommendations.” That very much isn’t the case. I’m not endorsing a publisher when I’m reviewing them. Instead, I am trying to provide useful information, so that writers can come to their own conclusion. Authors shouldn’t submit to publishers just because I review them.

Authors need to figure out what they want in a publisher first, and then submit to publishers that match what they are looking for.

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. This is why there is a + sign after the number of publishers in the subtitle of the book.

There is also a section, entitled FAQ, that addresses 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.

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's even better to read The Authors Publish Guide to Manuscript Submissions, which is more in-depth.

It is also important to note that while historically I reviewed one manuscript publisher per week for Authors Publish on an ongoing basis, a few years ago we shifted towards a new format. You can read more about why we did that here.

I'm still reviewing 52 publishers a year, but now we are sharing these new publishers' names as part of a longer list, published on the first Thursday of every month. This list is usually called something along the lines of "Ten Publishers Open to Direct Submissions this September." These lists link to the full reviews for the publishers. The lists contain presses open for submissions briefly during that period, as well as the new publishers.

Subscribers almost always still get the reviews of the publishers long before the next update of this guide. 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 if you want add your

story to our Subscriber Success section of our Notes from the Editors desk column, which goes out on the fourth Thursday of every month.

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 Submissions

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 temporarily 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.

33 ⅓

33 ⅓ is an imprint of Bloomsbury. Their motto is "Small books. Big Albums". Their highly acclaimed main imprint focuses on publishing books that cover popular LP's. For example they have published books on Cher's album *Believe*, and Sufjan Steve's album *Carrie &. Lowell*. Some of the books are by famous authors, like Jonathan Lethem, and others are by established writers. You can see their full publication list of their signature series here.

They are not currently open to submissions of proposals for their signature series (although they plan to reopen in 2026), but they are open to proposal submissions for their Genre: A 33 ⅓ series which focuses on publishing short books that guide you through a musical sub-genre. You can see the books they have published in this series so far, here.

To submit a proposal for the genre series, please follow the proposal submission guidelines for the 33 ⅓ series, which you can see here. Although please note that genre books must be 40,000 words in length. Proposal submissions are encouraged via email.

They are also open to submissions of writing for any of the 33 ⅓ Global series. This includes 33 ⅓ Brazil, 33 ⅓ Japan, 33 ⅓ Oceania, 33 ⅓ Europe, and 33 ⅓ South Asia. These are in-depth examinations of some of the most important albums from around the world.

If you would like to submit a proposal for the global series, they ask that you please follow the directions for the academic proposal submission process found 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 submission guidelines 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 also note “that we do not accept any submissions from individual artists, photographers or designers except by invitation.”

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.

Agate and Medill Books are also now accepting reported nonfiction works.

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 work 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.

August Books

August Books is one of the three main imprints of Canelo, a UK based press that was established in 2015. Their books are well distributed and you can learn more about the company as a whole here. We have previously reviewed Hera books, which is now an imprint of Canelo. You can read that review here.

Their main landing page is here, and as you can see there isn't much listed there yet, because they were launched in March 2024.

We don't review brand new publishers but we are open to brand new imprints of established publishers, and that is what August Books is. Martina O'Sullivan has joined to lead the new division as executive publisher, and she has a lot of industry experience. You can read more about the launch here.

When they first launched last year they were open to fiction submissions, but now they are only open to non-fiction submissions in the following categories:

Non-Fiction
History
Popular Culture
Popular Science
Health
True Crime

They stress that they are not open to submissions of cookery, illustrated books, poetry, short stories or children's books, so please do not submit those to them.

They ask for a no more than a six-page proposal, plus sample chapter. They go into details about the questions they want the proposal to answer here.

To learn more or to 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.

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.

They used to be listed in the multi-genre section of this guide but I moved them to the non-fiction section because it more accurately reflects what they are publishing. They still have a call for submissions around speculative fiction still on their website, but after years of not seeing that call reflected in what they are publishing, I'm not linking to it directly.

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.

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. Most of what they publish is general nonfiction and they are not currently accepting submissions of purely academic projects.

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. They are a department of the Unitarian Universalist Association. They have excellent distribution.

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

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

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

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

To learn more or to submit, go here.

Amberley

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

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

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

They are open to submissions 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. A number 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. If they don't respond to your pitch within 30 days that means they are not interested in it.

Between The Lines Publishing

This small Canadian press's motto is "Books without bosses since 1977". Please do not confuse them with Between the Lines Publishing, which is fiction-focused and which we have not reviewed.

They only publish nonfiction books in these subject areas: "politics and public policy, social issues, activism and social movements, development studies, critical race studies, Indigenous issues, history, sociology, popular education, the environment, gender and sexuality, social work, labour, globalization, criminology, technology, media, and culture". You can learn more about their history as a press here.

They describe themselves as "proudly left-wing". They also say that their authors are "academics, journalists, artists, and activists—all our authors hope their books will spark political and social change." If this description does not resonate with you, please do not submit.

The books they publish cover both the academic and trade market. Some of their books have won prestigious academic awards, but they still always emphasize broader accessibility. You can get a feel for what they have published by spending time with their catalog here. Please only submit if you can see your book fitting within their current catalog.

Unlike many Canadian small presses, they do publish international authors although they do link mostly to Canadian resources for authors, and they do publish more Canadian authors than authors from outside of Canada.

They ask that interested authors submit proposals, and much prefer them to manuscript submissions.

They will only respond to proposals that follow their guidelines and fit their publishing mandate. Their guidelines are as follows:

- a cover letter stating your primary intent in writing the work, its main themes and objectives, your sense of its potential market including courses for which it might be appropriate, an explanation of what makes this a BTL book, a timeline for completion of the manuscript, and an estimate of its length;
- a 2-page outline of the whole manuscript—either its table of contents, if sufficiently detailed, or a schematic summary;
- a sample of your writing, ideally the introductory chapter and one other representative chapter;
- a brief list of the existing literature on the topic and an indication of how your book would be different;
- your resume (no more than 5 pages long).

You can learn more 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.

Biteback Publishing

Biteback Publishing is based in London, England, and is focused on publishing work on political and current affairs titles. They also publish history, memoir, espionage, sport and general nonfiction, and they do not publish fiction of any kind. You can get a good feel for what they are currently publishing by seeing their new releases here.

They have international distribution. Their covers are genre appropriate. Their website is well organized.

They are open to proposals and have detailed guidelines of what they want to see as part of the proposals here. They only consider proposals submitted by email.

Please follow their guidelines carefully. They mention specifically that an author bio matters, which is true for almost all nonfiction. They ask specific questions related to that.

They try to respond to all submissions within six weeks, but warn writers that it can take longer at times.

Bloomsbury Publishing

Bloomsbury Publishing was founded in 1986 in Britain and has since expanded with offices in a number of other countries. They are very established with excellent distribution. They publish a wide range of fiction and nonfiction, but are only open to submissions for their academic imprint. For this imprint they accept textbook and academic proposal forms, including proposal forms for play anthologies and collections, and series proposals.

They also encourage academics who have an idea, but not a proposal yet, to research and reach out to potential commissioning editors here. They even say on their main submissions page, "While experienced authors may prepare perfectly constructed proposals, more frequently book ideas are raised and developed in discussion – by email, on the phone or in person. Please don't hesitate to contact your relevant Commissioning Editor to discuss your ideas."

You can download their proposal guidelines here. They have additional tips here. Because it's nonfiction they do not expect the proposal to be based off a finished work. Your potential manuscript should very much be in the early stages, although they do link to this advise in terms of revising a PhD thesis into a book.

To learn more about their submission guidelines and the overall submissions process, please go here.

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. They link to press coverage about their books here.

All submissions must be made via email. Their submission details are on their work with us page here, and you have to download a document they link to, to learn more.

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 shop 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 site 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, if you scroll down.

Carolina Academic Press

Carolina Academic Press was founded over 50 years ago, focusing on publishing non fiction books aimed at lawyers. They are still primarily a law publisher, but they've also published titles in other areas for a long time now, including titles on history, sociology, criminal justice, education and politics. You can learn a little more about them here.

I also highly suggest checking out their full catalogue as that gives you a better idea of what they publish. I can't share a direct link to all their titles because of how their website is set up, unfortunately. You can see one section of their catalog here, and if you click on the subheading that says titles near the top of the page a pop up will appear where you can access the rest.

They are open to proposals by mail or by form. You can learn more about what they expect in terms of proposals here. Please follow their guidelines carefully before submitting.

Carrel Books

Carrel Books is a non-fiction imprint of Skyhorse Publishing. Please read the review of Skyhorse before submitting.

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 Lyons has 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.

Castle Books

Castle Books is an imprint of the Quarto Publishing Group. While you can still submit to the publishing group as a whole, their submission guidelines encourages authors to determine which imprint is the best fit for them, and to include that information as part of the submission process.

Castle Books says "our mission is to delve into the unknown—giving voice to the eerie, the unexplained, and the supernatural. From spooky-themed cooking and legendary tales to drawing mysterious creatures, our titles explore the fascinating realms of the paranormal and the strange. We invite readers to embrace the thrill of the mysterious and discover the stories that lurk just beyond the veil."

You can see their imprint page here. You can get a good feel for what they publish here. At the time of this update it's a pretty small list with only eight titles, including those that are forthcoming. It is clear that it's a newer imprint.

To learn more about the submission guidelines, go here.

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.

Cool Springs Press

Cool Springs Press was founded in Nashville more than 30 years ago. They initially only focused on gardening in Tennessee and the region surrounding it. However they were successful and started to expand even before they were acquired by The Quarto Publishing Group. Quarto incorporated its existing line of DIY focused book into Cool Springs catalog.

Cool Springs Press currently focuses on publishing step-by-step how-to books for both DIY gardening and home improvement. They publish a lot of state and local gardening books that are tailored to specific regional environments across the United States. They also published a series of home improvement books. They are currently only open to submissions of gardening and DIY focused books.

You can get a better feel for their history here, and you can see their catalogue here.

You can review their proposal guidelines here.

CSIRO Publishing

CSIRO Publishing is an Australia's largest science publisher of books, peer-reviewed journals, and magazines. The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) was founded in 1916. In 1948 the CSIRO scholarly journals program started and only in 1995 was CSIRO Publishing established as a stand-alone imprint and publishing house in 1995. They still operate as as a not-for-profit, editorially independent business unit within CSIRO.

Most of what they publish is scientific books on a wide range of topics. You can get a better feel for what they publish by going here. They also publish Children's titles, but are not open to submissions of Children's books at this time. If you do want to submit a proposal to them, you can learn more here. They do not want to see complete manuscripts. When you submit your work, you are to submit no more than 30 pages of the manuscript to them, alongside the other information that they request.

Additionally these pages are also helpful: For Authors, and The Publishing Process. They make it clear that they have an established marketing team, and that they expect author support.

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.

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 inappropriate that 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.

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.

Entrepreneur Press

Entrepreneur Press is part of Entrepreneur Media. They focus on publishing books with "actionable solutions to help you excel in all your business". The books they publish fall into three categories: Starting a business, running a business, and growing that business.

They have been around for the last 40 years and now publish print, digital, and audio books. They publish a number of well-known series including the No B.S. Books. You can get a feel for what they've published here.

This is a specialized press, and if your experience and work does not match what they are looking for, do not submit a proposal.

They ask that all submissions be made through their form, and they have clear detailed submission guidelines you have to follow, listed here. Please scroll down to where they say How to Submit a Book Proposal.

They only respond to submissions that they are interested in learning more about, so if they do not respond within a few months, it is generally safe to assume they are not interested.

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.

Exposit Books

Exposit Books is an imprint of McFarland & Company Inc. Exposit books focuses on publishing work that focuses on a popular topics, like serial killers, and approaches that subject seriously. They encourage proposals for nonfiction manuscripts on a wide range of true crime subjects, including but not limited to: murder, serial killers, heists, robberies, abductions, kidnappings, missing persons, con artists, hoaxes, deceptions, organized crime and espionage. They also welcome proposals for books about sexuality, the paranormal, cryptozoology, death, gravehunting, and forteana.

You can see what work the imprint publishes here.

To submit, use the email address they provide, and make it clear that it is focused on executive editor Lisa Camp's attention, per their instructions near the top of this page.

The rest of their author resources are here, alongside McFarland's general guidelines and the guidelines for their other imprint, Toplight.

You can see their sample contact for "most" Exposit Books here. There are still potential issues with this contract, but the royalty rate appears to be more favourable at Exposit than at the main McFarland & Company imprint. They indicate on the page linked to above, that they can sometimes be open to contract negotiation, which their main imprint is not. They are not open to offering advances for any imprint.

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.

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 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 that is part of the larger company Teacher Created Materials. They publish primarily non-fiction, mostly curriculum based, where they have a number of niche focuses. They also have a new imprint called Shell Materials which focuses on material for educators.

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. They accept submissions via submittable and 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 Publishing (a Hybrid Press) and for Latino Writers in the US with Con Todo press. We also review their imprint Shell Education 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.

Genius Book Publishing

This small Wisconsin based press is run by a couple, Steven and Layla Booth. They share some of their story and experience on their About page here. Genius Book Publishing was founded in 2011. It publishes a range of genres, including fiction, but at the time of this review, they are only open to nonfiction submissions focused on Music or True Crime. The earliest work accepted now will be published is 2026.

Unlike many non-fiction publishers, they do not offer advances. They pay 20-40% off net. They used to have an interesting post about issues with an author/publication, on their website, which they have since taken down It seems to be the only major issue along those lines I could find, on their website or elsewhere. I did check all the watchdog sites, and looked around for other information, but turned up nothing.

I'm not sure if they have a distributor, beyond Ingram. Most of their books I looked up don't have many sales on Goodreads or Amazon, but the covers are genre appropriate, and they are well presented on the website.

This is what they say about their editorial preferences in terms of True Crime:

"We are true crime enthusiasts and want to read amazing books on the subject. We are seeking true crime books that feature good storytelling as well as accurate and unique representations of the facts. We don't want sensationalism; we want the truth in all its awful beauty. And if that means our books don't have easy answers or convenient endings, that's just fine. Sometimes a story needs to be told that has no ending. Not every mystery gets wrapped up within the covers of a book. Life isn't convenient and simple, and neither are the books we publish. Please keep in mind, our motto is to Honor the Victims and Celebrate the Heroes. We do not publish books that in any way glorify criminals, even those who later got their lives together. We

tried that before, and it didn't work out the way we wanted. No more."

They don't have detailed editorial preferences in terms of music, but you can see work they've published in that category here. To see their previously published true crime books go here.

Their submission guidelines are here, and they stress that someone beyond the author has to have edited the book, but it does not have to be a professional. This likely means they will also not be editing the book.

Submissions must be made via email and follow their guidelines. They reopen to submissions on June 1st, 2026, according to their website.

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.

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 exisiting 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.

Hazeldon Publishing

Hazeldon Publishing is the publishing arm of the Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation which describes itself as "a force of healing and hope for individuals, families and communities affected by substance use and mental health conditions". The work they publish is intended for the prevention, treatment, criminal justice, behavioural healthcare, and consumer markets. They are distributed by Simon & Schuster in the United States.

Since they are a specialized nonfiction publisher they are not interested in work outside of that sphere. They are also not interested in submissions of poetry, fiction, personal stories, memoirs, dissertations, children's books, and art. They are also not interested in music or videos.

They are also seeking shorter work for their Hazelden Meditations Series and you can learn more about that here. They do not appear to be paying contributors for their work as part of that series.

In terms of full length manuscripts, they do pay via royalties but not advances. They state "All manuscripts are subject to editing, and most products are in development for two years before publication."

They only respond to submissions they are interested in. All submissions must be made by email. You can learn more about their proposal process here.

The History Press

The History Press is based in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, England. Their name is pretty self explanatory, they publish historical nonfiction, as well as general nonfiction. They do consider memoirs. They do not consider direct submissions of poetry or fiction, so please do not submit it to them. You can learn more about the company here. You can see the books they've previously published here.

They allow submissions of proposals via email. Initially start by sending a synopsis which is 200 words or less and biographical note. When sharing your proposal it should include the working title or subject in the subject line of the email. Within the email itself include your full contact information including name, title, email address, postal address, and phone number.

Their complete submission guidelines go into the details they want included in the synopsis and biographical note. Please spend time on their submission guidelines page, reading it carefully, if you plan to submit.

If you have not heard from them in six weeks, please assume that they have rejected your work.

Hohm Press

A small print publisher based out of Arizona, Hohm has been around for many years. They are a respected press that has published a number of well-known authors. They generally focus on health and wellness. They are not interested in fiction or short story collections.

Their website was updated in the last two years and is much better than the original site.

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.

They are currently interested in the queries in the flowing areas:

- Teachings and texts from authentic spiritual and mystical traditions, such as Buddhism, Sufism, Hinduism, Taoism, 4th Way, esoteric Christianity, etc
- Transformational psychology
- Translations of classic spiritual poetry
- Biographies and autobiographies of spiritual teachers
- Autobiographies or memoirs that feature work with a spiritual teacher, teaching, or path
- First-hand accounts of transformational experiences or relationships

They specify that “A professionally edited manuscript will receive a more favorable response from us.” And go on to say “If we accept your professionally edited manuscript, Hohm Press will manage the design, printing, and distribution of your book through our extensive national and international networks. Domestically, our national distributor ensures availability in over 8,000 major retail and chain bookstores, along with approximately 2,600 independent booksellers across the U.S. and Canada. We are represented by 25 sales firms that cover all major wholesalers and bookstores, as well as more than 100 eBook platforms, including Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Ingram, Baker & Taylor, and iTunes.”

I have two take-aways from this. The first is that they are no longer editing most work (even professionally edited work, still needs some copy editing before publishing) and the second, is that even though none of their distribution is excellent, in and of itself, they do manage to get books into stores (and I have seen them there).

The lack of editing doesn't appear to be across the board, but I would very much take that into consideration if I was considering submitting to them.

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

Hurst

Hurst is a UK-based independent publisher that was founded in 1969. They only publish nonfiction and the core of their list focuses on "African Studies, Islamic & Middle Eastern Studies, South Asian Studies, History, War & Conflict, and International Relations." Nonfiction work outside of those areas of study are not a good fit for them. You can spend more time with their catalogue here. It is very easy to get a feel for what they publish, and what they do not.

They have excellent international distribution, an established reputation, and excellent genre-appropriate covers. They have published many well-reviewed books, by established and respected authors.

They accept proposals directly from authors, via email.

Hurst welcomes manuscript submissions via email. They only publish serious nonfiction for adults, and are not interested in work aimed at younger audiences.

Submissions must include a synopsis or outline, your CV or bio, including past publications, as well as a list of draft chapter titles followed by summary paragraphs. You should also include as many sample chapters as possible, information regarding competing work, a guesstimate of the works total length, and the proposed completion date.

You should also include any pertinent information regarding non-textual material in the book. This includes proposed photographs, illustrations and tables. Do not send the actual non-textual materials without further instruction.

You can learn more by going here, and scrolling down. Please carefully review all of

the information on their website carefully and follow all of their instructions. They will not respond to submissions of work that are not a “a genre of serious adult non-fiction”

Icon Books

Icon books is an adult non-fiction publisher that was founded in 1992. You can get a good feel for the books they publish here. The books they publish tend to fall into the following categories, Biography and Memoir, Business and Self Help, History and Current Affairs, Lifestyle and Travel, Literature & Language, Philosophy, Popular Culture, Popular Science, Psychology, and Sport.

The books they publish are distributed through Publishers Group West, an imprint of Ingram that is pretty selective and actively distributes books in stores.

They are open to unsolicited adult non-fiction manuscripts only. They are not interested in any work outside of that. Submissions are made via email and involve downloading and filling out a submission form, which you can see here. The form is pretty basic and only one page long. It covers most of the territory a proposal would. They are not open to submissions via any other format, including mailed submissions.

They will send an email acknowledging that they've received the submission. They will only contact you again after that if they are interested in seeing more. You will not receive a rejection from them. See their submission guidelines here.

Inner Traditions and Bear & Company

Founded in 1975 by Ehud C. Sperling, Inner Traditions has always focused on publishing work related to spirituality, the occult, as well as Eastern religion, philosophy, and practices. In 2000 they acquired Bear & Company, which focused more on Native American culture, alternative Christianity, New Age, and healing arts. You can learn more about the founding and growth of Inner Traditions here. They are currently distributed by Simon & Schuster.

The books they publish cover a wide range, from Self-Help to Conspiracies. You can get a good feel for the range by going to their catalog, which organizes their books by subject. They also publish card decks and are open to submissions of those as well.

They accept submissions by mail or email. If it is sent by post, please include a self-addressed and stamped envelope with sufficient postage. They do not send out rejections, and instead ask that you assume rejection if you haven't heard from them in six weeks.

When you submit a proposal they ask for a query letter, a table of contents, an introduction, and sample chapters. They go into details about these components in their submission guidelines.

Their submission guidelines are very helpful, and I encourage you to also scroll down to the very bottom of that page where they break down the current imprints.

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 you can reach out to them directly if you cannot use the form.

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.

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 about their querying process go here, and scroll down.

Lit Fox Books

Lit Fox Books is a small, Austin based press founded by Lisa Mottolo.

They do offering editing services on Poetry Manuscripts only. You can learn more about that here. I do know how important and hard it is to fund a small press, and I'm glad they are trying to find meaningful ways to do that but I personally wish that they were better at clearly stating that this is separate from the publications they do, and not a more expensive route towards that publication. Just to be a hundred percent transparent, I am not reviewing the poetry publishing aspect of their press (which is not currently open, either), because of that. I do very much get the impression that this is a small literary press and a passion project, if that is not the right fit for you or your work, please don't proceed.

In this review I am only focusing on their non-fiction publishing as they do not offer paid editing for this work. You can get a feel for what they previously publishedhere. They have yet to publish non-fiction though. Their covers are generally terrific.

They are currently open to receiving submissions of full-length manuscripts in the following nonfiction categories: Books on the craft of poetry, books about writing, essay collections, flash nonfiction collections, and memoirs.

They ask for submissions of full manuscripts via email, alongside a cover letter and brief biographical statement. They also have requirements for the subject line of the email that you must follow.

To learn more go here.

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. One of their other former imprints had several complaints filed against it, in terms of their contract. It has since been sold off.

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.

LSU Press

LSU Press was founded in 1953 by Louisiana State University to help support the work of the university. They publish scholarly and general interest books, mostly about Louisiana and the south. They do not publish fiction.

According to their site, their current areas of interest include:

- African American studies
- American history
- Atlantic World history
- Caribbean history
- Civil War studies
- Environmental studies
- Fan studies
- Foodways
- Landscape Architecture
- Literary studies
- Louisiana archaeology
- Louisiana history and culture
- Media studies
- Poetry
- Roots Music
- Southern environmental history
- Southern history
- Southern social justice issues
- World War II

You can visit their active series page here, to see what their current focus looks like. A lot of the these imprints focus on the south but many also go beyond that scope. They also publish poetry.

If you are serious about submitting I'd really focus on spending time browsing the catalogue of the series your work would belong in. Each series page shares information to the series editor, although all submissions are redirected to the relevant

acquisitions editors who you can learn more about here.

You can not submit an un-revised thesis dissertation and they have specific advice in terms of revising thesis dissertations.

They ask that poetry proposals include a cover letter, a one-page summary, as well as a few sample poems that are part of the manuscript, and a current resume or CV.

All proposals that are not for poetry manuscripts should include a cover letter, title, table of contents. information about competitive titles, and a resume or curriculum vitae. They also want to know a rough total word count, and information about proposed art. They do not want to see your whole manuscript at this time, but you must include sample chapters also.

They will only reply if they are interested in seeing more.

To learn more about submitting to them, please visit their website here.

Lund Humphries

Lund Humphries' tagline is "Publishers on Art, Architecture, and Design since 1939". It is easy to get a feel for what they publish here. They are an established and respected independent publisher. Their books are beautiful and widely distributed. They publish books by Visual Arts scholars, professionals, students and art enthusiasts. It's easy to see if they might be a good fit for your project or not, because they have clear perimeters in terms of what they do and do not publish.

They are open to proposals for new books on Visual art. They have a proposal form interested authors can fill out here and then share via email with the right editor. They currently link to the email addresses of the editors for the following disciplines: Modern & Contemporary Art and museum co-publications, Art History, Architecture & Design, Art Business, Museum Studies & Curating.

They stress that "The closer the proposal adheres to the structure of our Proposal Form the easier it will be for us to review and make comment on it."

They also share significant questions they ask when they receive a proposal for a new book, which include the following:

"Is the book economically viable? Art books are expensive to produce and an art book on a specialist subject may have a limited market. We may require highly illustrated books to be supported by a grant or other external funding.

Does it make an original contribution to the field?

How and to whom will we sell the book? We need to be clear about the market for your book and how we will reach it."

I'm bringing attention to the line, "We may require highly illustrated books to be supported by a grant or other external funding." Sometimes publishers require the author to acquire that additional support. While this is more common with academic presses, including respected and established ones, it still should not be the responsibility of the author. Please reach out to support@authorspublish.com if they expect the author to do the work in terms of finding the money (or providing it themselves). We were not sure about reviewing them because of this, but it didn't seem like something they always did, and we wanted to give them the benefit of the doubt (especially because they publish good work).

Additional details on submissions are available here.

Lyons Press

Lyons Press was founded in 1984. Their initial focus was on a lifestyle of "responsible outdoor sport," according to their founder Nick Lyon. They have since expanded their focus to books on fishing, hunting, nature, animals, military history, American history, entertainment, true crime and sports. They are now an imprint of Globe Pequot, which you can learn more about here.

You can get a good feel for what they publish by going to their catalog here. They appear to publish about four books a year.

You can see their submission guidelines, along with the submission guidelines for Globe Pequot's other imprints, here. Please note that not all of the imprints open to submissions appear to be actively publishing work still.

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.

They seem upfront about how they do business and even share a sample contract. The part of the sample contract that stands out to me, is not only is there no advance, but that the author is responsible for negotiating and paying for permission to use excerpts of others work. They used to not be upfront about the contract being non-negotiable, but now make that clear as part of their submission guidelines.

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 will not negotiate.

They accept book proposals, and you can learn more about what they expect in proposals by scrolling down here to the section entitled Making 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 or memoir or any form narrative nonfiction.

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.

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 must 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:

- **The Good Life** (A big umbrella category that encompasses many facets of living your best life, including DIY, how-to, self-care, house and home, gardening and houseplants, fashion, beauty, wellness, gender, and activism).
- **5-Minute Therapy** (Science-based, professional guidance for your mental and physical health, sex life, and relationships written by credentialed authors).
- **Neurodivergent Pride** (Practical resources, sociology, and perspective by and for Autistic adults as well as people with ADHD and other neurodivergent identities).
- **Magick and Metaphysical How-To** (Body, mind, and spirit—secular as well as pagan).
- Yard Dragon (Herbalism, herbal medicine, permaculture, ethnobotany, and other plant topics).

- **Scene History & Punx** (What made a time and place into a unique climate for music, creativity, social justice, gender, sexuality, struggle, or a different way of thinking?).
- Queering Consent (#ownvoices erotica short stories)
- Comics Journalism (nonfiction graphic novels that tell powerful stories. We do not pair writers with illustrators but we do developmental edits for books).
- **Gift** (humor, animals, fun but educational, has a point of view).

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 stems of submitting to them.

To learn more and review their submission guidelines, go here.

MIT Press

One of the largest and most respected university presses, MIT Press was founded in 1962 and continues to be a leading publisher of books at the intersection of science, technology, art, social science, and design.

MIT Press is open not to direct submissions of proposals, but to inquiries sent first, via post or email to the appropriate editor. The inquiry should "describe the project, the author, and the reasons for writing the book- in a few paragraphs". They are not open to direct submissions of manuscripts, sample chapters or attachments with images. If they are interested in learning more, they will ask for that information.

That being said, if you are interested in working with them or other academic presses, it is still important to have a proposal ready to go on request, and they do have specific guidelines about that here. At the bottom of that page, they have excellent reading suggestions for potential authors.

The list of editors and their subject areas is available here. As with most academic presses, you should not query unless you are a qualified expert in the appropriate field. As appropriate to MIT, most but not all of the editors focus on work intersecting with science or math.

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, 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.

Please follow their guidelines closely before submitting.

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.

Orison Books

Orison Books says they hope to "publish spiritually-engaged poetry, fiction, and nonfiction of exceptional literary merit." They clarify that spirtual writing, in their opinion, isn't based on the subject matter but in the "transcendent aesthetic effect on the reader, and reading it can itself be a spiritual experience." They go on to say "such work is not merely about spiritual contemplation, but itself leads the reader into profound contemplation. It is not merely about the sublime, but itself has a sublime effect on the reader. It is not merely about the mystery of being, but itself heightens the reader's sense of the mystery underlying the fabric of our daily lives."

They are a respected small press that has had work featured in many major publications. To get a feel for what they publish you should spend some time with their catalog here.

During the month of October they are open to general fiction and nonfiction submissions, as well as anthology proposals. They also run a number of contests in different genres, but a fee is attached to these contests, so we do not list them. There is no fee attached to the October submission period. They do accept optional donations, but donations do not impact their decisions or the outcome of a submission.

They accept all submissions through their Duosuma submission manager.

In terms of fiction, they are open to novels, novellas, short story or flash fiction collections. They ask for a minumum word count of 30,000 words.

In terms of nonfiction they are not interested in how-to or self-help manuscripts. They also ask that the work be at least 30,000 words in length.

They are open to works in translation, in terms of fiction and nonfiction, as long as the translator has permission, or the original work is legally in the public domain.

When possible they offer an advance against royalties. They ask that authors send a biography and a complete manuscript.

They are also open to single or multiple genre anthology proposals. They ask that the editor(s) includes a one-page description of the anthology, biographical information about the editor(s) at up to 30 pages of sample content.

To learn more go here. Remember they are generally only open to submissions in October.

ORO Editions

ORO Editions publishes beautifully presented illustrated books with a focus on architecture, urbanism, landscape, art photography, academia & applied research among other things (they recently published a tarot deck, for example). Before reading any further I would suggest you visit their catalog here. It should make it abundantly clear if your proposal would be a good fit, as it is carefully curated and makes a distinct impression in terms of their focus.

They do their own distribution, and seem to do a pretty good job, based on where I have seen their books. You can learn more about the history of the press and their founder here.

Their submission proposal guidelines are here. Please scroll past the form for their "How to Submit your proposal guidelines" section. Please follow them carefully before submitting. You can submit via their online form, via email, or via mail.

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.

Please note that university presses often encourage writers to participate in open access programs, and they ask authors to pay for that expense. If your institution pays for it, that is fine, but otherwise approach with caution.

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.

Parlor Press

Parlor Press's motto is "equipment for living". They are an independent publisher and distributor of scholarly and trade books. They publish work in print, and digitally. in high quality print and digital formats. They are only interested in submissions that are targeted specifically towards one of their existing book series.

Their current series are as follows, but please double check their website to verify that the series listed below are active before submitting.

They consider new work well suited to one of their current series:

Best of the Journals in Rhetoric and Composition
Edited by Steve Parks, Jessica Pauszek, Kristi Girdharry, and Charles Lesh

Comics and Graphic Narratives
Edited by Sergio Figueiredo, Jason Helms, and Anastasia Salter

Critical Conversations in Higher Education Leadership
Edited by Victor E. Taylor

Electracy and Transmedia Studies
Edited by Jan Rune Holmevik and Cynthia Haynes

Emerging Conversations in the Global Humanities
Edited by Victor E. Taylor

Illuminations: A Series on American Poetics
Edited by Jon Thompson

Inkshed: Writing Studies in Canada

Edited by Roger Graves and Heather Graves

Lauer Series in Rhetoric and Composition

Edited by Thomas Rickert and Jennifer Bay

New Media Theory

Edited by Byron Hawk

Reference Guides to Rhetoric and Composition

WAC Clearinghouse and Parlor Press, edited by Charles Bazerman, Anis Bawarshi, and Mary Jo Reiff

Renaissance and Medieval Studies

Edited by Charles Ross

Second Language Writing

Edited by Paul Kei Matsuda

Studies in Rhetorics and Feminisms

Edited by Jessica Enoch and Sharon Yam

Visual Rhetoric

Edited by David Blakesley

Working and Writing for Change

Edited by Steve Parks and Jessica Pauszek

Writing Program Administration

Edited by Chris Carter and Laura Micciche

Writing Spaces
Edited by Dana Driscoll, Matthew Vetter, and Mary Stewart

The X-Series
Edited by Jordan Frith

Any manuscript that does not fit within the confines of one of their current series is not a good fit for them.

They also have a yearly poetry prize series, but it involves a fee, in terms of submissions, and we do not cover opportunities that involve a fee.

Like many academic presses, at Parlor each book "undergoes peer review by scholars or other acknowledged experts or published authors". Even with this review process, turn around time is generally around three months. This is particularly important because they will not consider simultaneous submissions.

They have lots of additional details in terms of formatting submissions. You can go here to learn more. They allow submissions via email or post.

Pitch Publishing

Pitch Publishing is a UK-based publisher of nonfiction books about sports. They have a large catalog that covers football, cricket, rugby, boxing, golf, athletics and other sports. Many of the books they've published have won or been longlisted for awards. They have excellent distribution in the UK through MacMillan.

They don't have any guidelines stating that they are not open to non- UK authors, but if you are submitting a proposal for a book on a sport that is very different in the US than the UK (for example), and you are writing from an American perspective, they are probably not the right fit. To get a feel for what they have already published, go here.

Your submission must include proposed title and subtitle, a no more than 300 word description, a brief overview of the structure of the book. If the book is not written, you must include an accurate timeline for when it will be completed including a projected word count. If the manuscript is completed, disclose that and share the level of edits received. If a professional editor is involved, include their name also.

They also ask that authors share the types of images they plan to include and details of other previously published work. They have additional tips and details on their info page in the submissions section.

If you wish to propose a future Pitch Publishing title, then the following guidelines will help you prepare your submission.

Work is usually published at least a year after the contract is signed, and usually more, so that they can prepare a marketing plan. Completed and time-sensitive manuscripts may have different schedules.

They review submissions on a quarterly basis.

They share their house style guidelines here.

Princeton University Press

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

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

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.

Please note that university presses often encourage writers participate in open access programs, and they ask authors to pay for that expense. If your institution pays for it, that is fine, but otherwise approach with caution.

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.

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.

In 2025 they were acquired by Globe Pequot, which you can learn more about here. They are distributed by Simon & Schuster

The authors they have published include Isaac Asimov, Pulitzer prize winner Tom Toles, S. T. Joshi, Philip J. Klass, and Julian Huxley. You can get a better idea for what they publish by browsing their catalog here.

If you are interested in submitting, you can see their submission guidelines here.

All submissions must be emailed.

Redleaf Press

The motto for Redleaf Press is "Exceptional Resources for Early Childhood Professionals". Established in 1973, they are a nonprofit publisher of curriculum, management, and business resources for early childhood professionals. They are not interested in any work outside of the context of their focus.

They are a division of Think Small, a nonprofit organization. Proceeds from Redleaf Press help support Think Small. Readleaf Press is distributed by Consortium. Their covers are genre appropriate. Their website is clear and well laid out.

On their submissions guidelines page they stress that in order to be considered for publication by Redleaf, the material you submit must:

- be age and audience appropriate;
- be based on sound theory and research in child development;
- take cultural differences in child development and in child-rearing practices into account;
- reflect an active, learner-centered approach to education

All proposals must be submitted via email and include the following:

- a *cover letter* describing your book idea. In addition to the nature of the content, they need to know the audience for whom it is intended, how it compares to books that are already available on the same topic; and your applicable expertise.
- an *outline or table of contents* showing us the scope and organization of the work, including a summary of what each topic or chapter will cover.
- a *writing sample* that shows your ability to write clear, coherent prose. Ideally this will include selections from the manuscript you're planning to submit or write, such as the introduction and one or more sample chapters. Additionally, you can send previously published material, such as a magazine or newsletter article, preferably on the same subject that your proposal is about.

- a *resume* showing your relevant experience and education.

  To learn more, or to submit, go here.

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 nonfiction focused on children and teenagers, 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.

Rockpool Publishing

Rockpool Publishing is an established press with international distribution, largely through Simon & Schuster. They are based in Australia and their primary imprint is focused on "Mind Body Spirit; Health and Wellness; Self-help and Gift titles". They publish books as well as Tarot, Oracle, and Affirmation card sets.

Through their Gelding Street Press imprint they accept submissions of Australian stories and work focused on Sports. To get a feel for what Rockpool publishes, go here. To get a feel for what Gelding Street Press publishes, go here.

Their proposal guidelines are for books as well as Tarot, Oracle and Affirmation card sets. They stress that they do not publish fiction, children's nonfiction, or poetry.

They try to respond to all submissions within four weeks. for four weeks to respond to a proposal. They are open to international submissions and publish authors based outside of Australia regularly but they also stress "As an Australian Publisher, we do love Australian ideas in stories".

They ask for all proposals to be submitted via a form on their website. They ask that the proposal match the following requirements:

- A clear and concise covering letter attached. Include a short synopsis of the material (please note this is a summary of what the project is, imagine reading it as a 250 word blurb that could appear on the back cover of the book/card deck, summarising your product) within your Cover Letter document.
- We like to see a table of contents, to see that you have planned the title and what the components are, and please advise the complete word count of the

whole project. We would also like to receive an introduction and the first couple of chapters, however we can take complete manuscripts.

- All artwork submitted is to be clear and referenced to the correct artist if the work is not created by yourself, and explain how it relates to the text. This should be included within your First Chapters document.
- Please do not send hard copy submissions, we will reach out to you for hard copy material if necessary for evaluation.

They also include a list of tips and what they are particularly looking for, as part of their submission guidelines. Please read them in full before submitting

Ryland Peters & Small (RPS) and CICO Books

Ryland Peters & Small (RPS) and CICO Books is an independent, illustrated publisher that publishes books focused on interior design, food and drink, craft, mindfulness and spirituality, health, humour and pop culture. They also publish children's books. It's easy to get a feel for what they publish here.

RPS was started in 1995 by David Peters, Anne Ryland and Jacqui Small, in 2006 they acquired CICO books. They are based in London and publish about 100 books a year. They have good distribution in the US and the UK.

They do not consider proposals outside of the genre of illustrated non-fiction. However, based on the proposal information they ask for, and their general submission guidelines, they are not asking authors to find or contribute illustrations themselves.

They ask for the following:

- covering letter and synopsis
- a list of contents
- a bit about yourself as the author(s)
- if possible, please provide a sample chapter/project (no complete manuscripts please) so that we can get an idea of your writing style and what content/range of recipes/projects your book will include

They cannot accept files over 1 MB and they will not return any materials sent in the mail. If they are interested, they will reach out within 6 weeks. If you have not heard from them at this point, they are not interested.

To learn more or submit, go here.

Saqi Books

Saqi Books was founded in London in 1983. The roots of Saqi Books are in Lebanon and they focus on publishing trade and academic books on the Middle East and North Africa written by authors based all around the world. They publish around 20 titles a year. They have been awarded the British Book Industry Award for Diversity in Literature, the IPG Diversity Award, as well as the Arab British Culture and Society award. You can learn more about them here.

They are distributed by Consortium. Their covers are generally excellent and genre-appropriate.

They are currently open to submissions of both fiction and nonfiction. If you spend time with their catalog here it is easy to see what they are interested in publishing. Please do not submit to them if you cannot see your work fitting in with their current catalog.

They only respond to submissions they are interested in publishing. If you do not receive a reply within eight weeks, consider your work declined.

They have detailed submission guidelines for fiction and nonfiction work. Please read them carefully and follow all of their guidelines before submitting.

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.

Shell Education

Shell Education is a new imprint of Teacher Created Materials, which also runs Free Spirit Publishing. Shell Education focuses on publishing "professional resources that build educator instructional capacity, content-area knowledge, and confidence".

They are a new imprint, and their website was new at the time this review was published. It still includes minor errors, like the text "Optional Subheading" directly on the site.

The work they publish is intended to be read by educators, administrators, counselors, and youth workers. They are looking for work on the following topics: early childhood education, academic subject-area strategy books, creative teaching strategies, gifted and special education, and a wide range of social and emotional needs.

They are not interested in any material that contains religious or New Age content, or biographies, autobiographies or memoirs. They are also not interested in general self-help books for adults. Even if the content overlaps with what they do publish, your book is not the right fit for them if it also contains the topics mentioned in this paragraph.

They accept submissions via Submittable and the post. They have very specific proposal guidelines that you can read by going here and scrolling down to the subheading How to Submit. You must include a They accept submissions via Submittable and the post. They have very specific proposal guidelines that you can read by going here and scrolling down to the subheading How to Submit. You must include a resume while submitting, and they expect all authors to have knowledge and experience directly working in the field that they are writing about.

Shepheard-Walwyn

Shepheard-Walwyn is a UK based nonfiction publisher. They were founded in 1971. The areas they are most interested in are: Ethical Economics, Politics, Society and Social Change, Science, Philosophy, Psychology, Art History, Literary Criticism, Environmental issues, Self-Help, Personal Development, Autobiography, and Literary Memoirs. You can get a feel for what they have published in the past here.

Their website is pretty well organized, but I found the catalog to be rather frustrating. Many of the books on the landing page of the catalog are older and out of stock. In order to see recent books, which are mostly in stock, you need to adjust the filters, which give you a much better understanding of what they are focused on publishing now.

They do not have an About Us page on the website, but like most UK- based presses, they do have a business registration page which you can see here. I cannot stress enough that I am not an expert at analyzing this page, but I did find it interesting. Based on the information there, they seem to have less than ten employees, but that is certainly more than some other small presses.

They do overtly encourage submitters to build a "moderate social media following" so that is something to take into consideration. You can read their notes of guidance along with their submission guidelines here. They share additional information as well as a form for potential authors to complete on that page. All submissions must be made via email.

Skyhorse Publishing

Skyhorse Publishing is one of the largest small presses in the United States. They were founded in 2006. Over the past decade, they have acquired many 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. We initially reviewed them in 2014, and they have shifted focus since then, and we hope this review reflects that.

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.

In the past five years they've focused more on publishing work by controversial figures, politically or personally. They've also long received allegations of being a less than ideal workplace. In 2020 Vanity Fair published a comprehensive article about their behavior, which is very much worth reading if you are considering submitting.

In 2024 they made the news for requesting that CNN pay them a licensing fee of 250,000 dollars for interviewing Melania Trump. Publishers Marketplace ran the full story here but you must have a membership to read it. They have also received a lot of ongoing attention for publishing and promoting misinformation.

It is easy to sift through their recent 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 subcategories 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.

Stackpole Books

Stackpole Books was founded in 1927. From the very start they've published books in about the Outdoors, Crafts and Military History. Their particular focuses include fly fishing, nature guide, Civil War and World War II History, military reference, and specialty crafts and hobbies. You can get a good feel for what they publish by going to their catalogue here. In 2025 they published 18 books.

They are an imprint of Globe Pequot, which you can learn more about here.

They currently have four editors open to submissions, one in craft, one in fishing, one in history/military history, and one open to all other submissions that fit within the categories that Stackpole publishes. You can see the contact information for the editors here.

They ask that you include the following in your proposal:

- A description of the book.
- A table of contents, a sample chapter, and sample photographs or art if applicable.
- An overview of your platform, experience, and online presence (tell us how you will help promote the book).
- A market analysis—Who will buy this book? Why publish this book now? Include a list of current competitive titles.

They allow email and mailed submissions but prefer work to be submitted via email. The full submission guidelines for this imprint and all of Globe Pequot's imprints that are open to submission are 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.

Their imprint Truth to Power Books, is still active and has the same submission guidelines.

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.

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.

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. They are only accepting books about sustainable gardening at the time of this update

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 prefer emailed submissions, but postal are allowed. To learn more visit their guidelines here. Please follow their guidelines carefully if submitting.

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 or graphic novels 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.

Toplight Books

Toplight Books is an imprint of McFarland & Company Inc. The books Toplight publishes focus on "helping readers improve their understanding of the body, mind and spirit. Toplight's interests include uplifting and positive books about psychology and mindfulness, religious studies and spirituality, coping with chronic pain and chronic stress, and alternative health treatments, among other topics. We strive to offer a wide array of well-researched, original and inspiring books that explore both personal and planetary well-being. Toplight's authors, through their ideas and writing, seek to make a difference in lives and communities (and even the world)."

You can see what work the imprint publishes here.

To submit, use the email address they provide, and make it clear that it is focused on executive editor Lisa Camp's attention (the same editor of their other imprint Exposit), per their instructions near the top of this page.

The rest of their author resources are here, alongside McFarland's general guidelines and the guidelines for their other imprint.

You can see their sample contact for "most" Toplight Books here. There are still potential issues with this contract, but they indicate on the main page here, that they can sometimes be open to contract negotiation, which their main imprint is not. They are not open to offering advances.

Tuttle Publishing

The Tuttle Publishing company was originally founded in 1832 in Vermont. This makes it one of the oldest American publishers still in operation. In 1948, the company established a publishing outpost in Japan, and since then they have become much more focused on producing English-language books about the arts, languages and cultures of Asia. In fact currently Tuttle Publishing is only open to unsolicited submissions of work on "Asia-related topics". This includes Asian languages, cuisines, martial arts, arts and crafts, Eastern philosophies, etc. Do not submit any work outside of those topics to them. They are not interested in any fiction submissions.

You can read more about their history here. You can see more of their current catalog here. They have major international distribution which you can learn more about here.

They accept submissions via email and post, but very much prefer submissions be made via email. You can learn more about their proposal 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.

The University of Texas Press

The University of Texas Press is large and established, with good distribution. They are open to submissions of book proposals.

Before submitting a proposal they ask that you spend time reviewing the acquisition areas of their editors here. They primarily publish nonfiction in a wide variety of areas but are also open to a limited number of edited collections and memoir projects.

Proposal submissions should include "a cover letter, a prospectus, an annotated table of contents, two sample chapters, and a current CV." They also ask that all submissions are accompanied by a filled out Submission Inquiry Form.

They go into details regarding what they want to see in terms of the various components here. Please read their guidelines carefully before proceeding.

They try to acknowledge that they have received your manuscript within 5 business days. They try to respond within six weeks, if they are interested in working with submitters further. If they do move forward towards peer review they do ask for the submission to be exclusive at that point.

To learn more, please go here.

Verso

Verso is the largest independent, radical publishing house in the English-speaking world. They publish 100 books a year, and have editors based in Brooklyn, London, and Paris. They participate in all of the major book fairs. The majority what they publish is is nonfiction, and they are not open to unsolicited submissions of fiction of any kind.

They have received praise and acknowledgement from many major publications including Harper's and the Sunday Times. You can learn more about their extensive history, here.

They are a radical publishing house, and so they are not a good fit for authors that do not align with that perspective. You can get a clear impression of their views and perspectives by spending time with their catalog here. Do not submit to them, if you have not spent some time browsing through their list of previously published books. It is well organized, and categorized, and it should not take anyone very long to figure out if is a good fit or not.

They only consider digital submissions, and have two different email addresses based off where the author is located in the world. They also only respond to submissions if interested, so if that is a deal breaker to you, please do not submit. Please assume rejection if you have not heard from them after two months.

Proposals should be no longer than 15 pages total and they should include a page or two that covers the book's main themes, a list of contents with a short paragraph on each chapter, background information on the author, as well as what the author considers to be the main markets for the book. Also include information on titles covering the same or similar territory that are published or forthcoming. They also ask for an intended writing timetable, if possible.

You can see their full submission guidelines here. They are also open to pitches for their blog, and they include information about that at the bottom of their main submission guidelines.

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.

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.

Windhorse Publications

Windhorse Publications is an independent publisher of English-language nonfiction books on Buddhism, meditation and mindfulness. The work they publish is for Buddhist practitioners of all stages as well as for non-Buddhist readership. They also say, "We are also interested in books exploring new directions in Buddhist scholarship."

Like most faith-based publications, they are only interested in new book submissions and inquiries from Buddhists, with a particular focus on members of the Triratna Buddhist Community. They are most interested in "manuscripts that are well written and researched, and enrich the practice, understanding, application and scholarship of Buddhism and mindfulness today." You can get a feel for what they publish by seeing their catalog here.

They are not considering biography, poetry, fiction, or children's books. They are open to proposals sent via email. They will also consider overviews of your book idea or manuscript. They are distributed through Consortium.

You can see their full submission guidelines here.

Wisdom Publications

Wisdom Publications is an established small press focused on publishing books about Buddhism, including works in translation, academic works, works focused on mindfulness, Theravada, Zen, and Tibetan Buddhism, as well as children's books. They are distributed by Simon and Schuster and their books are widely available in print in North America.

They accept unsolicited submissions from authors and agents but only on topics directly related to Buddhism. Authors should have relevant professional, academic, or Dharma-teaching credentials. Please do not submit to them if this is not the case for you. If you meet their qualification needs, I very much encourage you to spend time on their website, verifying that they publish the kind of work you are interested in.

To submit your manuscript, you must download and complete a submission questionnaire. You can submit it back to them via email or post.

Their in house style guide is the Chicago Manual of Style (16th edition) and the American Heritage Dictonary for default spellings. Additional preferred formatting and style issues particular to Buddhist publishing are addressed in their PDF Style Guide for Works on Indian and Tibetan Buddhism.

They have additional information on submitting to their Wisdom's Academic series, which can be found on on their Academic Series information page.

To learn more about their submission guidelines, go 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 also find a number additional publishers of literary fiction in the multi-genre publishers section of this book.

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.

It also generally works best if one has an agent for literary fiction. As most literary fiction is published by imprints of the big five or established presses that require agents. Most publishers of literary fiction have limited submission windows, so expect many of the publishers in this section to be temporarily closed to submissions.

Acre Books

Acre Books is an imprint of The Cincinnati Review. They focus on publishing fiction, nonfiction, hybrid forms and poetry. They are particularly interested in working with debut writers. They are not accepting submissions of full manuscripts. They ask that authors query first.

Their website focuses on selling books, not on recruiting authors. The books they have published so far are great and have wonderful covers.

They are currently hosting two reading periods a year. When they are open to submissions there is a form on their website that you submit through. Different reading periods have different requirements and focuses. They have yet to announce when the next reading period will be.

Unlike most presses you can submit any ten pages from your manuscript – it need not be the first ten. They also ask for a query letter.

Reviewing their catalog is a very good way to get a feel for what they are interested in publishing.

To learn more or to submit, go here.

Apocalypse Party

Most of what they publish leans into horror, but is also artfully written, and craft is very much a factor, so I'm reluctant to move them to the horror section of this book. That might change in the future.

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

Atlantic Books

Atlantic Books is an independent London-based publishing house that was founded in 2000. They publish a wide range of work including fiction, memoir, history and current affairs. Some of their biggest fiction successes include *My Sister the Serial Killer*, *Call Me By Your Name*, and *Crazy Rich Asians*. You can learn more about Atlantic Books track record here.

They are currently only open to submissions for their Atlantic Fiction imprint, and not for any of their other imprints, nonfiction or fiction.

Their Atlantic Fiction imprint only publishes literary fiction and they are not interested in any genres outside of literary fiction. You can get a better feel for what Atlantic Books as a whole publishes by going here, and scrolling down. But please only take only the fiction titles into consideration as they are not open to submissions outside of that. Please only submit if you feel like your work is a good fit.

This is what they say about submissions to this imprint: "We're interested in complete novels, extensive partials or short stories. All submissions should come with a one line pitch and a one paragraph pitch, outlining the submission. We will not read anything outside the literary genre and we are unable to respond personally to every submission."

To see their submission email address go here, and scroll down.

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 do not accept the following: We do NOT accept the following submissions:

- Uncompleted manuscripts or book proposals
- Single author poetry manuscripts
- Young Adult manuscripts
- Children's Books
- Self Help manuscripts
- Manuscripts with AI generated text
- Manuscripts of translations without established permission contracts with the original author (excluding public domain titles)

Their mission statement is as follows:

"Aunt Lute Books is an intersectional, feminist press dedicated to publishing literature by those who have been traditionally underrepresented in or excluded by the literary canon. Core to Aunt Lute's mission is the belief that the written word is critical to understanding and relating to each other as humans. Through the sharing of stories, we strengthen ties across cultures and experiences, and at the same time honor the hurt, loss, and harm incurred through structural power imbalances, prejudiced and gendered systems, and ancestral trauma. We uplift these voices in order to build a more just future."

They are distributed by Consortium. 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 or submitted via a form on their site. 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.

Bench

Bench is a new small literary press focused on publishing prose and poetry. They only publish 2-4 books per year. They have only published three books so far, but have a number of books coming soon.

They describe themselves by saying: "We hold no allegiance to any particular aesthetic, genre, or form, but are dedicated to ambitious, energizing, imaginative writing, both in English and translation." The work I've read seems to reflect that but the site itself and the covers have a clear and distinct aesthetic. All their covers are different colors, with the same title for the font and the author, with no additional images.

They really encourage submitting authors to buy a copy first, and it is very much worthwhile (and it's important to support small presses you are submitting to). But because they've only been actively publishing for a year, they don't have very many books available. You can see their full catalog here. They do not have distribution, as far as I can tell.

You can also see their masthead here.

To learn more about submitting here. They are closed to submissions at the time of this update.

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.

Bullshit Lit

Bullshit Lit describes itself by saying they are,"Inspired by a stack of silly poems, *Bullshit Lit* is the antithesis to those flowery submissions calls for, like, "the deepest echo in your heartcanyon." We don't take ourselves too seriously. We like to see your worst. Your trash. Get funky with it. We love silly poems, nonsense prose, and lazy lore." They were founded in 2021 in Philadelphia by Veronica Bennett.

They publish poetry, prose, fiction, art, and work that doesn't fit nicely into any of those categories. Besides books they also have an online feature which is helpful in terms of figuring out what they are drawn to publish. You can see the work featured online here.

You can see their back catalog here.

They do not charge for submissions but they do charge $5 for expedited response times. They respond to expedited submissions within 2 months, and usually much quicker. They don't say how long they take to respond to submissions without paying, unfortunately.

In 2024 their reading period was in the summer. They have not announced their reading period for 2025, yet.

They are distributed by Asterism Books. They are closed to submissions currently.

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. They are open to submissions at the time of this update.

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.

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.

Everything With Words

Everything With Words is an independent publisher based in the UK. They focus on publishing literary fiction for children and adults. Their books have been featured in major UK-based newspapers and online, and have won or been shortlisted for industry prizes. You can get a good feel for what they publish here. Please spend time with their catalog if you are considering submitting to them. If you are serious about submitting, please either try to buy a book, or borrow one through your library. Their distribution in the UK is through Central Books. They also have someone on staff focused on foreign rights, which is a good sign.

The following is what they say they are looking for: "We're enthusiastic and committed to books that just feel a little different, a fresh way of telling a story, a striking way with words, a beguiling sense of humour and irony, and sometimes when we strike lucky, all those things at once." They also stress: "we're not very interested in books with a strong moral or didactic aim — fine books do change people's view of the world but we find that books where the author's views are the main driving force tend to be heavy and predictable."

I found their website easy to use and their covers charming and genre appropriate.

They are currently open to both agented and unagented submissions. They are NOT open to picture book submissions, but they are seeking work aimed at children and young adults, as well as adult fiction. They are NOT open to adult horror or pure fantasy but are open to magical realism. They only consider books that are 40,000 words or more.

They ask that you submit via email and include brief summary, something about yourself and three chapters or the first 50 pages.

You can read their full submission guidelines here. Please follow them carefully.

They say they try to respond to all submissions, but they receive a lot, and cannot always do so.

They are open to unagented submissions from the 1st of August, through the 25th.

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. They haven't yet announced exactly when their next reading period will be, but they have said this "The next call will be winter 2025/2026." and it will be "open to international literature, hybrid memoirs and nonfiction, literary fiction, short story collections, and anthologies."

To learn more go here. You can subscribe to their email newsletter for news about when they reopen to 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, Patreon, and book sales. Their staff page is here, if you want to learn more about their team.

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." You can get a feel for the books they've published in the past by going here.

I do really like that they're transparent about contracts, and share a sample one here.

They are very active at promoting books through social media and regularly attend book fairs and writer conferences. They are now distributed by ASTERISM.

They have yet to announce when their 2026 open reading period will be.

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

Great Place Books

This small press publishes literary fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and work in translation, at the rate of about one to two books per year. They state: "Our mission is to be a home for rigorous, weird, beautiful books—and their readers. These books are imperiled by the stratification and commercialization of publishing. Against the grain of the industry and the times, we aim to support the careers of idiosyncratic and alluring writers whose voices might otherwise be lost."

They published their first book in 2023, and they are still new at this. Their masthead is here. The best way to get a feel for if they would be a good potential fit is to spend time with the books they have published so far. The books they've published so far make a clear and distinct perspective and convey a lot about the taste of the editors in a helpful way. Please do not submit to them unless you think your work would fit well with their current fit.

I do not know if they have a distributor. The editors did an interview with LitHub that is an interesting read, that you can read here. I did think it was a little worrying that they'd already found all three books they've published so far, at the point that they launched, even if the publication of those books were staggered over two years. They also run courses and are active on social media.

They don't have formal submission guidelines but on their contact page they say "Queries are welcome. We will respond if interested."

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. They also run a blog called Scarlet. They pay 80 dollars for original poems and prose pieces that are published there.

To learn more or to submit, go here. They are closed to submissions at the time of this update, but plan to reopen soon.

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. At the time of this update none of their imprints are open to submissions.

Modern Artist Press

This small Northern Virginia based press was founded in 2023. The press makes it clear that they are women owned and are committed to amplifying the work of writers and artists who are "women, nonbinary; Black, Indigenous, Latina/o/x, Arab, Asian; LGBTQ+; neurodivergent, disabled; multinational, multicultural, multidisciplinary; and those defining and redefining their identities". They state "Modern Artist Press looks to expand and explode the definition of a modern artist by publishing literary fiction"'

They have so far published three books of literary fiction. Two were short story collections, and the third was a novel. Their books have excellent covers, and you can see their full catalogue here. Because they have published so few books it's hard to get a feel for how well those books have sold. I also was unable to find who their distributor is.

They are open to emailed submissions of literary fiction and ask that all authors include the following:

1. the first 25 pages of your manuscript in a Word document
2. a 1-page description of the overall story
3. a half-page author biography
4. initial ideas for marketing the published book

Submissions without all the above components will not be reviewed. Only authors with a completed manuscript can submit.

To learn more, go here.

Parlyaree Press

Parlyaree Press was established in 2023 in Atlanta, Georgia. They are focused on publishing work that "expands, reveals, and interrogates the mainstream." They want their books to "exist in the liminal space between what was and what will be."

They explain their name by sharing: "The cant of circus performers, freaks, queers, and thespians, Parlyaree is the invented language required to tell the stories of those othered, to keep their secrets, to keep them safe". Their logo also has a circus theme to it.

In terms of prose they publish literary fiction (often with a side of fantasy and/or magic), experimental writing, and LGBTQIA+ stories, as well as memoir, narrative-nonfiction, and educational works. In terms of poetry they want chapbook-length (or longer!) poetry collections.

You can see what they have published so far by going here and scrolling down. They also have a Bookshop.org shop which you can see here, but includes work they published as well as work they curated.

It's pretty easy to see what they are interested in, and what they aren't. Any additional questions you have about that will likely be answered by the FAQ section here. I will stress that they mention reaching out if you haven't heard from them in six weeks in the FAQ section, and after two months in the submission section. I would wait the full two months (or even longer), before querying.

They are only open to previously unpublished manuscripts.

All submissions must be made via email and all work must be in the body of the text. Attachments will not be opened.

To learn more, 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. They are currently closed to submissions outside of poetry at the time of this update.

Publishing Genius 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. They are closed to submissions at the time of this update.

Querencia Press

Querencia Press is a small press that describes themselves by saying "Querencia Press is an independent publisher from the Chicago-land area amplifying marginalized voices & creating a safe space for writers and artists to share their stories. We are especially interested in work that has been looked over in the past and challenges conventional genre placement." They publish poetry, fiction, nonfiction and hybrid work. They publish a journal which we've reviewed here, as well as an additional journal named Scavengers.

Querenicia Press is all volunteer run, and you can learn more about their staff here, if you scroll down. Some of the staff has a strong track record of publication, but most don't have much experience in publishing outside of Querenicia. However Querencia published their first book in 2022. Since then they have published a lot of other books.

For a literary press that has only been around for a few years, they have a large back catalog which you can see here. They vast majority of what they have published so far is poetry. Their covers are generally good and genre-appropriate.

One of the good signs on their website is they actively distribute free eBook copies to reviewers. They also encourage people to sign up for their email list.

They are a member of the CLMP and IBPA but I no longer take membership in either of these organizations seriously. The IBPA has always had known bad actors as members, and more recently I have found a number of vanity presses and presses behaving in predatory ways that are members in good standing of the CLMP. When I tried to report one of these presses, I was ignored.

This isn't to say membership in these organizations is a bad sign, it just isn't a good one. They are also a member of MIPA (which I don't know much about) and The Authors Guild Member Community. The Authors Guild is great but they don't have a formal membership for publishers, just individuals, and I have never seen them listed on a publisher's site before in this way. They have been a recipient of a We Need Diverse Books grant. They also have a promotional relationship with Chill Subs. Querencia Press also accepts donations which is not unusual for a volunteer run press.

They are currently open to submissions of chapbooks and full length manuscripts. They will close to submissions in November. You can see their full submission guidelines here.

They also state: "Querencia accepts all genres but we do have some HARD SELLS—young children's books (middle grade and YA are more likely to be accepted, depending on the message trying to be conveyed), cookbooks (we don't really have an audience for this, so we probably aren't going to be a good fit), poetry books that contain toxic positivity regarding healing and the timeline for healing, collections with more than 10% micro poetry or rhymed verse, historical/period romance, most romance poetry (if it's queer or surreal, you have a much better shot), historical fiction centered on war, nonfiction work that is religious, sports, or travel related. We do not have a word count limit, but the higher outside of your genres typical word count, the less likely we will be to accept.

We love experimental and hybrid work. For genre specific fiction work, we are most likely to accept sci-fi, surrealism, magical realism, & horror, but anything that centers on mental health, trauma, chronic illness/disability, women's rights, BIPOC rights, & LGBTQIA+ rights or systemic issues will catch our attention."

They also regularly have open calls for non-paying anthologies and other

opportunities.

They used to share information about their contract on their webpage. I cannot find that information now. To learn more please go here. They are closed to submissions at the time of this update, but plan to reopen at some point this year.

SPURL Editions

Their tagline is "publishers of unusual literature". On their About page they add the additional context, including the context that they are "specializing in works fitting for our current decrepit and apocalyptic world". They have previously published a wide range of work including French, Italian, and German literature translated to English, as well as surreal memoirs, radical political writing and fiction.

They are based out of Las Vegas Nevada and were established in 2015. They primarily publish only print books. They have one exception, which is published in an eBook format but that is very much not their priority. They want to print good looking books, and while their personal taste differs from mine, the covers are striking and memorable. They are distributed by Asterism.

You can get a feel for what they publish by going here. They clearly have a specific and distinct catalog so please spend time with it and only submit if your work is a good fit.

They are currently open to fiction and translation proposals. They ask that all potential authors familiarize themselves with what Spurl publishes first, and then you can email them a description of your work. Optionally you can add a sample but it should be no longer than 25 pages. All submissions must be made by email

To learn more, go to their website here. They are not accepting submissions at the time of this update.

Subtle Body Press

Subtle Body Press is a small press that publishes a schizo-philosophical / countercultural journal series called Seven Story Hotel and a short fiction focused literary journal called Body Shots, both of which are currently open to submissions. They are also seeking a novella-length work of fiction or creative nonfiction to publish this year.

This is what they say they are looking for: "Show us something we haven't seen before—but make it **substantive** and **accessible**. Practically speaking, we are fond of experimentation, counterculture, transgression, the occult, weird theory, weird fiction, speculative fiction, magical realism, slipstream, social satire, subversion, and horror that feels like an art-house film or has a body horror bent. But don't limit yourself. We're open to being pleasantly surprised, so give us your best and surprise us."

This is not a good fit for anything mainstream or strictly genre, you can get a good idea of what they've previously published here. I cannot stress enough that you should not submit to them unless you feel like you could easily see your novella length work fitting within their current catalogue.

It's also important to note that their preferred word count is on the lower end for a novella: "25000 and 30000 words are preferred, with 35000 words being the hard cap. But suppose you have a piece with visual and/or typographic peculiarities or a "book object" project where such design elements significantly impact the layout. In that case, we will consider as little as 18,000 words."

They offer unspecified royalties and an advance. They ask for all submissions to be made via email without a synopsis or query, but with a name and contact information as well as linking to your social media. They are active on a number of social media

platforms, but their Instagram account has the most followers.

To learn more, go here. They are currently closed for submissions but plan to reopen in 2026.

Multi-Genre Publishers

The following publishers generally don't specialize in one genre.

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 it overlaps with almost all the other genre sections.

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.

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 audiobook 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.

In 2024 they added this note to their website: Due to the volume of submissions that come along with an open door, we are not able to respond to each submission individually. Please feel free to reach out after 90 days if you've not heard back from us.

To learn more or submit, go here.

Alcove Press

Alcove Press is an 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 query tracker link is here. All the details you need are on query tracker. They only contact authors they are interested in working with. They do so within two weeks. If you haven't heard from them by then, assume rejection.

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.

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. They used to publish a schedule for reading periods but no longer do so. At the time of this update they were open to submissions of LGBT themed titles, adult titles, and YA Horror. They are always open to Film Related Titles.

They do not disclose distribution on their website.

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.

They cannot respond to queries about the status of individual submissions. They say they will reach out if they are interested in seeing more. 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.

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.

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

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

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. You can read their guidelines here. Please follow all of their guidelines.

They prefer submissions through their google form but allow postal and email submissions. Simultaneous submissions are considered as long as you alert them of that. They take about six months to respond to most submissions.

Baobab Press

Baobab Press is a small press that publishes a wide variety of material. Full disclaimer, even before we get into the review proper, they charge for submissions in some genres currently, this includes adult fiction and poetry manuscripts. As part of our guiding principles we don't cover presses that charge overall, but as they are open to free unagented submissions in a variety of other genres including creative nonfiction manuscripts, children's books, and comics (including cartoons and graphic narratives), they do qualify to be listed with us.

In this review I'm not covering any of the genres they charge a fee to submit to, but I am covering the press as a whole. Their website is well organized and easy to navigate. They are upfront about their masthead, which lists Christine E. Kelly as the Publisher & Executive Editor, Danilo John Thomas as the Managing Editor & Prose Editor, and Laura Wetherington as the Poetry Editor.

Christine E. Kelly doesn't have much listed experience online that I could find outside of running Baobab, but she does also run a bookstore in Reno Nevada called Sundance Bookstore. The websites for both companies link to and promote each other, which is a good sign. The bookstore appears very active and is well reviewed on Google. I'm not sure what kind of distribution Baobab has outside of this bookstore.

For most of their submission guidelines and their about page, they say they are seeking "books that communicate and support their themes through new and well-articulated means. We like risk. We like invention. More importantly, we look for a quality of thought that adds depth to a writer's concerns. And although it is not an official requirement, we tend to select literary work with a strong sense of place at its core. Ultimately, our goal is to publish work that resonates in the contemporary

climate and that will continue to resonate in years to come."

It's a little strange that they use this for children's books, and comic books, as well as creative nonfiction as the statement feels like it more accurately describes some categories of what they publish than others.

They are seeking comic manuscripts or graphic novels with finished artwork that is between 50-150 pages in length. Currently the only comics they've published are collections of Pickles cartoons.

They ask that you let them know if any of the comics have been published in a previous format. They are not interested in reprinting previous books or work that has already been published in a collected format. Please submit one manuscript at a time.

They don't have many children's books in their catalog so far, but you can get a feel for what they have published by going to their catalog here, and selecting the last listed category, children's. They are only interested in submissions of picture books and board books.

In terms of creative nonfiction they are open to submissions of memoir, hybrid, and collections of essays that are between 125-400 pages in length. They only have a few books in their catalogue in the nonfiction section.

To read their full submission details go here. They prefer submissions via Submittable but if you need to send a print version they have a mailing address (which is not coincidentally the bookstores address). Please only submit if you feel like your work is a good fit.

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 only through Duosuma. They ask that you submit the entire manuscript. You can read their submission guidelines here. Please read them carefully before submitting.

Black Lyon Publishing

Black Lyon Publishing is a small but established publisher of out of Oregon. They started out publishing Romance, and then expanded into nonfiction. Currently they are only accepting submissions of Thrillers as well as a variety of non-fiction.

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 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 do offer publishing services but only for projects that fall outside the lines of what they publish, which makes the dividing line very clear.

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. In terms of fiction, they are currently open to submissions of political or legal thrillers, only. In terms of nonfiction they are currently open to True Crime, Politics, Spirituality, and travel. They have additional details about what they are looking for along these lines on their submission guideline page.

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 Lambada.

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.

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 that describes itself as "committed to the discovery of talented writers with original stories".

They publish a wide range of genres including, Action/Adventure, Chick Lit, Commercial, Contemporary, Crime/Detective/Cozies, Historical, Horror, Humor/Satire, Literary, Multicultural, Mystery, Romance, Science Fiction, Suspense, Thriller, Upmarket, Western, Women's Fiction, Young adult.

They are not interested in erotica, novellas, southern lit, coming of age stories, and middle grade fiction.

You can get a good feel of what they've published in the past by going here.

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

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

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

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

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

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

To learn more or to submit, go here. They are currently closed to submissions but plan to reopen in Spring 2026.

CamCat Books

CamCat Books was a small independent publisher that was founded in 2019. They were founded by Sue Arroyo, an entrepreneur who sold her previous business, Trident Technologies, to start CamCat. In March 2024, Arroyo passed away following a fall, you can learn more about her passing here. The company as a whole was acquired by Marble Press in early 2026. On their website,here, they made it clear that they plan to continue accepting submissions from unagented authors for CamCat, but right now those submissions must be made via email.

CamCat is reader orientated. Their covers are inconsistent. Some are great, some are awful (in my personal opinion, of course). They are distributed by IPG.

CamCat Books publishes novel-length genre fiction aimed at adults. They also publish work for young adults 16 or older, they consider any book featuring a character 15 years or younger, still middle grate, which is an unusual distinction to make. 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
- We’ll even look at Westerns

They also have a long list of what they won’t publish/look at on their website, so review that list also.

They have word count guidelines that vary depending on genre, but they are interested only in novel length fiction, which is to say they aren't interested in anything shorter than 50,000 words in length.

Your manuscript 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.

To learn more, read their complete submission guidelines here, please note that their submittable is not currently working and you have to follow the instructions 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.

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 don't appear work with unagented authors for works in that imprint..

They accept all submissions through QueryManager. 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. They are closed to submissions at the time of this update.

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. They are currently only open to adult submissions. They plan to announce when they reopened to submissions for children’s books in spring 2026.

City Owl Press

In early March 2024, during revisions of the guide, Victoria Strauss at Writer Beware published a blog post about City Owl which you can read here. It's a complex ongoing situation and one we are monitoring but I wouldn't submit to City Owl without spending time reading the post and all the comments first. Some of the comments are very helpful and go beyond the scope of the initial article. The article has not been updated since late March 2024. I went back and forth on including them going forward but they are here, as you can see. I have not found any updates on the situation since then. I check every time I update the guide.

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.

The covers are very genre, but generally good.

I have not seen their contract so I cannot comment on it. But they are upfront that the royalties are 40% on net for digital editions. After 1,000 units have sold this increases to 50%. They offer four year contracts with six month extensions.

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.

As far as distribution goes, they have two different options for eBooks. One they call "wide" to all retail planforms. They don't go into further details about it. The other is exclusively digitally published as part of Amazon Kindle Unlimited (KU) program.

Their print books are distributed through Two Rivers Distribution (which is an imprint of Ingram).

They also answer some 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.

CKN Christian Publishing

CKN Christian Publishing is an imprint of Wolfpack Publishing. CKN is currently open to unsolicited manuscripts in Clean Fiction. They are open to the following clean genres but prefer series to stand alone novels: Romance, Historical Fiction, Western (including romance and non-romance), Amish, Mystery (all sub-genres, including cozy), Post-apocalyptic, Thriller.

They do not share their definition of clean fiction, but it generally means fiction without profanities, that are not explicit sexually, and do not contain graphic violence.

They also state "**We are no longer accepting non-fiction, devotionals, Bible study aids, Christian Living, memoirs, children's books, or Young Adult titles.**"

They are not interested in any work that isn't "clean", but they are open to publishing work that isn't Christian. They say "Even if your title is not Christian, if your title fits one of the genres listed above, we encourage you to submit your manuscript for consideration." You can get a feel for what they have previously published here.

They say this as part of their submission guidelines "If we at CKN decide to accept your manuscript, you will be paid monthly and within days of us receiving a check from the distributors. You will earn as much as 35% of the cover price while also receiving worldwide exposure for your efforts. CKN Christian Publishing covers all marketing and promotions for not only the book, but for you as an author as well. Authors with multiple manuscripts and large social media followings will get further attention for their submissions."

You can see their submission form here and see their full submission guidelines. They are open to submissions of previously published work. They primarily publish

eBooks.

If you have not heard from them after 90 days they ask that you assume your work has been rejected.

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.

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. At the time of this update they were open to submissions.

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.

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

Common Notions

Common Notions is a press that describes itself as "deeply committed to publishing books that provide timely reflections, clear critiques, and inspiring strategies that amplify movements for social justice". They emphasize that their publishing program "reflects the lessons we've learned as members of worker collectives, labor and tenants rights campaigns, higher ed struggles, #blacklivesmatter, no border and New Sanctuary movements, anticapitalist arts organizations, antiwar actions, climate justice camps, and the Palestinian solidarity movement."

They are based in the Interference Archive in Brooklyn, NY; and at Making Worlds Bookstore and Social Center in Philadelphia. In the US their distributor is Consortium Books (A division of Ingram). To see the full list of their international distribution, please go here.

It is easy to get a feel for what they publish by going to their main page here. Their shop page is not organized around release date, but is still helpful. Their covers are well-designed and genre-appropriate.

They are open to proposals for that "showcase the horizons of collective liberation and have the power to create new possibilities for freedom in the present conjuncture. We value writing steeped in shared insight and experience, that embodies a spirit of mutualism and collaboration, and blends storytelling, organizing, and world-making in new, vivid configurations. We work with authors who build narrative self-determination and offer groundbreaking tools and resources for our struggles".

They stress that they are interested in working with writers across a spectrum of movements and literary styles including the following:

- speculative fiction, fiction, literary nonfiction, and poetry that explores the historical and ongoing legacies of anticolonial politics, the evolving nature of

imperialism, and the world-making freedom movements of our times, writing that highlights vital and creative sources of internationalist imagination within the fractures and fault lines of the current world order.
- border abolition, sanctuary, migrant solidarity, refugee and diasporic narratives of internationalist organizing for a world without borders, walls, or cages
- land back, climate justice, Indigenous governance, frontline accounts of water and land defense
- queer, trans, and feminist rebellion and organizing
- anticolonial internationalism, solidarity and self-determination, futures of the nonaligned
- antifascist futures that centers anti-imperialist movements of Black, Indigenous, and Third World peoples
- intersections of abolition, anti-state autonomy, a politics in common, and of the commons
- collective care and health autonomy, science and social movements
- worker militancy, worker inquiry, worker autonomy and refusal, debt & wage abolition
- journalism and media activism from non-western movements, movement histories and contemporary accounts of decolonization from Africa, Latin America, Asia, and the Arab world
- cultural resistance, art, and graphic liberation

Submissions should align with their values and focus. Please do not submit to them if you think your work is not a good fit.

If you do think your work is a good fit, proposals must be sent via email. It will be seen by their editors and marketing team. They want "a clear and detailed idea of what your book will be about, what impact it will make, and with whom". They also want to know "why you are writing this particular book at this particular time and how it advances the development of ideas and practice, as well as makes an intervention that is timely, necessary, and visionary."

To learn more, and to read their full submission guidelines, go here.

Cornerstone Press

Cornerstone Press is a traditional press in that it doesn't charge its authors, but they are an unusual press in that it is run by students at the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point. You can learn more about the press and how it is run, here. The masthead is also included at the bottom of the page.

They say "All books are produced in classes and internships offered by the Department of English. From editing and cover design, to media and sales, our undergraduate students get a chance to work in all the fields of professional publishing. The Cornerstone Press provides students with the unique opportunity to work within a professional, working literary press at the university level. Student staff work primarily in editorial, cover design, social media/marketing, and events management, as well as local sales and campus outreach."

They are currently open to submissions of short fiction collections for their Legacy Series, as well as poetry collections for their Portage Poetry Series, and creative nonfiction books for their Back Home Series. They are not interested in any work outside of this content. You can see the books they have previously published here.

They are distributed by Ingram Lightening Source, which is not ideal, but they also are in a few local bookstores and they encourage interested readers to buy directly from them. You can learn more about this here.

They generally focus on publishing emerging regional authors, but they will consider all original, well-written, and polished submissions from authors.

You should read their complete submission guidelines carefully before submitting.

Creative Texts

Creative Texts is an independent press based in Pennsylvania that publishes around four dozen books a year. They were founded in 2015. They publish in a wide range of genres but are mostly open to unsolicited submissions of Action and Adventure, Science Fiction, Post-Apocalyptic Fiction, Biography, Western, History, and Historical Fiction. I say mostly as they specify that they "keep an open mind regarding all submissions"

Their website is pretty old fashioned, and a little hard to navigate, but it does work. More importantly their covers are excellent, and they are clearly geared towards recruiting readers, rather than writers.

You can learn more about the history of the press here. They don't mention distribution and their focus is very much on eBooks and Amazon sales. I did notice that some of their recent books had lots of reviews on Amazon (over 300), and some had very few (a dozen or so).

They share their submission information on their contact page where they explicitly state" Please know that we are not a *vanity press* that provides services in exchange for compensation, but rather we are a *traditional independent small press* that invests our expertise, time and resources into authors we believe are commercially viable."

There is some confusing phrasing on the page, where they state "Most of our publishing agreements are entered into by *invitation only*, however, we are open to reviewing unsolicited manuscripts for both fiction and non-fiction works in the Action and Adventure, Science Fiction, Post-Apocalyptic Fiction, Biography, Western, History, and Historical Fiction genres. If you have a title outside of this

genre, you are welcome to submit it for consideration as we do keep an open mind regarding all submissions and do appreciate your consideration. "

What stands out to me is that they seem to be open to all submissions, but imply otherwise. Also their use of the phrase "both fiction and non-fiction works" before the long list of genres, some inherently only fiction or only nonfiction was confusing. They do make it very clear that they "**Do not publish adult-only content or content that contains graphic sex or violence. We also do not publish books that contain AI-Generated or AI-Assisted content.**"

I'm not sure what their response times are, or even if they respond to all submissions**.** You can see their full submission guidelines here.

Dreamsphere Books

Dreamsphere Books publishes fantasy, science fiction, horror, thriller, and mystery books. They focus on publishing genre work, but are not interested in YA Romance or Adult Romance as other imprints, Deep Hearts YA and Deep Desire focus on these genres. Dreamsphere is an imprint of Story Perfect Books which you can learn more about here. It's a small, family run company based in Canada, and one of the editors does self publish his work through one of the imprints. You can learn more about the Dreamsphere here, including the staff.

They appear to have started publishing books under this imprint in 2024. The covers are a bit hit and miss but they are mostly pretty good, and genre appropriate.

Dreamsphere relies heavily on author self promotion and social media, and they emphasize including relevant links in your query letter.

They ask for ebook, print, and audio rights from the author. They say "We decide on publishing in audio on a case-by-case basis". Contracts are for three years from publication, and can be renewed annually after that.

They are mostly interested in new book length work (70,000-100,000 words in length), but are open to submissions of work that has been previously published if the author holds full rights to it. Please disclose this in your query.

New Content: We are primarily looking for new works only. However, if your work has been previously published and you currently hold full rights, we will still consider it, but please let us know in your query.

They share a list of desires and dislikes as part of their submission guidelines:

- Want
    - Sci-fi and fantasy that breaks out of the genres' conventions and bends the mind
    - Horror that makes us sleep with the lights on (preference for paranormal)
    - Thriller that gets us tearing through the pages
    - Westerns that make us love the genre all over again
    - Diverse representation in our lead characters is ideal
    - Spicy scenes are welcome
- Don't Want
    - Short stories or novellas

They ask that authors submit a query letter, synopsis, and the complete manuscript as an attachment. Additional details are disclosed on their submission page. Please read it carefully before submitting. All submissions must be made via email and cannot contain AI assisted work.

Their current response time is three to eight weeks.

Egret Lake

Egret Lake was founded by Tess Jones. They are a small publisher based in near Seattle. They focus on publishing romance and women's fiction. Egret published their first book in 2023, and their initial focus appeared to be on publishing poetry but it has since shifted to the current genres.

You can get a good feel for what they have published so far, here. So far they seem to be on track to publish between two and four books a year. I like most of their covers and all of them do seem genre-appropriate. The fiction that they've published so far has around between 30 and 100+ ratings on Goodreads (leaning more towards the 100 rating mark), and around 50 or so on Amazon. This is a good start for a small press.

They are currently open to submissions of romance and women's fiction manuscripts that are between 50,000 and 150,000 words in length.

For me there's one confusing aspect of the website. The use of the word ship, in the following two sentences:
"I am interested in authors who are on board to grow their careers by **shipping multiple novels** in one genre."
"I'm interested in authors who plan to write and ship multiple books in the women's fiction genre, creating a strong brand."

Now I know what the word ship means in the context of fanfiction, boating, and mailing things, but I don't think it is meant to be interpreted in any of those contexts here. I don't know exactly what it means here. It could mean writing in the context of the first quote but not the second. I did think it could be about promoting the book, but don't see a direct connection either. Now I don't think this is a big deal, but it was confusing to me.

The complete wishlist is on the website, but in terms of romance, Egret Lake is mostly interested in a series of books or a book with series potential and they particularly like romance with a humorous element. They will not consider historical romance.

For women's fiction they are interested in comedies featuring mothers, book club books, and cozy reads in a small town. They give additional information about what they are seeking including some comparable times as part of their submission guidelines here.

They are not looking for "historical fiction, historical romance, five pepper spicy romance, suspense, thriller, science fiction, fantasy, young adult, true life stories, biographies, based on a true story, paranormal, or erotica. I am also closed to poetry submissions at this time."

As the "I" they use throughout the website makes clear, they are currently a one-person operation, so that's something to take into consideration.

Egret Lake do not plan to have an open reading period this year, based on their message: 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.

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.

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.

Grendel Press

Grendel Press's tagline is that they are "dedicated to publishing the finest works in dark fantasy, horror, and dark romance". You can learn more about the press here. They are named after the antagonist in *Beowulf*. They say "By choosing this name, we pay homage to the complexity of Grendel's character and the questions his existence raises. What defines a monster? Who gets to tell the story? And what happens when we step into the darkness to see the world from a different perspective?"

Their team page is here, and it is organized in a bit of an unusual way, not leading with the founder/head editor, who is actually listed towards the bottom of the page. The Editor-In-Chief and founder is Susan Russell. As part of her bio it says: "I started editing with a team of international writers for a gaming website, picking up freelance editing work on the side. That's when I fell in love with the process of untangling stories, finding their beautiful bones, and thinking, I can fix this.

It wasn't long before I noticed a trend: self-publishing was booming, but so many of the books I read could have been elevated with the right editor. So, I started small, offering my services to authors who, over time, became not only my clients but also my biggest supporters.

Now, I'm taking the next step with Grendel Press—a home for the dark and daring stories we love. My goal? To elevate the quality of our favorite genres and build a catalog of books that you'll treasure. It's a dream I've nurtured for years, and I'm so thrilled to share it with you!"

So it's clear that Russell started out as an editor, moved into publishing services, and then, this is the unusual step, founded a company that is a traditional press. This is an

orange flag for me, just because it is an unusual situation but they do seem to make it very clear that they are a traditional press on their submission page, if you scroll down to contract type, they include the details of both their traditional contract and their royalty forward contract. Both contracts say this at the top "includes editing, cover design, typesetting, and marketing at no cost."

This situation is a little unusual from my perspective, but the contract types seem fair based on what they shared. Of course I haven't seen the actual contracts.

I'd also be remiss to not mention that at least two members of the team, are also authors published by Grendal Press.

The site itself is well designed, and easy to navigate, it's mostly orientated towards selling books, but submissions are mentioned on the home page. Their covers are a little hit and miss for me, but are genre appropriate. They do not appear to have distribution.

In terms of Dark fantasy they are looking for: Anti-heroes as main characters, dark worlds, battling inner Demons, and Grimdark.

For Horror they are open to most submissions with a particular focus on psychological depth over shock value.

For Dark Romance they are interested in dark fairy tales, enemies to lovers, strong emotions and high stakes.

They can't accept fanfiction of anything with copyright issues. They are not interested in content that promotes intolerance or gratuitous gore or violence with no purpose. They are also not interested in stories that glorify, minimize or inaccurately represent

abuse or assault.

Work must already be complete when submitting. They are open to novellas and novels, starting at 25,000 words and going up to 120,000 words.

They have strict manuscript formatting requirements. You can read their full submission guidelines here. They try to respond to submissions in 16 weeks.

Gibbs Smith

Gibbs Smith is an established publisher with good distribution. They are open to submissions of nonfiction related to interior design, architecture, children's, and cookbooks. They also accept submissions in the following subjects: arts and crafts, western humor with general appeal, general humor, and gift books. They also consider: children's activity books, board books, and picture books. They have published a number of bestsellers, including a board book version of Pride & Prejudice.

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.

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Hera

Hera is a digital publisher and an imprint of Canelo Books. They are currently seeking submissions of manuscripts in the following genres: mystery and thriller fiction, romance (including romantasy) and women's fiction, family sagas and horror fiction. They are not interested in non fiction, young adult or children's fiction, poetry, science fiction and fantasy or short stories. They are particularly interested in submissions from underrepresented authors.

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. In 2021 they were acquired by Canelo, an established UK press.

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. Manuscripts must be a minimum of 80,000 words in length.

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. They stress that they receive far too many submissions that do not match up with the books they publish.

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. There website has been a little slow to load lately.

Joffe Books

Joffe Books is an independent publisher based out of London. They were founded in 2013. The 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 are still open to commercial fiction outside of this scope.

They prefer manuscript submissions in the following genres: **c**rime fiction, mysteries, psychological thrillers, cosy crime, police procedurals, chillers, suspense and domestic noir.

This year they updated the genres they are interested to include women's fiction**,** fantasy, historical fiction and romance novels, including WWII romances and sagas**.**

A 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 five years 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.

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.

They are open to submissions in September and October of 2025. They have a new submission processes and are now using Google forms for all of their submissions.

To learn more or to submit, go here.

Kensington Publishing

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

To get a good feeling for what they have previously published this is a good place to start. They are open to submissions for most genres and imprints, except for their speculative fiction imprint Erewhon Books. They publish a particularly large range of romance, from Amish romance to LGBTQ+ as well as a lot of historical fiction. They also accept submissions of a wide range of commercial fiction, literary fiction, and mysteries. Their updated submission guidelines focus on emphasizing Citidel Press, which as far as I can tell is their non-fiction imprint, which is open to a wide variety of nonfiction, including memoir.

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

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

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

To learn more about querying Kensington visit this page.

Legend Press

Legend Press is a UK based independent press open to direct and agented submissions. They publish contemporary fiction and crime fiction (largely psychological and political thrillers). They now also publish historical fiction. 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:

- Please include 'Legend Press Submission' in the subject line of your email.
- 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 recently founded a non fiction imprint called Hero Press, that is currently also open to submissions.

Library Tales Publishing

Library Tales Publishing was founded in 2011. They describe themselves as "a distinguished independent publishing house, renowned for publishing, marketing, and distributing a wide spectrum of books, spanning self-help, memoirs, and niche fiction, penned by skilled and creative authors."

I have not encountered their books in stores personally, and it is clear based on feedback at the Water Cooler, that you can read here, that they have not always done the best job in terms of publishing. However the limited reports there are all older and second hand. It's harder to take second hand reports as seriously, and I have not seen any more recent reports.

Their website focuses on selling books rather than recruiting authors, which is a good sign. As is the fact they recently entered into a partnership with Ulysses Press. Another potentially good sign is that they are now distributed by Simon & Schuster. They made a big deal of this on their blog initially, but it's not part of their FAQ. You can see their books here, on S&S's website.

Another good sign is that even though they publish a really wide range of books, compared to most smaller publishers, most have a fair amount (over 20 and under 100) of reviews and/or ratings on Amazon, so they seem to actually be selling books, which is important.

Since I initially wrote this review they added a 1-800 number to their website, to call them, which I do not love. Most traditional publishers do not have them because they are expensive and time consuming.

Below are the current genres and categories of work they are seeking according to their website:

"Self-Help Books: Self-help books are our specialty. We are passionate about publishing works that empower and inspire readers to improve their lives, develop new skills, and achieve personal growth and well-being.

Drawing Books: We are interested in manuscripts that teach and inspire the art of drawing. Whether it's instructional guides, sketching techniques, or books that encourage artistic creativity, we welcome submissions in this category.

Nonfiction Titles: We seek compelling nonfiction works that cover a wide range of topics, from history and science to psychology and business. If your manuscript offers valuable insights, knowledge, or explores intriguing subjects, we want to hear from you.

Enthralling Memoirs: Personal stories that captivate, inspire, and offer unique perspectives on life are of great interest to us. If you have a memoir that resonates with readers and leaves a lasting impact, we encourage you to submit it for consideration.

Fiction Books: We are open to fiction submissions that feature engaging storylines and well-developed characters. Whether your work falls within the realms of contemporary fiction, mystery, romance, or other genres, we are eager to explore compelling narratives."

They do not accept previously published work.

They have a marketing focused form for submissions that involves additional work beyond the normal querying package. Please carefully review their submission guidelines before proceeding. To learn more, go here.

Literary Wanderlust

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

They currently are only open to publishing the following genres:

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

You can get a feel for what they publish here. They do not publish books aimed at children.

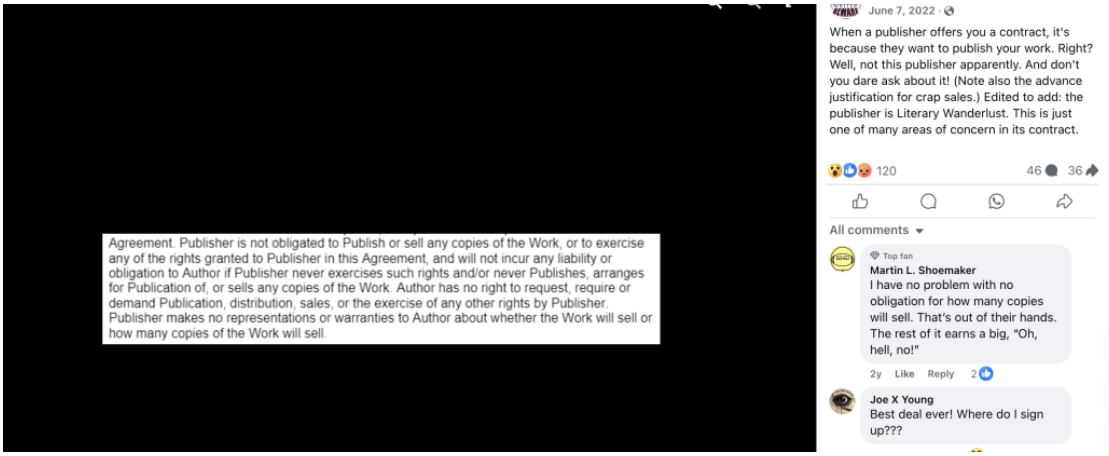
They pay higher royalties than the big 5 publishers, according to their website, but they do not specify how much. They expect authors to help promote their book, and they speak of publicizing work as a partnership. They do however have a publicist listed on staff, and that is a good sign. You can learn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

While updating the guide I was directed to this older FB post at Writer Beware, which you can see here. I've posted the screenshot below if you do not currently have a FB account:



I'm sorry I missed this earlier, and I personally don't know if anything has changed since 2022 in terms of the contract, because I haven't seen one personally. I didn't see any mention of it or any other issues on the WriterBeware Blog, which was a little surprising. If you decide to submit anyways, and are up for sharing the contract I would be grateful to receive it at support@authorspublish.com.

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 chose an editor to query first. All of their editors are listed here. Some are open to genres not listed above.

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**. Please do not email your manuscript. They just want the query letter and synopsis.**

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, poetry manuscripts, 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 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, and literary novels, and erotica shorts. They have separate guidelines for romance, and literary fiction 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 16 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.

Parlyaree Press

Parlyaree Press was established in 2023 in Atlanta, Georgia. They are focused on publishing work that "expands, reveals, and interrogates the mainstream." They want their books to "exist in the liminal space between what was and what will be."

They explain their name by sharing: "The cant of circus performers, freaks, queers, and thespians, Parlyaree is the invented language required to tell the stories of those othered, to keep their secrets, to keep them safe". Their logo also has a circus theme to it.

In terms of prose they publish literary fiction (often with a side of fantasy and/or magic), experimental writing, and LGBTQIA+ stories, as well as memoir, narrative-nonfiction, and educational works. In terms of poetry they want chapbook-length (or longer!) poetry collections.

You can see what they have published so far by going here and scrolling down. They also have a Bookshop.org shop which you can see here, but includes work they published as well as work they curated.

It's pretty easy to see what they are interested in, and what they aren't. Any additional questions you have about that will likely be answered by the FAQ section here. I will stress that they mention reaching out if you haven't heard from them in six weeks in the FAQ section, and after two months in the submission section. I would wait the full two months (or even longer), before querying.

They are only open to previously unpublished manuscripts.

All submissions must be made via email and all work must be in the body of the text.

Attachments will not be opened.

To learn more, go here.

Unnamed Press

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

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

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

Unnamed Press recently created a new imprint Smith & Taylor Classics. This imprint will be helmed by acquiring editors Allison Miriam Woodnutt (née Smith) and Brandon Taylor, the award-winning author of *Real Life*, *Filthy Animals*, and *The Late Americans*. You can learn more about this imprint here. For the time being at least this imprint is focused only on open-domain reissues.

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.

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.

They share this list under the heading, what *we are excited about*.

Adult Non-Fiction: Humour, sport, photography, Irish history and other Irish-interest titles.

Children's Non-Fiction: We're open to almost any topic or theme – although we do ask that it has some particular relevance for Irish children.

Children's Fiction: We're looking for great stories across all age groups, from picture books to Young Adult Fiction. There are no limits here and we're always hoping for our next great children's book to emerge from the submissions process. We especially enjoy historical fiction (you can see the periods covered by our children's fiction here: obrien.ie/childrens/history-through-fiction), contemporary stories, humour, fantasy, mysteries and adventure. We'd also like, as much as is possible, to see a diverse range of characters appear in these stories – in terms of background, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, physical abilities, etc.

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 prefer electronic submissions via email but will accept postal submissions as well.

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 and audiobooks 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 (spicy, romantic suspense, romantic comedy, erotica)
- Contemporary
- YA/Crossover/Adult Fantasy
- Romantasy
- Horror

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.

In March of 2024 they reached their submission cap by the 15th, which limits the amount of submissions they can receive per month. Usually when a submission cap is reached the page switches over and it is clear they are not open to submissions. This did not happen and there was no way to tell that they were closed to submissions without filling out and attempting to submit the form.

This is unusual and hopefully won't happen again. At the time of this update they were not open to submissions.

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."

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 young adult books, and middle readers focused on regional history, cooking, and adventure. They also publish juvenile picture books that cover holidays, regional history, biography, and 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.

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.

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.

Rebel Satori Press

Rebel Satori Press was founded in 2002. This is how they describe themselves: "Rebel Satori Press has been committed to releasing cutting edge fiction, poetry, and creative non-fiction, with an emphasis on amplifying LGBTQIA+ voices and promoting diversity through the press and its imprints Queer Mojo, Queer Space, Arabi Manor, and the Library of Homosexual Congress. We are dedicated toCsafeguarding the voices of our heritage." They also say "Rebel Satori Press is more than a publisher. We nurture a vibrant community of LGBTQ+ authors and readers, fostering an inclusive space where diverse voices are celebrated and embraced."

You can learn more about their four-member team, at the bottom of this page. They have international distribution, which you can learn more about here. Ingram as a whole is not a good distributor (although they have some good imprints), and I'm not familiar with the UK and Australian distributors. They do have an active event page, and seem to be doing real promotion for their authors, which is great.

You can get a good feel for what the publish here. While they have a number of imprints and publish a wide variety of work. Some imprints are only open to work by queer authors and others are open to submissions from all of authors. Currently they have no open calls for submissions.

To learn more about the submission calls, go here.

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 open to submissions, in most genres except for horror, collections of short stories, or manuscripts under 40,000 words, or anything that has been previously published.

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.

Their current reading period will close to submissions on June 1st, 2026

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."

You can see what she has published so far here.

Roxane Gay Books prioritizes underrepresented writers.

The imprint publishes 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 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.

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.

Sea Crow Press

Their motto is "Stories Rooted In Place • Writing That Moves The World". This small press based in Cape Cod, Massachusetts focuses on publishing fiction, nonfiction, and poetry with a clear focus on eco-literature, regional writing, and climate-aware storytelling. It is a woman-owned press, and you can see their full masthead by scrolling down here.

They publish approximately 12 books a year, and it is easy to get a feel for what they publish by going here.

Most of their titles are printed on demand, but they do also have distribution, which you can learn more about here.

Sea Crow Press is currently accepting submissions in the following genres: literary fiction, climate fiction (cli-fi), eco-poetry, memoir and creative nonfiction, and place-based essay collections.

They are particularly interested in the following stories especially by underrepresented and emerging authors:

- Coastal and New England stories with literary power
- Eco-lit and cli-fi that blend imagination and emotional depth
- Poetic voices rooted in the natural world or the climate moment

They also stress that "We welcome work that challenges, comforts, or creates wonder — always with heart, and always well-crafted."

They only respond to submissions they are interested in. If that is a deal breaker for you, please do not submit.

They want submitting authors to share a one-page summary of their manuscript, the first three chapters or up to 25 pages, as well as a brief author bio. They also add that optionally you can "include a short note about your intended audience or comparable titles".

They ask that all materials should be in Times New Roman, 12-point font, single-spaced, and submitted as a Microsoft Word (.docx) file.

Submissions should be made via their submission form. To read their full guidelines, go 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.

Below I share their current genre guidelines for what they are seeking, as of March 5th, 2026.

Fiction

- Empathy-building, contemporary middle grade novels
- Middle grade fantasy
- Contemporary Romance
- Women’s fiction
- Young Adult Romance
- Young Adult Fantasy
- Young Adult Contemporary
- Multicultural
- Mystery (Cozy Mystery or Suspense)

Nonfiction

- History
- Biography
- Memoir
- Multicultural
- Middle Grade and YA Nonfiction
- Cookbooks
- Religious content for non-denominal audience

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.

Since 2022 they have only open to submissions for the following periods, 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.

Strange Attractor

Strange Attractor is an independent publishing house based in London, founded in 2003. They are run by Mark Pilkington and Jamie Sutcliffe, who bring independent contractors to help with some components of the publication.

They have a well designed and easy to navigate website. Their books are widely available online as well as distributed internationally through The MIT Press, via Penguin Random House. You can learn more about the press here.

The vast majority of what they publish is nonfiction. I very much encourage you to spend some time with their catalog, before submitting. They are seeking books that fit within their larger publishing catalog.

This is what they say about the nonfiction books they publish: "our key interests being previously neglected or rejected areas of research and investigation. Ideally your research will be breaking new ground, or presenting new perspectives on a story that has been told previously. We look for books that present their author's depth of research through engaging and accessible writing. We are not an academic publishing house, though we are distributed via MIT Press, but we do expect your research to be credible, backed up by evidence and fully referenced."

They welcome proposals and submissions but you must carefully read this full page first, and really be sure of fit. Do not submit unless you feel fairly certain about fit, and follow the submission guidelines carefully.

They are not a poetry press, please do not submit poetry. They will consider select novels and short story collections, and they stress that are "interested in fiction that sits uneasily alongside other strange tales of science fiction, fantasy or the

supernatural."

They publish in paperback and do not offer advances (which is unusual for a nonfiction focused press). They ask that when you initially reach out that you send a brief summary that is about 800 words in length and also include a separate breakdown of chapters if you have that.

To learn more, go here.

Storm Publishing

Storm Publishing was founded in 2022 by Oliver Rhodes, the founder of Bookouture. They published their first book in the spring of 2023 and Rhodes brought a number of Bookouture staff members over to Storm with him. Storm Publishing focuses on publishing adult fiction including thrillers and crime fiction, historical fiction, romance, women's fiction and science fiction and fantasy.

You can read more about the launch of Storm Publishing here. There is a lot of overlap in the two companies, in that both focus on digital- first publishing and have similar approaches to sales.

Both have similar websites also. In general it is a red flag for publishers to focus on recruiting authors over selling books, but that is not true for either Bookouture or Storm, which focus on recruiting authors and not selling books on their website.

Storm also has proven strategies for sales, and while not all of the books they've published have sold a lot of copies, many have. Many of the books they've published have a minimum of 500 Amazon ratings. Storm Publishing is based in the UK but they target the US and the UK with different marketing.

They have a very detailed FAQ section here.

They do not offer advances but pay 50% royalties off net. They are also notably open to submissions of previously published books as long as you own all the rights.

They have a very detailed what they are looking for page here, and you should spend time on that page before going to their not very detailed submission form here. I have

heard from multiple subscribers that their response time is much slower than they say online.

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.

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.

They stress that. "Our press is inspired by diversity, dada, punk, and passion: please keep this in mind when submitting."

They publish literary fiction, nonfiction including memoirs, and YA. They are not interested in collections of poems, short stories or essays.

The books they are interested in publishing are over 65,000 words in length. I recommend reviewing their catalog before querying.

This is what they say they are most interested in seeing:

- Authentic stories written from diverse perspectives, across all genres (see *Disasterama* by Alvin Orloff).
- YA Fiction with fully realized casts of characters, including female, LGBTQ+, and underrepresented leads (see *Quiver* by Julia Watts)

- Unique, brilliant, and extremely well-written punk rock memoirs and biographies (see *Punk Avenue* by Phil Marcade)
- Inventive riffs on existing genres, particularly noir and cyberpunk (see *Scavenger* by Christopher Chambers)
- Biographies of unusually noteworthy people and events that deserve a place in history books (see *BAD: The Autobiography of James Carr*)
- Diversely populated worlds, including those with speculative elements (see *The Door to Inferna* by Rishab Borah)
- Imaginative and innovative plots, particularly YA and adult novels exploring friendship and coming-of-age (see *Nirvana Is Here* by Aaron Hamburger)
- Reimaginations of folktales, legends, and fables (see Tink and Wendy by Kelly Ann Jacobson)

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

They do make it very clear they are not interested in seeing full manuscripts at this stage.

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.

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:

- Our primary focus is in the following genres of fiction: Sci-Fi/Fantasy (LitRPG included), YA (see above), Light/Cozy Fantasy
- Specifically in the mood for as of 7/18/25:
    - Female vampire toxic romance, Victorian setting preferred
    - 60s-70s historical
    - Something completely unexpected (e.g. narrated by cats who audit taxes)
        - Something wintry

They also add “We will consider when the stars align, dogs and cats start living together, etc.: Magical Realism, Historical Fiction, YA, Funny/Satirical Cozy Mysteries, Commercial, Bizarre

“Even if The Four Horsemen ride in from the heavens and smite every other press out of existence, we are not right for: Suspense/Thriller, Chic-lit, Erotica, Romance, Chapter Books, Early Readers, Literary, Short Stories (including collections), Poetry and Non-Fiction.”

They won’t accept previously published work, including previously self published work. Work must be novel length.

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. They are closed to submissions at the time of update.

Tule Publishing

Tule Publishing started out as Romance Publisher. 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 have since branched out into the Mystery market and they seem to be doing well in that space also. They are a digital first publisher, that expects authors to do promotional work.

They are open to short novels between 50k and 69k in length and long novels that are between 70K and 90K. They are primarily focused on publishing series, so they ask that authors include a description of their series ideas.

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

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

Tule Publishing is very upfront about the fact that they pay others for professional editing, cover art, formatting, e-conversion, marketing support, and social media.

They 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.

To submit, familiarize yourself with their imprints (not all are currently open to submissions, but most are). Make sure you state the imprint your manuscript is for in

an email. Include a bio with relevant links. Also submit a synopsis of your book and a first chapter. All submissions must be made via email.

To learn more visit their main page here. To learn more about submitting visit their guidelines page here. They are currently closed to submissions.

Turner Publishing Company

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.

They recently added a current acquisitions wishlist.

Non-fiction:

- Historical
- Current events
- Business/Economics
- Psychology

Fiction:

- Dystopian
- Horror
- Contemporary Romance
- Fantasy
- Romantasy
- Sci-fi

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. Unfortunately, they do not have any information around average turnaround time, but they allow simultaneous submissions.

Please note that the vanity press Turner Book Writers is in not linked to Turner Publishing and Turner Publishing has added a note about this to their about page and their submissions page, so they are aware of the situation.

To learn more about them I really encourage you to browse their catalog.

You can see their submission guidelines here.

TWB Press

TWB Press's tagline is "Electronic Publishing for the 21st century." They have an additional tag line on their main page that says "TWB Press publishes stories of human conflict and redemption through a variety of world views that reflect humanity at its best...and at its worst. "

They publish novels and novellas electronically with print copies available for some books. They don't have print distribution but sell books online, not just via Amazon, but also Barnes & Nobles and Smashwords.

They publish the following genres: Science Fiction, Supernatural, Horror & Urban Fantasy, Thriller, Romance, Erotic Romance, and Mainstream fiction.

TWB Press is run by Terry Wright. He has published his own work through the press.

Their covers are genre-appropriate but not particularly well designed or executed (in my opinion). The website is very much geared towards readers not writers, and it is easy to buy books. That said, based on spending time on their website, they don't seem to be selling that many books. Lots of the books don't have any reviews or stars on Amazon.

They are promoting work on YouTube via videos, but that doesn't seem to be attracting a lot of attention.

They do not allow simultaneous submissions, and they emphasize the importance of story structure. They ask that nothing be attached to the query email. To read their full very detailed guidelines, go here. Please read them carefully if you are considering submitting and also spend some time with their catalogue.

Type Eighteen Books

Type Eighteen Books was founded by Mary Vensel White. She says in the About Us section of the site: "I founded Type Eighteen Books as a home for fiction that demonstrates a love of language and a mastery of its tools, stories with empathy and a striving for understanding, and attention to what my favorite author, Kent Haruf, called the “precious ordinary.” The most powerful stories are the ones that make readers feel seen, that cause them to say, “I have also felt that way.” Often, these types of books are labeled literary fiction but sometimes they are labeled something else. We’d also like to be a home for “something else” books—stories that have been neglected by traditional publishers because of experimentations with form, intent, or…something else."

On the bottom of the same about us page they also have a note that says, "How do we define “literary?” In short, writing that demonstrates excellence in craft and strikes a chord of universal emotion, empathy, or understanding."

Type Eighteen Books started actively publishing work in 2023, so it is still a relatively new press. You can see their full staff listing here. They are a member of the CLMP, IBPA, and WPN. In my experience, unfortunately all of these organizations have members that are not following the standards the larger organization claims to have, and so I do not see these memberships as a good sign, or a bad one.

Mary Vensel White, the founder of Type Eighteen Books, has also published a number of books through the press. There are three things that set Type Eighteen Books apart from a lot of the other presses that self-publish their editors' work. The first is that Mary Vensel White's first book, *The Quality of Wood*, was published by an imprint of Harper Collins. The second is that most of the staff of the press are not

also publishing their work through the press. Thirdly, there's a clear and cohesive mission and focus for Type Eighteen Books, that I share in the opening paragraph.

You can get a good feel for what they have published so far, by going here. Spend some time with this catalog before considering submitting. While they say they are open to literary YA and literary adult fiction, they have only published one work of YA so far and it was by Mary Vensel White. They have published a number of authors in terms of novellas and adult fiction.

The books they've published so far have genre-appropriate covers. Most are pretty good actually. The most reviews any of the books have received is in the 120+ range, but most of the books they've published so far have received less then 50 ratings or reviews on Goodreads. I do not think they have any distribution beyond Ingram (but am happy to be informed otherwise).

Their submission guidelines are here, and are not very detailed. They previously announced submissions via FB only, but seem to have switched over to their website now.

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. They are not open to submissions at this time. We will remove them from the next update of the manuscript publishers guide if they do not re-open by then.

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 2026, 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 submissions at this time. Their standard reading period now is from December 1st through January 31st.

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 here.

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.

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. They are closed to submissions at the time of this update.

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.

An source of concern for me is Wild Pine, which is editorial services that they offer. 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 very 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. At the time of this update they are open to fiction and nonfiction submissions.

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 welcome proposals for fiction (novels and short stories); poetry; interpretive, literary nonfiction; and genre-bending work in translation from any region of the world. I am drawn to literary works that grapple with enduring questions at the heart of what it means to be a human being, in relationship with other human beings and the natural world."

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.

Zibby Books

Zibby Books was founded by Zibby Owens, an established book influencer, as part of her company Zibby Media. You can read more about her launch of Zibby Books, here, and here. Both articles focus a lot on the royalty structure. While writers still receive advances and royalties, they will also be part of a profit sharing program which divides 75% of all net profits equally between the author and the company's employees. I didn't see any articles about this policy changing, so I have to assume it is still in place.

The first book they published came out in 2023 and you can read more about it here. They primarily publish fiction and memoir and they are open to agented and unagented submissions. You can see all the books they've published so far, here, to get a feel for what they are interested in. They also make it very clear that they are not interested in science fiction/fantasy, poetry, historical fiction, historical biography, romance, self-help/parenting, political, or children's books.

They ask that unagented authors submit a brief synopsis of the book including comparable titles, an author bio, and the full manuscript.

They have a submission form and you can submit via email. It's not clear which is preferable, but when in doubt I always go with email submissions. They only respond if interested and do not give a deadline in terms of when to assume rejection.

You can learn more here.

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.

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 focus on that section.

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 publishers who now accept horror in addition to other genres. Three years ago, the horror market was one fifth of the size it is now.

Also because of the rise of Romantasy (Romance + Fantasy), a lot of the books in the SF and Fantasy section of the store are now published by Romance publishers, and we have a number of big Romantasy publishers in the Romance section of the guide as well as one imprint focused on Science fiction Romance.

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.

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. You can check to see if they open to submissions here.

To get a better sense of what they have published previously, browse their catalog here.

Arcadia Books

Quercus Publishing, an imprint of Hachette, is re-branding their speculative fiction imprint Jo Fletcher Books as Arcadia Books. It will remain the only imprint of Quercus that accepts unsolicited submissions and it will stay open to submissions of science fiction, fantasy, and horror manuscripts for adults. They will also now consider YA/Crossover books as long as the work will appeal to adult readers and can be published on an adult list.

The rebranding occurred in part because Jo Fletcher has left publishing and the imprint is now being led by Anne Perry who jointed Quercus after Fletcher left. Anne Perry also said "As our SFF and genre publishing at Quercus has grown rapidly over the last couple of years, we felt it was time to overhaul our ambitions and our priorities, to bring them in line with the breakneck pace of change in the SFF publishing world overall." You can read more about the rebrand here.

Along with the new name the website was redesigned and they now have a silver fox as their logo. They will continue to work with many of the same authors.

The name Arcadia came from a publishing company started by Gary Pulsifer in 1996. Their list was sold to Quercus, who is only now using the name again.

Arcadia is 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. Please note that even though memoir and books belonging to other genres are listed in their catalog they are only open to unagented submissions of Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Horror. They are open to nonfiction in these genres,

but only nonfiction that directly relates to the genre in some way. For example a book of nonfiction focused on movie monsters.

Their website is well organized. 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.

You can read editor Anne Perry's manuscript wishlist here.

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. Submit one book at a time only.

To learn more, read their full submission guidelines here.

Android Press

Android Press is a small press based in Eugene, Oregon. This is how they describe their mission: "uplifting author and creator voices from marginalized communities and the Global South, Android Press publishes science fiction, fantasy, and light horror specializing in climate fiction and the various -punk subgenres. We love stories that are rooted in hope and optimism, as well as stories that hold up a mirror to our society, forcing us to reexamine our past and our values in order to move forward and build a better future."

Android Press published their first book in August 2022. So they are on the newer end of presses we will review. But they have been steadily publishing books since then, as well as Solarpunk Magazine. They have also launched Imagitopia, a fantasy fiction digital zine and podcast. Solarpunk has used Kickstarters for funding, but I'm not sure the other projects have.

They are asking for first world English, electronic, print, and audio rights. They pay royalties of 30% but do not specify if it is off gross or net. I could not find a distributor. Their covers are generally great.

If you are interested in submitting to them, please spend time with their editors manuscript wishlists, as well as their shop, and their submission guidelines.

They also add:

"We love climate fiction as well as rebellious and revolutionary -punk genres.

In addition, we would love to see the following in our submission inbox:

- Stories written by Indigenous, BIPOC, womxn, immigrant, and LGBTQIA2+ authors that bring their valuable cultural perspectives and experiences to the science fiction and fantasy worlds, and to solutions for building a better world.
- Stories that have protagonists from marginalized communities and plots that center those communities.
- Stories that take place in non-Western geographic and cultural settings.
- Stories of unlikely allies that have at least some focus on the complexities of that difficult relationship.
- Stories set in far-flung, distant futures and/or set in space in which the characters are connected to Old Earth through myths or legends that are important to their communities and worlds.
- Stories in which nature becomes a character in its own right.
- Stories that center nonhumans and that depict humans learning to relate to nonhumans in ways not rooted in domination and power dynamics."

Please only submit to them if you think your work is a good fit in terms of what they have previously published and expressed interest in. Also make sure you spend time with their list of hard no's, which at the time of updating include:

- First books in a series that don't work as standalone stories.
- Stories with solutions that are greenwashing, capitalist, or rooted in uncritical consumerism.
- Stories depicting monarchies, colonialism, imperialism, fascism, or other forms of authoritarianism in an uncritical way.
- Stories depicting racism, white supremacy, sexism, cis-heteronormativity, ableism, or fatphobia in an uncritical way.
- Gratuitous violence, especially if is targeted against any marginalized group.
- Gore. If it's truly integral to plot or character and it only occurs sporadically, then we might consider it.
- Porn or erotica. Eroticism and sex that is in service of the story is fine, but if it's the focus of your manuscript or takes up an inordinate amount of space, there are other publishers out there who publish such work.
- Picture books or Middle Grade novels. It's not that we won't ever publish these, but if we do, it'll probably be by solicitation only.
- Epic/Sword and Sorcery Fantasy. Again, it's not that you won't see books like this from us, but it's not something we'll take open submissions for.

They are currently open to query proposal submissions for novellas, novels, comic books, and graphic novels, and closed to submissions of short story anthologies and

collections.

To learn more, please visit their submission guidelines here.

Please read their submission guidelines carefully before submitting and please follow all their guidelines.

Aqueduct Press

Aqueduct Press was founded in 2004. Their motto is "Bringing Challenging Feminist Science Fiction to the Demanding Reader". They go into more details in their mission statement that you can read here.

You can get a feel for what they publish by going to their home page here. Their focus is very much on promoting the work they publish, not recruiting authors. Both their website and the covers of the work they publish, are basic, but well formatted and easy to interact with. They pair each cover image with a blurb endorsing the book, and most of these blurbs are well chosen.

They are open to novels of any length, as long as they are feminist science fiction, as well as original novellas poetry and prose work for their Conversation Pieces series. This work must be between 20,000 and 35,000 words in length.

Clearly this is a specialized press, and so if your work does not fit their stated needs, please don't submit it, or even reach out to them. They are open, on a case by case basis to nonfiction and short fiction collections, but you must query first. Please note they have different email addresses for querying and submissions.

They ask that you submit electronically either as .doc or as rtf if you do not have Word. They ask for a cover letter that introduces you and your work to date, including links to your website or other locations online that focus on your work. They also ask for a synopsis that is not more than 2 pages single spaced.

They have strict formatting guidelines for the document itself that they outline here.

Aqueduct Press does not appear to have distribution and most of their titles don't have many listed reviews on Amazon.

To learn more and potentially submit, go here. They are temporarily closed to submissions at the time of this update.

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. They have since reopened it. I have not seen any updated reports from Jason Sanford since then. This situation is something to take into consideration if you are considering submitting.

I will say that generally speaking, just from looking at their covers, and reading basic sales information from the book, it's clear that most of what they publish, leans into old fashioned science fiction, that leans more conservative, male, and white, than the genre does currently.

They describe themselves as being 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.

Black Bed Sheet Books

Black Bed Sheet Books publishes horror, and science fiction & fantasy, and have been publishing since 2008. Their primary focus is horror. They were founded and are still run by Nicholas Grabowsky, a horror writer. You can learn more about the publisher here, but sections of that page appear to be fairly out of date, so please take that into consideration. According to the masthead and distribution information, they do work with a fair number of editors and they have some international distribution. They do their own wholesale work within North America.

The website in general is overwhelming, poorly organized, and appears to be haphazardly updated. There is a fair amount of contradictory information on the site along with some misspelling. Their covers are very genre-appropriate though, which is always a good sign, and the website is focused on recruiting readers.

Part of the less than ideal website organization is that it is hard to figure out which books were most recently released. Their header at the time of this update says: "Spring releases are hopping out in a plethora of thrilling new releases and special sales you'll only find direct from this publisher!", but many books listed under that were published a long time ago (although it is clear they are still currently active because I was able to find a couple of books published in 2024). They do helpfully list the publication date on the sales page.

I had a hard time getting a feel for how well books had sold, and the few I looked up elsewhere didn't seem to have many reviews, but that might have just been the luck of the draw. Horror is not a genre I am particularly knowledgeable about.

On their submission page they say that they are accepting submissions for publication in late 2025, even though it is now 2026. On their about page they say they usually

publish books up to one year after acceptance, with an average of 6-8 months. They are open to full-length novels, novellas, short story collections and horror genre related work, but are also open to science fiction, fantasy, and urban fantasy.

Their website is updated now for fall 2025, and they keep mentioning new releases. I could not find any recent releases. The most recent releases I found were from late 2024, but there easily could be more recent releases, but they are not featured in an easy to find way.

The only thing they disclose about their contract, they share on their about page, and it is that their contracts "average of 15% royalty on wholesale price for print books, 18%-50% on ebooks".

They are accepting shorter work for their ebook-only lines. They try to respond to submissions within 9 months. They receive an average of 2,500 submissions a year.

They ask that authors query first via email. To learn more, go here.

Cemetery Gates Media

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

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

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 50k+ 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.

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.

To see their full submission guidelines go here. They are open to submissions at the time of this update.

The Evil Cookie

The Evil Cookie is a micropress focused on publishing "gore-infested, fast-paced novels/novellas and anthologies". It is run by K. Trap Jones, an extreme horror author. The publishers tagline is "publishing the goriest books around".

This is a niche press focusing on a niche audience, and so it should go without saying that you should not submit any work to them that does not fit their current catalogue which you can see here. If your book does not include extreme violence it does not seem like the right fit for this publisher.

Lots of writers start presses to primarily publish themselves and K. Trap Jones has very much not done this, and has over the years published a lot of authors. He designs the covers himself and they seem well done for the genre, and distinct. Because one person runs everything they don't publish many books a year.

They produce audiobooks through ACX and narrators are chosen by the author and publisher via auditions. They are a traditional press with the publisher paying via royalties. Authors can, but don't have to, purchase copies of their book at the wholesale cost plus shipping to sell directly. Authors do receive three print copies upon publication.

They stress they have no interest in AI stories.

The submission guidelines and additional details about the contract are available here.

Fractured Mirror Publishing

Fractured Mirror Publishing is a small press founded in 2020. They focus on publishing novels that fall in the speculative fiction category. This includes, but is not limited to, the following genres: dystopian, fantasy, urban fantasy, and science fiction.

You can get a good feel for what they are interested in by visiting their catalog here. Their covers have really improved over time and are generally genre-appropriate. If you filter by genre in the catalogue you can see what sub-genres of speculative fiction they've actively published. They also talk more about their definition of speculative fiction, here.

Their FAQs contain a lot of answers, and seem to be pretty transparent. It is clear they prioritize recruiting readers over writers, always a good sign. It's also clear that they offer advances, however small, and that they do put some work into marketing. They don't mention having a distributor or being based somewhere specific (although it seems clear that they are based in the USA).

They try to respond to all submissions within a month. They are not interested in short stories, poetry, nonfiction, memoirs or picture books. They also share this:

If you want to learn more about their editors, go to the submission guidelines and scroll down. None of them have mentioned experience, but it should be clear based on your manuscript which editor you should pitch, each editor goes into details of what they are seeking. If none of them seem like a good fit, please do not query.

In the body of your email, please include a query letter where you specify which editor you are pitching as well as and a short writing sample, that is 5 pages or 1 chapter long.

To learn more, go to their submission guidelines here.

Their current landing page, says “Submissions will close December 2025.” This date passed some time ago, and yet the page has not updated, which is a little confusing.

Flame Tree Press

Flame Tree Press is an imprint of Flame Tree Publishing. Flame Tree Press focuses on publishing science fiction, fantasy, horror and suspense, supernatural.. 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.

In 2023 Hachette UK recently announced that they became a shareholder of Flame Tree Publishing. Hachette UK has been the companies distributor for a while now.

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. They also generally have a lot of open anthology calls listed on their guidelines page as well. You can see what fiction they've published in the past here.

HellBound Books

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

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

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

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

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

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

Their full submission guidelines are here and they have additional details here. They are currently open only to novel submissions and anthology calls

Orbit Works

Orbit Works was founded in April 2023, as a new imprint of Hachette/Orbit that is focused on digital publishing. This includes both eBooks and audiobooks. You can read the PR statement about the imprint here. It is led by Orbit Executive Editor Brit Hvide and Editor Stephanie Clark. Orbit Works, like Orbit, is based out of New York. They are open to both agented and unageneted submissions. Orbit is only open to agented submissions and was founded in 2007 to focus on publishing science fiction and fantasy. They have published many well- regarded, bestselling, and award-winning books, in terms of science fiction and fantasy.

Because this imprint is so new, it is hard for me to get any feel if their identity will become separate at all from Orbit as a whole. Their imprint page, as it is now, is very focused on Orbits reputation and the books they've published, so I do believe they are seeking books along the same lines.

Orbit Works will publish every author in both eBook and audiobook format. They stress that that their audiobooks are "produced by the award-winning Hachette Book Group audio team."

They say that when possible, the book will be available in print through their print-on-demand program. It's a little confusing, because print-on-demand books are most often not distributed to bookstores, and on their website they also say "Our global distribution channels and relationships with major retailers will ensure your book is available to readers everywhere in the world. And with regular metadata updates, your book will always be presented in the best way, and at the right price." I'm assuming that they are only talking about this in terms of digital stores/availability. It's also not clear which books will be selected for the print-on- demand program.

were open to direct submissions, and not one of them is still open.

I would also like to add that if Orbit Works expresses interest in your work, you should try to find an agent at that point to negotiate on your behalf. Digital imprints of major presses sometimes take advantage of unagented authors, and if you have found a publisher already, agents are often happy to represent your work, even with a limited timeline.

That being said, their eBook royalty rate is 50% of net revenue and the audiobook royalty rate is 25% of net because of the production costs.

They are not open to AI-written submissions and they try to respond to all submissions within three months.

To learn more, go here. Please read their guidelines carefully before submitting. At the time of this update, they are closed to submissions. They say they were going to reopen to submissions in fall 2025. It's 2026 now and they have not updated it yet. Hopefully they will soon.

Second Sky

Second Sky is a brand new Science Fiction and Fantasy Imprint of Bookouture, which is an established digital publisher of commercial fiction, and an imprint of Hachette UK. We don't review publishers till they have been been actively publishing for a year, but we make exceptions for imprints, as there is already an established parent company attached.

Both Second Sky's website and approach is very similar to Bookouture's, which makes sense, given Bookouture's continued success. Their royalties are 45% of net receipt, and they have a much faster turn around time than most publishers because of their digital focus. Their covers are excellent.

Unlike most legitimate traditional publishers their website is focused on recruiting authors not readers, which works for them because they are already established on most book sales platforms directly, and it is how the other Bookouture publishing sites work.

They are seeking Science Fiction and Fantasy work that is more mainstream and commercial. To learn more about what they are looking for go here. Please carefully follow all their submission guidelines if you decide to submit.

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.

Slashic Horror Press

Slashic Horror Press is an **LGBTQ+** Horror press. They welcome submissions from allies, but LGBTQ+ voices come first and foremost. They also state that "if you only have a gay character on page 50 and they don't do anything except re-affirm stereotypes... then you aren't an ally. " They are only interested in work that feature LGBTQ+ content, including themes, plot, and characters. If this is not a good fit for you, please do not read further. They also are not interested in any genres outside of adult horror (although they have a YA imprint that is open to submissions here). They are open to all sub-genres within horror and to novella submissions as well as novels. They prefer work between 30,000 and 90,000 words. They are not interested in short story submissions.

They state "Preferred horror sub-genres: slashers, psychological, creature feature/monster (vampires, werewolves, demons etc.), extreme, body, supernatural, cosmic, horrormance, gothic, grief. **I don't shy away from gore**"

Based on their catalog they started actively publishing in 2024. Since then they've managed to publish a fairly large number of books, which you can see here. Please spend some time with their catalog as a way of figuring out if they are a good fit for your manuscript or not. I only looked up a few of their titles on GoodReads, but the ones that I saw had between 30 and 60 ratings.

They do editing, but not extensively. They are not open to previously published work, including self-published titles "**unless the work has undergone significant rewriting and you're pitching a re-release**".

They have a zero tolerance policy for AI generated writing. They try to respond to submissions within six weeks, but please do not rush them.

They will also automatically reject " bestiality, pedophilia, incest, and hate crimes/extremist views without meaningful context for the story."

This is a very small, primarily one person operation, so please keep that in mind with submissions.

They have very detailed submission guidelines here. Please read them carefully before submitting. Submissions must be made via email.

They close to submissions on July 31st, 2026.

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. At the time of this update they are open to submissions **but only of short story collections**. To learn more, visit their website here.

Tenebrous Press

Tenebrous Press is a publisher of "New Weird Horror, and New weird SF&F, and other dark and strange genre mashups."

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 published their first book in 2021. You can find out more about the editors here.

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 pages 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. They are closed at the time of this update, but were very recently open.

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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. Also, note that Carina Press, in the romance section, publishes mysteries of all flavors—from cozies to thrillers, with and without romantic aspects. There are also a number of Romance imprints that want a serious mystery aspect.

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 thrillers, whodunits, cozies, psychological suspense, 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. The fact that it focuses on selling books and promoting authors is 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.

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.

Crooked Lane is distributed by Penguin Random House, and I regularly see their books in bookstores. They also have an imprint focused on book club books, called Alcove Press.

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.

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.

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 Block, 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.

Inkubator Books

This Dublin, Ireland-based press focuses on publishing crime fiction, mystery, and thrillers. They do not publish work outside of this genre, and they do not publish work outside of Amazon. Most of the work they publish do very well on Amazon through Kindle Unlimited. The books they publish are not just available digitally, they also use Amazon to offer print on demand (POD) copies. You can learn more about the company here, and see the masthead here. It's worth mentioning that one of their directors, Brian Lynch, comes from a background in television. This seems to impact the publisher's approach and makes them a little different then a lot of other publishers.

For one, they have this space they call the Writers Room which they talk about here. This is very unusual, and not a part of most legitimate presses, but because of one of their co-founders' background in television, their approach to marketing, and the genre-specific focus, it does seem to make sense. Also they do not appear to have a vanity imprint they could redirect authors to, like the other companies who focus on creating space for writers to share ideas. They also make it clear in the FAQ of the site that no one is obligated to participate in the Writers Room and it appears to be something that only happens after a contract is signed.

They also are upfront, and don't leave it to be a surprise in the contract that "Inkubator reserve the right to negotiate film and TV rights on behalf of the author for the term of the contract. We will keep 40% of all revenue earned from any such deal." A lot of small publishers have a clause along these lines, and it is a large percentage to lose, but for most small presses, TV and film rights will never change hands, because the editors of the presses aren't able to really negotiate these rights. The directors of Inkubator appear to be in an actual position to do so. This is something to very much take into consideration when submitting to them, and could

feel like a plus for some authors and a minus for others.

Also their website is geared towards recruiting authors rather then selling books. This isn't really a red flag with them as Bookouture has a similar approach, as they have found ways to market and sell their books outside of their website. They did have one line that surprised me, "If you are a new author and don't have an agent, that's okay." It's really clear that they mostly don't work with agents (most of which would have issues with film and TV rights, and their whole website is geared towards recruiting writers), so I think that this line is mostly there to make new authors think they work with agents. There is a helpful thread at the Water Cooler here, that breaks down some of the pros and cons of publishing with them, and talks a little about the agent line also.

I do think that they are actually focused on and keenly invested in making money for themselves and their authors. They talk a lot about crafting a bestselling mystery and marketing it here and here. It's also really clear that their books do very well on Amazon and most have lots of reviews and ratings.

In terms of royalty split, they say on the About page, "We offer all our writers 45% of net receipts without any unexpected deductions or expenses." and then on the FAQ page they say, "We will send you 45% of all money received from Amazon for sales of your book." The first equation states that is net, but the second equation from the FAQ implies that is actually of gross. I can't say what is actually correct, but that is something to keep in mind.

They are open to previously self-published and published books as long as you have the digital rights.

They also do significant editing. They ask for rights of first refusal if they are

accepting the first book in a series, but otherwise they do not ask for any commitment beyond one book.

They try to respond to all submissions within four weeks. They ask for the full manuscript, a short author bio, and a synopsis (maximum 1 page) of the work.

To learn more about submitting, go here. Also I really encourage you to read the FAQs in full before submitting.

White City Press

White City Press is focused on publishing mysteries, across a range of sub genres. They are currently open to Cross-genre mysteries (for example scifi/mystery) as long as mystery is the key element. They are also open to Mysteries aimed at young adult and new adult readers, as well as mysteries with protagonists over the age of 55. They also accept and publish Historical mysteries based in any time period between 1950-2000. The 1980's are a time period of particular interest. They also are seeking intentional mysteries ideally taking place outside of the US and England. They state "Africa or South America is a plus". They are open to novel length work, novellas, and series, and they will consider short story collections.

They say this about their name "Arequipa, Peru is also known as “The White City," due to its buildings made from gleaming white stone. It’s a city that’s a celebration of ancient Peru and contemporary life combined into one city. During the day, Arequipa shines bright in the sunlight. After dark, the narrow (and, often, cobblestone) streets of the city are mysterious and intriguing. Tiny shops are tucked away in narrow alleys. Theaters exist through massive wooden doors but buried in the depths of hillsides. It’s a city of intrigue and history.

White City Press endeavors to capture that same feeling of history/nostalgia while also bringing forth titles of contemporary design. Our special sub-imprint, *Sandra Murphy Presents*, exists to help shine the light on unpublished or underpublished authors of extraordinary talent that deserve to be seen and read."

Just to be clear even though the world white is in their name, they emphasize this in their submission guidelines " We are actively seeking materials featuring and/or written by marginalized and underrepresented voices. White City Press takes diversity, equity and inclusion very seriously and has this as a core tenet of our

publishing house. "

They were founded by Jay A. Hartman, and you can learn more about him, here. If you scroll further down on that page information about their other editor, Sandra Murphy is also shared. She is the only editor debut authors can submit to at the press.

They have published a fair number of books over the years, and some have been successful, with a fair number of Amazon and Goodreads Reviews, and others seem to have garnered very little attention. They do not appear to have a distributor and their covers are hit and miss for me but mostly genre appropriate. You can get a good feeling for their catalog here.

I'm only focusing on their longer calls for submission here, but they do have a series they are seeking submissions for which you can learn more about here as well as an anthology erotic mystery call here.

They have a long list of what they are NOT looking for in terms of submissions: "Rehashes of classic mysteries/characters. No, we really don't need another Sherlock Holmes or Edgar Allen Poe mystery. Honest.

Tired cozy tropes *(i.e.: women working in bakeries or coffee shops, women falling for the local cop or vice-versa, the person who moves to town to fix up the old house they inherited, etc.)*

Women needing to be rescued by a man

Romantic mysteries that are more romance than well-plotted mysteries (please save those for our Miraflores Nights imprint)

Historical mysteries taking place prior to 1920

Small towns filled with “quirky” characters or residents who are depicted as not being smart

Gruff sheriffs with a heart of gold that just need to find the right person

Rehashes of NYT bestselling books. No, we really don’t need another *The Girl on the Train*. Honest."

They state, "We typically read submissions during four specific times: March, June, September and December unless otherwise indicated." They are open to submissions outside of those time periods often, but not generally reading the submissions.

Debut authors who have not traditionally published before must submit their work to Sandra Murphy.

Please carefully read their full submission guidelines before submitting. To learn more please go here.

Children and Young Adult Book Publishers

Children's book publishers tend to focus on specific niches within the larger market. They also tend to publish only a small number of manuscripts each year, unless they are publishing educational work. Most publishers prefer books to be submitted without illustrations, so that is important to keep in mind.

You can find additional book publishers for children and young adults in the multi-genre, and non-fiction sections of this book.

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. At the time of this update they were closed to submissions.

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.

becker&mayer! Kids

becker&mayer! kids is often abbreviated as b&m!. This is an imprint of The Quartro Publishing Group that focuses on publishing children's books that focus on portraying varying cultures, races, and abilities. They say this about the imprint "We believe authenticity is even more important than just visibility. When people read about their own culture, it is often the nuances of the experience that are relatable. Our inspiring children's list brings representation and positivity to the reading landscape of young readers everywhere."

You can see their imprint page here. You can get a good feel for their catalog here. It's clear that they publish fiction and nonfiction for children.

The full submission guidelines are on Quatro's main submission page here.

Blue Dot Kids Press

There was one section on their submission page where the phrasing was unusual. They said "We select a few agented and unagented authors each year for our traditional publishing program." This confused me because it implied to me that they also had a hybrid/vanity publishing program as well. However I could see no indication on their site or elsewhere that they ran anything outside of their traditional publishing program (otherwise I would not have reviewed them). If they do re-direct anyone to paying option, please reach out to support@authorspublish.com.

They offer advances as well as ongoing royalties. They also emphasize their focus on publicity, and it does seem like past books have sold well based on the number of reviews they've received. Consortium is their distributor.

They are open to submissions of Middle-grade fiction and graphic novel fiction, specifically realistic, adventure, and magical realism fiction, for kids ages eight to twelve, as well as highly illustrated Middle-grade nonfiction. They are also open to fiction and nonfiction chapter books and graphic novels for seven to ten year olds, as well as fiction and narrative nonfiction picture books and board books.

For all of these age groups will only consider stories that fall into one or more of the following three categories:

1. Nature/Environment: Appreciation of nature, conservation, environmental stewardship, science, STEAM and STEM

2. Social and Emotional Learning: Empathy, resilience, growth mindset, emotional intelligence, creative problem-solving, imagination, curiosity

3. Global Citizenship: Celebrating our big, beautiful world

They stress that they are not interested in nonfiction that doesn't contain a narrative and doesn't have informative back matter. They also are very much NOT interested in fantasy stories, religious-themed stories, or any work aimed at readers over the age of 12.

They are open to submissions from previously self-published books as long as the authors are open to their book being re-edited and re-branded.

All submissions must be made through their Google form, after reading their complete submission guidelines here. If you haven't heard from them after four months, please assume rejection. They are also open to submissions from illustrators.

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.

CF4kid

CF4kids is the children young people focused imprint of Christian Focus Publishing. Christian Focus Publishing is an evangelical Christian publisher based in Scotland. They say, "Our calling is to share the incredible message of the gospel and help people grow in their faith through the power of books." The company as a whole has excellent distribution. We've reviewed Christian Focus Publishing separately as they have very different submission guidelines.

CF4Kids focus on publishing books that are "bright, fun and full of biblical truth, an ideal way to help children discover Christ for themselves. Our aim is to help children find out about God and get them enthusiastic about reading the Bible, now and later in their lives. As an evangelical, reformed, non–denominational publishing company we believe that God's word is true and Jesus Christ is Lord."

They have a wide range of series within this imprint that all have specific needs and focuses. They include a Full Colour Bible Story Books series, a black and white devotional series, puzzle and activity books and family devotions. They also have a number of biography focused series with different expectations for each. You can learn more details about all of their series here.

They are open to fictional books for children but have specific requirements pertaining to that that you must follow. They do not want authors to arrange their own artwork. They are not interested in poetry or rhyming books.

They encourage authors that have not yet written a biographical or fictional book, but have an idea for one that could be a good fit for CF4kids to read the guidelines, and to reach out if they thought it would fit of of the current series. They say "If it is not for us we will tell you and save you a lot of work and trouble. If you don't want to

contact us without something to show work out a synopsis, chapter headings and three sample chapters. Then a letter or email as initial contact is best."

Authors who have completed their manuscript already or are writing for a series that isn't biographical or fictional, must submit a completed Author information sheet, a synopsis, chapter headings, and three sample chapters. Submissions can be made by email or post. They try to respond to submissions within six months.

To see their full guidelines as well as their contact information, please go here.

Charlesbridge Publishing

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

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

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

Charlesbridge is starting to publish young adult fiction and nonfiction. 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. They are not open to submissions for Imagine right now.

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. They are currently paused to submissions for the first time since we reviewed them almost a decade ago. They plan to share an update in Spring 2026.

Creston Books

Creston Books is small press focused on publishing picture books and select novels. They were founded in 2013 by Marissa Moss, the author of the Amelia's Notebook series. Creston Books was established to fill a gap in the picture book market and to focus on diverse books. They have published many award winning and banned books over the years. Authors that have debuted with them have found real ongoing industry success.

They are distributed by Lerner Publishing Group. There is a great interview with the founder, Marissa Moss on Lerner's blog here. If you are serious about submitting to them, I highly encourage you to read it. You can get a feel for what they publish here. I have encountered a number of their books before at the library and at the local children's bookstore. Please spend time with the books they've published before submitting to them.

You can submit no more than one project a month to them. All submissions must be sent via the body of an email they are not interested in attachments of text. PDF's showing art is fine but text files will not be read. They also have great additional advice you can and should read here.

Deep Hearts Jr.

Deep Hearts YA, an imprint of Deep Desires Press, is launching a new sub-imprint called Deep Hearts Jr.

Deep Hearts Jr. will focus on publishing middle grade (or MG) books for readers between the ages of 8-12.

They will be focusing mostly on publishing LGBTQ+ middle grade fiction, in all genres and sub-genres. The other imprints of the same publisher all focus more on romance. The focus on romance is not necessary for readers of this age. The publishers stress that. "The queer element of a Deep Hearts Jr. book should be present in the main character's immediate life, which could be an identity they are coming to terms with, they may be in a queer family, or there may be other opportunities for queerness in the character's life. (Having queer friends is too "distant"; queerness must be immediately present in the character's life.) Some themes we enjoy are self-empowerment, self-acceptance, or other related messages."

They want diverse stories with diverse characters that explore real issues that queer youth face, and have a happy ending. They don't want main characters older than 20 or unhappy endings. I personally have never read an MG novel with a main character older then 13.

They send kind of a mixed message in terms of author expectations from the publisher. They say: " Authors will receive full editing, cover art, and marketing support from Deep Hearts YA. Submissions are expected to be well-written, well-edited, and reasonably error-free." I think this means that work will receive one round of editing rather then in-depth editing, which they expect the writers to already have done. I could always be wrong. I do know that historically, based on feedback from a

few authors from the other imprints, that marketing support was very limited, although that could have changed. The sales based on their Amazon pages do not look great.

They are seeking work between 50,000 and 80,000 words, with some wiggle room on both ends. If the manuscript reads as a complete novel and is less then 50,000 words, that's ok. If it's longer then 80,000 words they will consider it as long as it fits the sub-genre, like science-fiction. They expect the complete manuscript to be submitted alongside a query letter and synopsis.

Their full submission guidelines are here. At the time of writing, this imprint has no previous publications or back catalogue of any kind.

Deep Hearts YA

Deep Hearts YA is a new publisher of fiction for young adults. They focus on publishing LBGTQ+ 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.

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 on 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 awards for the books they publish, also many of the individual books have received awards. The Awards the press and individual books have won include: ABC Best of Books Catalog, Comstock Read Aloud Book Award, NY State Charlotte and many other. Flashlight Press has been publishing books since 2006 and all of their back catalog remains in print.

Flashlight Press only publishes 2-4 books a year. They do not require agents or previous publishing experience. The editor tries to respond to queries as quickly as possible. The books they publish are targeted at 4-8 year olds. The book should be between 500-1,000 words in length. It should have a universal theme and deal with a family or social situation.

To submit to them you must first email a query letter to the editor, it must not have any attachments, 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 within 4 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.

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 also have a popular imprint called Eerdmans Books for Young Readers which publishes a variety of books for children, including board books, picture books, novels, and nonfiction. 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 publish between 18 and 20 books a year, and seek "high-quality manuscripts that are honest, wise, and hopeful, and we publish stories that simply delight us with their storylines, characters, or good humor. Books that celebrate diversity, explore the natural world, share stories of historical or cultural significance, and relate to contemporary social issues are of special interest to us."

They include a number of additional specific calls on their website, including one focused on STEAM and another on stories from Latin America.

They also stress that they are not currently interested in the following.

- Didactic and moralistic stories
- Storybook Bibles or other longform retellings of biblical text

- Horror, fantasy, or other genre-driven stories
- Early reader manuscripts
- Young adult manuscripts

No AI of any kind should be submitted.
Please spend time with their catalog before submitting.

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 emailed submissions. They also accept submissions from illustrators.

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.

They are currently closed to submissions. 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 the 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. They are closed to submissions at the time of this update.

Guppy Books

Guppy Books is a respected publisher of children's fiction. Founded in 2019 by Bella Pearson, the books they have published have been finalists and winners of a number of awards. They also have excellent distribution. You can learn more about the company and their track record, here. They are based in the UK, and generally not open to unagented submissions except via their free contest. They do gently encourage those that can afford to, to buy one of their books to get a better feel for what they publish, but it is not a requirement. It's a good idea to spend time with their catalog to get a better feel for what they publish, no matter what, and you can do that here. I personally loved the books of theirs that I have read.

They try and host a contest that is open to new authors or self-published authors only, every year or two. It is a free contest and has traditionally been held in the spring or summer. The last one they held closed to submissions in June 2025 and was only open to Middle Grade Fiction.

Generally for the contest they want to see the first few chapters (up to 2,000 words of the novel). They also want to see a short synopsis. They are open to .doc, .docx, and PDF documents, sent via email. Only one submission per author.

For their contest they generally offer all shortlisted authors an editorial meeting with their founding editor, Bella Pearson. The winner will be offered a contract with Guppy Books. They are not obligated to sign it.

To learn more about the most recent contest go here. To get updates about future contests follow them on social media, or their blog.

Hashtag Press

Hashtag Press was established in the UK in 2016 by Abiola Bello and Helen Lewis. They focus on publishing "commercial fiction books for young people that are plot driven with relatable, inspiring characters and great friendships". You can get a feel for what they publish here. They very much prioritize stories about characters from underrepresented backgrounds and by authors from underrepresented backgrounds. They are particularly interested in debut books by authors from underrepresented communities.

They open to submissions on the 1st of November and close on the 30th. During this reading period they are open to YA and Children's book manuscripts. They generally have a few open reading periods a year. The rest of the time they only consider work submitted by agents. They prefer work that hasn't been previously published and that is plot driven, and includes great friendships.

You can also see that some of the books they publish are co-authored by the founding editor and another author. This is a little unusual with an established press even a small one, but not unheard of. The editor in question is also represented by an agent at a major agency. Many of the books they publish are by authors not affiliated with the press.

They stress that they are looking for diversity in their story, and they share this definition in the context of publishing: "a book that contains characters not typically or widely represented. Everyone deserves to see themselves represented. It's about a range of characters that are not from the same walks of life. This can be diversity in class, race, gender identity, sexuality, disability, background and other forms of

identity." They are not interested in publishing a book that isn't diverse, based on this definition. Any books that are not diverse or inclusive will not be a good fit for them.

They are not interested in books that are science fiction, historical fiction, non-fiction or picture books. They will also not consider picture books, film pitches, or book covers.

Submissions must be made via email. To read their full submission guidelines, go here. Please read them in full before proceeding. Please follow their guidelines carefully and do not submit if your work isn't a good potential fit. They are only open to submissions during clearly marked reading periods.

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 accept submissions via email and mail, but they prefer email submissions. 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.

The Innovation Press

The Innovation Press is a small children's book publisher with major distribution through Baker and Taylor. My children own a number of their books, and I regularly encounter books they have published at the library and bookstores. Some of their best known books are the *Zoey and Sassafras* series, and the picture book, *My Name is a Song*. They are a member of the Children's Book Council, the American Booksellers Association, and the Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association.

They do not publish very many books every year, and so far in 2025 have only released one book. The same was true in 2024. In 2023 and before they released more books per year, but still not very many.

At the top of their submission page they have a starred note that says "If you have mimicked the style, structure, rhyme, or plot of a book that is already in existence, we are not interested in your submission. We only wish to receive ORIGINAL work, not work that has been heavily inspired."

The books they publish are focused on readers starting in Pre-K through the 5th grade. This includes MG novels, as well as graphic novels and nonfiction. They stress that "We are particularly interested in hybrid texts that blend fiction elements with nonfiction elements, though we also welcome traditional fiction and nonfiction submissions. We love books that make us laugh and we get excited when we see a presentation/approach or subject we have not seen before. We are also actively seeking #OwnVoices submissions."

They ask that authors submitting fiction and nonfiction submit a synopsis of their book, the first 10 pages, and a brief biography. They have different guidelines for illustrator submissions as well as proposals of activity books. To see all the details for

all the guidelines as well as their contact information, please go here.

If you have not heard from them after four weeks, they ask that you assume your work has been rejected.

JollyFish Press

JollyFish Press was started in 2012. They are based out of Provo, Utah. Their authors have won numerous awards. They initially published a wide range of genres for adults, children, and young adults. They are now part of North Star Editions.

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

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

You can learn more about the press and their staff, on the about us page. The information included in the acquisition editor bios are particularly helpful to help you know more about what they are interested in specifically.

To double check or learn more visit their website here. At the time of this update they are closed to submissions.

Lawley Publishing

Lawley Publishing is an Arizona-based press focused on publishing books for children. Their motto is "Kids' books with heart", and their logo, a book with a heart in it, echoes that sentiment.

They publish children's fiction and nonfiction picture books, early reader fiction and nonfiction chapter books, as well as middle grade fiction and nonfiction. They do not publish board books, young adult fiction or nonfiction, or books for adults.

They describe their focus as "producing clean, uplifting, inspiring children's literature that enhances natural curiosity, empowers imagination, and ignites the magic of childhood." They appear to have started out as a self-publishing operation but have since really expanded. There isn't much in terms of details on their staff page, but the photo shared implies that the company has grown.

It was also hard to find out exactly when they started publishing. The oldest publication date I could see on their website was 2023, but on Amazon I found some titles published as far back as 2019. However those titles were all written by one of the founders, so perhaps the publishing house name was attached after the fact.

Their website is well laid out and easy to use. They focus on selling books rather than recruiting writers, which is also a good sign. Their general visual impression is a little dated, and the cover art really varies, but I personally found a number of the covers poorly designed.

They have an active Youtube channel with over 300 subscribers, that they use to promote their work. Some videos have received less than twenty views while others have received several hundred. They also encourage visitors to the website to sign up

to their email list which is a good sign.

Based on some Amazon research some of their books get around 50 stars/reviews, but some receive a lot less. As far as I can tell they are distributed by Ingram, but if I learn more I will very much update.

They only allow submissions via the post, which is very unusual. Please do not submit anything to them electronically. They ask writers to submit a copy of the complete manuscript, a query letter, pertinent biographical information, and if you want materials returned to you, include an appropriately sized envelope with adequate postage, and a note specifying that you want it returned. Only submit copies.

They are not interested in crude, rude, or derogatory concepts or images. They are not interested in reading query letters without manuscripts. Artwork is not required for picture book submissions, but if you do have some artwork, include copies of it, not originals. Lawley Publishing reserves the right to select their own illustrator.

They stress that they are not open to queries regarding the status of a submission. Their review process takes upwards of 4-6 months to complete.

To learn more, go here.

Marble Press

Marble Press was founded in 2022. It started out with two imprints -- Marble Books, which focuses on picture books and middle grade books, and Bulooga Books, which publishes books for "our youngest readers". In 2026, Marble Press expanded its list with the launch of Taltos Books**,** an imprint born from its acquisition of CamCat Publishing. They will now publish adult and YA fiction, from thrillers and romance to literary crossovers.

Their focus as a press is to publish books with style and substance. You can see their masthead here.

They are currently only open to three kinds of unagented submissions. All other submissions must be agented. Please do not submit this work to them.

They are open to adult fiction and YA fiction for their CamCat and Taltos Books imprints.

They are also open to submissions from scouts and translators of works in translation.

They also say "**We are going to be open for GRAPHIC NOVEL submissions from June 1st 2026. Stay tuned for details.**" So if you have a graphic novel you want to submit, please add a note about that to your calendar.

To see their full submission guidelines, go here.

Maverick Children's Books

Maverick Children's Books is a UK based publisher of children's books. Their books generally have wonderful covers and illustrations, and are quirky. They publish a variety of books for children but only appear to be open to submissions in the picture book category. You can learn more about the team behind Maverick here.

I do not know how good their distribution is, in the UK or outside of it.

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.

To learn more about submitting them, visit their website here. At the time of update they are closed to submissions from writers but not illustrators.

Mischief and Mayhem

Mischief and Mayhem are the YA imprints of the romance publisher Entangled Publishing. Until recently they were called Entangled Teen, but they have since been rebranded. Please read the review of Entangled Publishing first, as they have had a number of issues over the years, that you should take into consideration.

Mischief focuses on publishing general YA for readers 13 and up, with fantasy, sci-fi, horror, contemporary, thriller, with sweet romantic elements. Work they publish is between 80 and 100k in length. These books can contain romantic themes and even occasional strong language and action and conflict, but nothing is overly graphic.

Mayhem focuses on publishing YA for readers 16 and older fantasy, sci-fi, horror, contemporary, thriller, with romantic elements. Work is between 90 and 120k in length. These books generally feature stronger language, more intense violence, and mature romantic themes.

Because the rebranding is so new, it's easier to get a feel for what YA Entangled is interested in publishing by looking under their YA filter, here. Both Mayhem and Mischief are listed under imprints, but there are no books currently in the Mischief category and only two in the Mayhem.

You can read the complete guidelines for Mayhem submissions here.

You can read the complete guidelines for Mischief submissions here.

Please note that I had issues with Entangled website re-directing to different pages via links. If you are having an issue using either of the above links, please use this link to reach Entangled's full submission guidelines.

New Frontier

New Frontier is an established small publisher based in Australia. They are focused on publishing children's books, including picture books, and chapter books. Their target audience appears to be readers under twelve. They were established in 2002 and are distributed by Lerner Publishing Groups, which is very active in the children's market. Their covers are excellent, and the few books of theirs that I have read to my kids were engaging and well made.

I first encountered them a few years ago and passed on reviewing them because at the time they highly encouraged submitters to buy a 60 dollar sample pack of material. They even had a check box to indicate if you did so as part of their submission packet. While I didn't think to take screenshots at the time, you can see that it was an issue of much discussion on Absolute Write.

I would not review them if they had not changed their policy, but they have. As of this summer they now say "Before you send anything please look through our list and read some of our books. That way, you can come to understand the books we love."

There is no check box to indicate that you have done so and most publishers similarly encourage readers to read a book they have published first. In any case they've made it particularly easy to get a feel for what they have published by including a view inside the book option for many of their picture books. You can see one here. While that doesn't show you the whole book, the view inside option is helpful for giving you a feel for what they actually publish. If you are serious about submitting them and your library does not have their books and you cannot order them, spending some time with their catalogue and looking through the sample pages should help.

Also mentioned on the Absolute Write forum and worth noting is that they share an

office in both the UK and Australia with a hybrid publisher, but there is no sign of re-direction between the two. Please reach out to us at support@authorspublish.com if anything changes.

Their full submission guideline are here. If they have not responded to your submission in 4 months assume rejection. All submissions must be made through their electronic form, please follow their guidelines and only submit if you feel like your book is a good fit for them.

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 fiction, 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 to submissions.

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. Very frustratingly they do not share books in chronological order. They do appear to still be actively publishing though.

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.

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 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.

Sky Pony Press

Sky Pony Publishing is a division of Skyhorse Publishing. If you are considering submitting, please read the Skyhorse review first. Sky Pony is the division of Skyhorse that focuses on publishing work for children. This includes picture books, chapter books, middle grade, and YA fiction and nonfiction. They are open to any genre and style. They are seeking work that is "new and different".

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 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 include your qualifications.

In the past Sky Pony and more specifically Skyhorse had a number of complaints about alleged un-payment of authors. To learn more about it, read this thread here. But in the past decade things seem to have turned around significantly in terms of payment.

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 please visit their website here.

Tilbury House

Tilbury House is a press based out of Maine that publishes children's books including board books, beginning readers, picture books and middle grade titles.

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. You can get a feel for their catalog as a whole here.

Tilbury House used to publish books aimed at adults, primarily regional non-fiction about Maine or the northeast, but this is no longer the case.

They only accept electronic submissions. The subject line of your email should contain the words “Tilbury House Submission” along with the title of your work. You should also include in the subject line the subject (science, nature, etc) of your manuscript, and if it is fiction or nonfiction.

The body of the email should contain a detailed cover letter and a brief summary of your manuscript. They’d also love to know of any published books that have similarities with yours, and how your book will be different.

There is no need to provide illustrations alongside a picture book story. If you have already illustrated your story the art work will be considered separately.

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.

They only respond to submissions they are interested in. They try to do so within six months.

If you are interested in learning more or submitting, please visit their website.

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!"

In 2025 they've launched a new imprint called Tiny Ghost Hearts, which focuses in on new adult romance. They are now calling their YA imprint Tiny Ghost Teens. They are currently open to submissions for both imprints.

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.

Most of the books they have published 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.

Their website has an ongoing and persistent issues with typos.

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.

The just closed to submissions at the time of update but they plan to have another open reading period in 2026.

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.

Young Dragons

Young Dragons is a traditional independent publisher focused on publishing books for children. They publish picture books as well as middle grade fiction.

They used to be part of a larger press Oghma, but at some point that press underwent a major re-branding and is now called Roan & Weatherford. There is no mention of Oghma on their site now, and Oghma's catalog redirects to a different press. There is a line on Roan & Weatherford's site that causes me to pause. They say "We're out of the à la carte services game, but that just allows us to devote all our efforts to our contracted authors", because back in 2020 when I first reviewed Young Dragon they were very clear that they were a traditional press (and that may have been the case).

You can see what they published here, to get a feel for what they are interested in. Their covers range from good to decent.

They don't have a distributor listed on the website that I could find. As you can see from their home page they are more focused on selling books then recruiting authors, which is a good sign. They also have clear outlines for what they are seeking which is always helpful.

As far as I can tell they actively started publishing in 2020. They have no formal about section on the website and no information about staff that I could find. Both companies seem to submit books for awards.

To read their full submission guidelines, go here. They plan to reopen to submissions in late 2026

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.

Christian Focus Publishing

Christian Focus Publishing is an evangelical Christian publisher based in Scotland. They say, "Our calling is to share the incredible message of the gospel and help people grow in their faith through the power of books."

They have four imprints. Focus is more approachable and geared towards Christian living. Mentor is more detail oriented and in-depth. Heritage re-publishes classic texts that have fallen out of print. CF4kids is their children and young adult focused imprint (which we have reviewed separately because they have different, very specific guidelines).

They are open to submissions for all imprints. They do not publish poetry and fiction for adults, and only focus on nonfiction in these genres. It's important to get a feel for what they are actively publishing and promoting. You can do so by spending time with their website here.

They ask that all authors submitting work for adults, submit a synopsis, a contents page, two sample chapters, and their CV/Résumé, detailing ones personal religious background. They also ask authors to complete an Author Information Sheet and a Book Information Sheet.

This work can be submitted via email or mail. They try to respond within six months. You can see their complete adult guidelines here.

Church Publishing Incorporated (CPI)

Church Publishing Incorporated (CPI) was founded in 1918. They publish about 60 new titles per year. They have four imprints, all of which focus on publishing work that sparks "reflection, dialogue, hope, and action". Besides books they also publish church supplies like parish registers, as well as digital platforms supporting ministry. You can learn more about the company and their imprints here.

They are based in New York City but have international distribution. It's easy to get a feel for what they publish by reviewing to their new releases here.

They accept proposals and completed manuscripts for books and electronic resources. They are open to submissions for books for general readers, clergy and church resources, and academic works, which includes scholarly titles for course adoption and research.

They ask that interested authors fill out a form, which you can see here alongside the limited proposal guidelines. The form is then submitted via email.

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.

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.

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 Bruderhof, 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.

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.

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.

Wild Heart Books

This small press focuses on publishing "historical romance novels set prior to 1950 and woven with the truth of God's love". You can see their staff page here. They were founded by an established Christian Historical Romance writer. They really focus on their niche, and seem to be successful within that context. A number of their books have over 70 ratings on Amazon. Their covers are well designed and genre appropriate.

They do not accept AI submissions of any kind.

They want the hero and heroine to meet early in the story and be together throughout most of it. Work should be between 60,000 - 80,000 words. They can sometimes consider novellas of a shorter length in a series.

They prefer books set in the United States or Canada, but will consider other locations, particularly European Regency. Their preferred time period ranges from 1700 to 1950, but we will consider earlier periods, but not later ones.

They really lean into the tropes and say they want books with "with easily identifiable tropes (often more than one) sell well. For example: enemies to lovers, forbidden romance, ugly duckling, rags to riches, fish out of water, forced proximity, mail-order bride, marriage of convenience."

They also said they want Deep point of view and not a narrative split between the two main characters.

They have additional advice and requests for information relating to self promotion on their submission guidelines here. Please read carefully before submitting.

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. Their children's book imprint is covered in more details in the section of the guide focused on Children's books.

To read their complete submission guidelines for submissions of adult books, please go here. They try to respond to all submissions in eight weeks.

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

Authors Publish was founded in 2012 and for the first few years, even though I only reviewed romance publishers that were over a year old, I had no lack of options in terms of romance publishers to review. They were the easiest genre to find publishers open to direct submissions, other than those focused on non-fiction. Particularly in 2016 and 2017 the number of publishers seemed almost endless, then after a year of slower growth in 2018, the market quickly started to shrink dramatically as dozens of publishers failed.

Part of this great swing in numbers was because of diminished eBook sales and part of this is the fact that there were too many romance publishers for the market to support.

In the past five years the market has slowly started to grow back and new publishers have sprung up. We now cover over 50 romance publishers (although some are in other sections of the guide). BookTok and romance becoming more mainstream are very much factors here. We'll see if a bust follows this cycle of growth as well (I personally would be surprised if it didn't).

In this chapter there are traditional print publishers, established romance stalwarts, up and coming ebook 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.

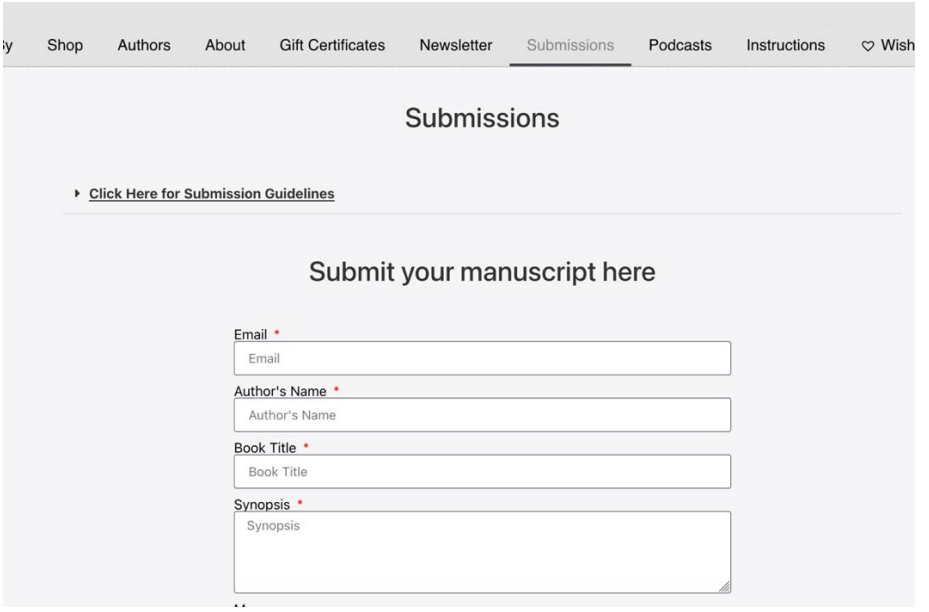
Affinity Rainbow Publications

This small press focuses on publishing Lesbian & Women's fiction, mostly within the context of the Romance genre. They do not publish work outside of these genres. They publish in two formats: eBooks and Print on Demand.

You can go to their shop to see how many books they've published over the years, but the most recent books are hard to find on that page. Instead it's easier to find them on the main page under the new releases banner. Their current covers do not seem like professional quality to me, but they have improved from their earlier covers.

The website is a little buggy but well organized. Their about page, shares very little about the company.

Their submission guidelines appear at first very bare bones as you should be able to see in the image below:



You have to press on the click here for Submission Guidelines button to see their full and very detailed submission guidelines.

Their guidelines include a prohibition against head hopping, clear perimeters around dialogue formatting, storytelling suggestions, and other formatting details. Please read them carefully before submitting.

They make it clear that submissions not following their guidelines will be deleted unread.

They are open to work of most lengths, but only manuscripts that are over 50,000 words will be published as a printed book and an eBook. Manuscripts under 45,000 words will be published as eBooks in most situations.

All manuscripts should be submitted electronically. They ask that authors include the following: "a one-page plot summary including a working title, the genre, and the word count. Complete author biography, and synopsis for back of the book. Author information: name, mailing address, and email address. Include any previous publications including free to public forums on the internet."

They do appear to be open to previously published work as they say "Advise us if the manuscript was published previously. If so, let us know the status of the manuscript with the previous publisher."

To learn more and to see their complete submission guidelines go here.

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.

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.

They are also open to previously published work, both self published and traditionally published, as long as you are also submitting new work. You have to scroll down to the bottom of their submittable to see the details for how to submit previously published work. Carina has a whole separate submittable that is not part of Harlequin's main Submittable page.

The same authors often write for them over and over again, which is generally a good sign. They are also open to publishing series.

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 Romance fiction with high heat levels which is targeted at a female audience that is over 18. However, within that genre they publish many subgenres including: “Contemporary, Paranormal, and Sci-Fi Women's Fiction Romance, high heat level: Action Adventure, Suspense, MC Romance, Medical Romance, Rock Star Romance, Romantic Comedy, Dark Comedy, Dark Fantasy, Urban Fantasy, Magic, Sorcery and Witchcraft, Cyber-Punk, Reverse Harem, LGBTQA+, Mpreg, Steampunk, Werewolves, Shifters, and Vampires.”

Their covers are generally genre appropriate, but not very good (in my opinion).

They do not accept books that are simultaneously submitted elsewhere, but you can submit more than one book at a time.

They do not accept AI generated content, or paper submissions. They will not accept illegal/barely legal actives including incest, underage relationships, school girl fantasies, rape or anything that un-empowers women or men. They stress “NO still means no at Changeling”

To learn more visit their submissions page, and make sure to read their guidelines carefully. They have a submission checklist you must fill out, and they only consider work submitted in an RTF or txt file.

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. There new release section is randomly selected from books published or re-release in the last year as far as I can tell. On the blog they share their most recent releases.

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 un-shifted/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.

Dragonblade

This digital-first publishing house only publishes works of historical fiction with a clear focus on romance. Within the historical romance genre they are open to most subgenres including: Viking, Regency, Georgian, Tudor, Highlander, Medieval, Victorian, Roman, Civil War, Restoration, Edwardian, etc. They are interested in anything pre-20th century except Westerns and Amish. They are also open to time travel, historical fiction, historical fantasies, and historical mysteries as long as there is a romance component that ends happily ever after. They are open to M/M, F/F, M/F, LGBTQIA pairings.

Founded in 2012, they primarily publish series through Kindle Unlimited, although they have print editions available of some of their work. They were founded by the bestselling romance author Kathryn Le Veque, as primarily a self-publishing operation initially, but they branched out, years ago now. They still publish a lot of Kathryn Le Veque's books. The editorial team involves a lot more people now, and you can learn more about them here.

Their covers are good and genre appropriate. An author who was published by them in 2022, posted about their experience with Dragonblade, under the user name Lil and it seems to be a mostly positive. You can learn more about them. "Lil" said that Dragonblade helped promote the work more than most small presses but they did contribute.

Dragonblade contracts are 7 years long, and are apparently pretty standard with above average royalty rates, that vary on the length of the book (longer books get a better rate).

Do not submit to them unless you feel like your work is a good fit for their existing catalog. You can get a good feel for that catalog here.

They ask that all manuscripts be between 40,000 and 120,000 words, Any explicit text must be between consenting adults, and they are not interested in manuscripts that include rape, illegal or degrading scenes. Nothing with bestiality, pedophilia, enslavement, or incest should be submitted to them. They also specify that if your book has excessive sex/heat, to please submit it to the Dragonblade Flame line.

They added an AI policy, which is helpful, and much clearer then most: “ AI-assisted writing is prohibited. This does not include established and accepted computer tools used to edit or otherwise assist in human-written text (such as the Editor feature in a Word document, Grammarly, or other similar editing programs). AI-Assisted writing, for our purposes, is defined as any text, prose, paragraphs, passages, phrases, or chapters generated by any AI program for the purposes of constructing a novel or story. When submitting a story to Dragonblade, the author/submitter agrees that their story is 100% human-generated.”

You can learn more about submitting work to them here.

They usually run a yearly contest, formally called "the Write Stuff" and now called "the Write Track" which is free to enter but it has gone on hiatus for 2025. You can learn more details here. The winners receive cash prizes and publication.

Echoes

Echoes is the historical romance focused imprint of Entwined Publishing, which we have reviewed here. This is what they say they are looking for: "Echoes brings history to life with captivating historical romances. We seek stories that transport readers to past eras, blending rich historical detail with passionate romance. From forbidden love in Regency England to sweeping sagas of the American West, we want tales that echo through time, intertwining love and history in unforgettable ways."

They are looking for well-researched historical romance from any period in history. The manuscript must be between 50,000 and 100,000 words.

They are open to a wide variety of subgenres within this genre including: Action & Adventure, Age Gap, Celebrities, Cowboys/Western, Dominance/submission, LGBTQI+, Mafia/Gangs, MC/Bikers, Men in Uniform, Multiple Partners, Multicultural, Reverse Harem/Why Choose, Rubenesque, Royals, Sports, and Steampunk. They have an even longer list of tropes they are open to, which you can see on their submissions page if you scroll down.

They are open to all heat ratings for this imprint. They do not have any specific calls for submissions for this imprint at this time.

Eclipse

Eclipse is the dark romance focused imprint of Entwined Publishing, which we have reviewed here (please read it first). This is how they describe the imprint "Eclipse delves into the shadowy realms of dark romance, where love and danger intertwine. We are interested in submissions featuring dark billionaires, mafia kings, biker gangs, and anti-heroes who blur the lines between right and wrong. Your stories should evoke intense emotions, explore forbidden desires, and offer complex, multi-dimensional characters that captivate and challenge readers."

They are seeking romance manuscripts between 50,00 and 100,00 words, preferably falling into the sub-genres of: Action/Adventure, Alternate Reality, Angels and Demons, Billionaires, Dark Romance, Fantasy/Romantasy, Paranormal, Vampires, Werewolves.

When you email your full manuscript to them, make sure your subject line makes the imprint you want your work to be considered for, clear.

They have a number of genres and tropes highlighted here. They also currently have these additional focused calls, that they are particularly interested in for this imprint at this time. These submission calls include Dark Billionaire, Dark Bully, Dark Romance, Dark Hockey, and Dark Why Choose? You can see the details involved with these submission calls on the same page as the genres and tropes, you just need to scroll further down. The submission guidelines, which are minimal are also on the same page.

Enchant

Enchant is the Romantasy focused imprint of Entwined Publishing, which we have reviewed here. For those unfamiliar with the term, Romantasy is a very popular genre currently, which is focused on a blend of Romance and Fantasy. At my local big box bookstore, Romantasy is currently dominating the fantasy genre by a large margin.

They are currently seeking submissions "that transport readers to magical worlds filled with mythical creatures, powerful magic, and epic quests. Whether it's a spellbinding romance set in a fantastical realm or a heroic adventure intertwined with love, we want stories that ignite the imagination and sweep readers off their feet."

They are not interested in fantasy that does not have a romantic element. They consider manuscripts that are between 50,000 and 100,000 words.

They are open to the following genres, within the umbrella of Fantasy and Romance including:
Action/Adventure, Alternate Reality, Angels and Demons, Dark Romance, Fantasy/Romantasy, Paranormal, Vampires, Werewolves.

The Fantasy section of their website gives a clear impression of what they are currently focused on publishing.

On their submission page they share the genres and tropes they are open to here. They also share a few more specific calls for submissions including a reverse Harem Submission Call, and a Royals Submission call. You just have to scroll down on the page.

They prefer series to stand-alone projects but are open to both. They are open to all

heat ratings.

They ask that authors submit full manuscripts alongside synopsis.

To learn more, go here.

Entangled Publishing

Entangled Publishing is an independent publisher of adult and young adult romantic fiction. Since its first release in July 2011, Entangled has published more than 970 titles. This number includes a lot of titles that have made it onto the *New York Times* Bestsellers list and the *USA Today* Bestsellers list. Some of their more famous books are *Fourth Wing* by Rebecca Yarros, and *Obsidian* by Jennifer L. Armentrout.

Entangled Publishing has a number of imprints that focus on different subgenres of romance. They are currently in the process re-branding and creating new imprints, and some of the imprint links on the website, were not working at the time of this update.

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.

In 2025 they were sued alongside their bestselling author Tracy Wolf and her agent Emily Sylvan Kim, over copyright infringement. They were sued by Lynne Freeman, an unpublished author, who was previously represented by Emily Sylvan Kim,who and failed to sell Freeman's book, which has overlap with Wolff's NYT's Bestselling book. The story is covered briefly here, and in depth in The New Yorker (this link involves a paywall/limit). The story is worth reading on several levels, especially for authors and readers of genre fiction.

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.

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.

All submissions are made via the online submission platform Submittable.

To learn more or to submit, visit their website here.

Entwined Publishing

The Totally Entwined Group is an eBook, audiobook, 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 mostly good reputation. For a long time its focus was on it's two flagship established imprints – Pride and Totally Bound. They later added a third imprint focused on YA and New Adult books called Finch.

As of October 1st, 2024, they seem to have moved away from all three imprints, and their original name. They have now rebranded as Entwined Publishing. They also have eight imprints, all with brand new names. We may focus on some individual imprints moving forward, but this review is largely focused on the publisher as a whole. The current eight imprints are Epic (Young/New Adult), Entice (Contemporary), Eclipse (Dark Romance), Enchant (Romantasy - which is to say romance + fantasy), Eternal (Paranormal), Echoes (Historical) and Expanse (Science Fiction). All imprints have additional guidelines and preferences. Please carefully review the appropriate imprints page before submitting.

You can see the submissions page containing all the imprints here, and if you scroll down you can see all of the genres and tropes they are interested in within all their series (although not all of them, they point out, apply to Epic because of the younger audience for those books). They also include heat rating parameters, and length information. They stress that they prefer series over single releases. They ask that you submit your full manuscript via email.

It's important to note, that as of April 2023, there was an author on the Water Cooler that cited major issues with regaining rights. You can read that post here. It's hard to put too much weight into one post in an anonymous forum, but it is something to

keep in mind. There's also a mention in the thread of a vanity imprint, but I couldn't find any signs of it. There was also positive feedback as well.

On the updated website they no longer disclose royalty rates anywhere that I could find, but they do still have extensive FAQs that are helpful. They also have an about page that largely serves as a masthead. Based on that page, even though the name has changed, not that much else has.

If you want to learn more or submit, go here.

Epic

Epic focuses on publishing Young Adult (YA) and New Adult (NA) Romance. They are part of Entwined Publishing, which used to be called The Totally Entwined Group, up till the end of September. You can learn more about Entwined Publishing here. I really encourage you to read that review also for larger context about the company.

Epic is technically a brand new imprint, at least in terms of its name and branding. But back when Entwined Publishing was called The Totally Entwined Group, they had a YA and NA focused imprint for many years, called Finch. The aesthetics and focus of the Epic imprint very much seems different. If what they end up actually publishing is different, we will see.

This is how they describe what Epic is focused on: "Epic is about the vibrant and dynamic world of young and new adult romance. We are seeking submissions that capture the essence of youthful passion, the challenges of coming-of-age, and the excitement of new beginnings. Whether your story is set in a high school, college, or a fantastical world, we're looking for narratives that resonate with young readers and evoke strong emotions and memorable experiences."

Within this context they are currently seeking romance manuscripts between 50,000 and 100,000 words, in the following subgenres:
Action/Adventure, Alternate Reality, Angels and Demons, Dark Romance, Fantasy/Romantasy, Paranormal, Vampires, Werewolves.

They also have four submission calls along specific themes at the bottom of the page if you scroll down. There is additional information about the subgrenres and tropes they are interested in here.

Epic prefers series submissions, rather than submissions of stories that are intended to stand on their own. They ask that you submit your full manuscript via email. They also want to see a synopsis. Please only submit if you feel like your work is a good fit for them, and that they are the right publishing house for you. Also follow their submission guidelines carefully.

To learn more, go 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, the lack of the promotion they do for authors has been questioned, along with other things. The last updates in the Water Cooler thread from last year indicate that things have not changed. You can read those comments here.

To learn more, visit their website here. To read their complete submission guidelines visit this page.

Evidence

Evidence is the Thriller/Suspense/Mystery focused imprint of Enchant of Entwined Publishing, which we have reviewed here. This is how they describe what they are looking for: "submissions that weave intricate plots, deliver heart-pounding tension, and keep readers guessing until the very end. If your story features cunning detectives, unsolved mysteries, or nail-biting suspense, we want to hear from you. Bring us your best twists and turns that will leave readers on the edge of their seats."

They are currently accepting romance manuscripts between 50,000 and 100,000 words for this imprint. They also are particularly interested in seeing the following sub-genres reflected in the submission: "Action/Adventure, Alternate Reality, Billionaire, Celebrities, Dark Romance, Mafia/Gangs, MC/Biker, Men in Uniform". They very much prefer series submissions, across the board.

If you scroll down on their submissions guidelines page they also have additional submission calls with additional details about the various sub-genres, like mafia bad boys, men in uniform, and romantic suspense.

They ask interested authors to submit their full manuscript.

Expanse

Expanse is an imprint of Entwined Publishing, which focuses on publishing Romance that falls within the Science Fiction sub genre. Entwined Publishing used to be called The Totally Entwined Group. You can learn more about Entwined Publishing here. I really encourage you to read that review also for larger context about the company.

One of the reasons I'm focusing in on Expanse, is that while Romance and Fantasy are such a common and well-established genre and are often called Romantasy, publishers open to Science Fiction Romance are much harder to find. If Romantasy is more your area of interest, Entwined does have a Romantasy-focused imprint called Enchant, which you can learn more about here.
This is what they share, in terms of details for this imprint: "Expanse ventures into sci-fi romance, exploring distant galaxies and futuristic worlds. We seek thrilling love stories set among the stars, where romance meets adventure in uncharted realms. Whether it’s a space station affair or an interstellar quest, we want narratives that defy the limits of time and space, blending love with the unknown."

They are open to off-world settings, as well as futuristic romance stories. They also stress that they are interested in projects that are between 50,000 and 100,000 words. They are not interested in Science Fiction that does not have a strong Romance element. They are open to all heat ratings.

While a lot of the other imprints include specific active submission calls, the imprint landing page for Expanse does not. But they have recently added genres and tropes that they are particularly interested in exploring within this line, which is helpful.

All submissions must include a synopsis and the full manuscript. All submissions must be made via email. You can learn more 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.

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.

I also think it's important to note that in early 2026 Harlequin France started using AI translators for at least some of the work. You can learn a little more about this here. As far as it is known this has only impacted Harlequin France, but it is still a cause for concern and something to be aware of.

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.

Harlequin Heartwarming

Harlequin Heartwarming is an imprint of Harlequin Romance, which is an imprint of Harper Collins. Harlequin Heartwarming describes the stories they are seeking as "Wholesome, fun and feel-good contemporary romances set in close-knit communities where the reader can escape to a world of love and belonging. Fall in love with small towns, friendly neighborhoods and romances that always end with happily ever after!"

They also list a number of TV shows as examples of what they are hoping to publish in book form: *Gilmore Girls*, *Virgin River*, *Schitt's Creek* and *Ted Lasso*.

Also, unlike most of the other Harlequin imprints, outside of the overtly religious ones, this one noticeably does not mention being open to LGBTQ+ characters, and they always refer to the main couple as the "hero and heroine".

They list the following as the key elements to the heartwarming line:

Clean, sweet, feel-good stories that readers can share with friends and family of all ages.

Contemporary romances with a focus on family and community. Popular themes include: small towns, coming home, becoming a family (single parents, children and secret babies), holidays (Christmas, Thanksgiving), western elements (cowboys and ranchers), traditional romance themes such as marriage of convenience and fake relationship, and pets or animals.

Characters are everyday men and women with traditional values facing the challenges of modern life and relationships with courage and hope. Heroes are dependable, loyal and honest, with jobs such as firefighter, sheriff, small-town cop, rancher or vet. Heroines are optimistic, empathetic and independent, with strong ties to the people and world around her. We welcome characters with a diverse range of cultural backgrounds and challenges.

Settings are North American small towns or close-knit communities within cities.

Although the developing romance between the hero and heroine is always the focus, Heartwarming's longer word count allows the author to show the family and friends around the central couple. Subplots featuring best friends, siblings, coworkers and neighbors are welcome and help create a community that readers will want to escape to again and again.

Heartwarming romances feature a low sensuality level. Hugs and kisses only. Still, lots of romantic attraction and tension is required!

No explicit or behind-closed-doors sex, nudity, pre-marital sex, profanity or graphic depictions of violence.

No explicit religious or Christian content. No paranormal. No heavy suspense."

At the time of update all of the books they mention as recommended reading from the imprint, are not linked to correctly, although you can still find them on Amazon. Here's one of the examples they give.

Manuscripts can be up to 70,000 words in length. They ask that you submit your full manuscript alongside "a 3-7 page synopsis describing your story, including plot outline, character development and conflict resolution/ending".

They publish four books a month in print and eBook format.

You can learn more about the series editors and submission guidelines here. Just scroll down to the heartwarming section.

Harlequin Intrigue

Harlequin Intrigue is an imprint of Harlequin Romance, which is an imprint of Harper Collins. We have also reviewed a number of their other imprint previously, including Afterglow Books, Carina Press, Mills & Boon, Love Inspired & Love Inspired Suspense and Harlequin Historical. All of the different imprints have clear focuses, and separate submission guidelines, and clear word count guidelines. Almost all of the imprints, including this one are open to LGBTQIA+ Stories and welcome all gender and identity pairings.

Harlequin Intrigue books describes themselves by saying "They are for fans of novels by Sandra Brown, James Patterson and Iris Johansen. They are high-stakes thrillers and procedurals where determined characters go through a spectrum of tensions as they work to solve a crime."

They publish six new titles a month, and you can see what they've released recently here.

Not only do they want a high intensity crime story, with a complex plot that is fully resolved in terms of the crime, they also want a romance with a complete romantic arc. The sensuality in Harlequin Intrigue books is low to moderate and there should be no graphic sexual details or explicit language but the main characters must share "a palpable physical and emotional attraction and have a meaningful connection to the crime". The crime itself should not involve gratuitous violence. Subplots should be minimal.

The word count is 55,000 to 60,000 words. They ask that authors submit their full manuscript alongside a 3-7 page synopsis that describes "your story, including plot outline, character development and conflict resolution/ending."

The submission guidelines also boast that "Several *New York Times* bestselling authors have launched their careers with Harlequin Intrigue!" but they do not disclose the names of their authors. They do share the names of their editorial team. To see those, and the additional information they share, go here, and scroll down to the section called Harlequin Intrigue. Please read the complete guidelines carefully before submitting.

Harlequin Medical Romance

Harlequin Medical Romance is an imprint of Harlequin Romance, which is an imprint of Harper Collins.

Harlequin Medical Romance is looking to publish manuscripts of 50,000 words set in the medical world. They say they are seeking "Intense, uplifting and relatable romances set in the medical world. Experience the rollercoaster of emotions, ambitions and desires of today's medical professionals."

They go on to say that readers should think of "*House*, *Grey's Anatomy*, *Private Practice*, *The Night Shift*, *The Good Karma Hospital* and *Doctors* for their tone, medical settings and scenarios, complex characters with strong romantic themes, great dialogue and lives and hearts on the edge. However, the key difference is that the focus of each Medical Romance story is first and foremost a heart-racing romance. The novels offer a wealth of experiences: from the high-octane excitement of the ER to the warmth of family GP practice." They also stress "A strong focus on the central romantic relationship. Relatable main characters in a medical setting – pulse-racing medical drama that throws them together is crucial." You can see their catalog of Medical Romance books here.

They have this note at the start of the submissions call "**We are committed to publishing for our diverse global readership, and are actively seeking to acquire authors from underrepresented backgrounds. If you feel that's you, and you have a story to tell that features the key elements below, then we would love to read it!**" This note is only on some of their submission guidelines now, but it is on this one. It is also one of the submission guidelines that overtly states "We are looking for stories with a diverse range of characters, and are happy to see romances between LGBTQ+ characters."

The editorial offices for this imprint are in London, UK. They publish 6 new books a month.

To learn more, go here.

Harlequin Romantic Suspense

Harlequin Romantic Suspense is an imprint of Harlequin Romance, which is an imprint of Harper Collins. All of the different imprints have clear focuses, and separate submission guidelines, and clear word count guidelines.Some of the imprints do have some overlap. Before submitting to Harlequin Romantic Suspense I would also review their Love Inspired Suspense and their Harlequin Intrigue imprint, as there is some overlap within these genres. One of these other imprints might be a better fit for your manuscript.

Harlequin Romantic Suspense books are romance-focused stories with a suspense element. Romance is at the core of the story. They particularly want "Relatable main characters falling in love under extraordinary circumstances. Harlequin Romantic Suspense concentrates on the developing love story more than the suspense. Each character should be a force to contend with—complex, strong and smart."

Because it's a longer word count for Harlequin, they also want "a wider breadth of story and potential for subplots that speak to the conflicts"

In this imprint they are open to LGBTQIA+ submissions, including all gender and identity pairings.

They say "Classic themes include revenge, characters in jeopardy, family, Westerns, military and law enforcement, morally gray heroes, bodyguards, but we're excited to receive twists on these as well as entirely new themes. Vivid conflicts are essential." They also add that they are open to "A range of sensuality from high to low, as well as romantic and sexual tension."

They are asking authors to submit the full manuscript alongside "a 3-5 page synopsis describing your story, including plot outline, character development and conflict resolution/ending".

The publish four books for this imprint every month. You can see what they are currently published in this imprint here.

To learn more, and potentially submit, please go here, and scroll down to the Harlequin Romantic Suspense section.

Harlequin Special Edition

Harlequin Special Edition is an imprint of Harlequin, which is an imprint of Harper Collins.

Harlequin Special Edition focuses on publishing books that feature contemporary characters and situations. They want to tell stories of "relatable men and women with friends, family and careers, as they experience the journey to true love." They don't want to show just the main characters, they want family, friends, and co-workers to play a role in the story too.

They are open to a wide range of hooks and tropes including the following: "babies/raising children, especially in the case of single parents and multiples; family stories of all types; “fake” relationships for the sake of appearances; western settings and cowboy and ranch stories; rural/small town settings; second chance at love; friends/enemies to lovers; and stories that expand on the romance to include extended family—children; parents; siblings; friends; and co-workers of the protagonists. And pets—especially when they play a key element in the story, and/or have a “job” such as canine or therapy pets!". They are hoping for fresh twists on classic romance hooks and tropes.

They are open to a wide range of heat levels in these stories.

They want to feature characters from a range of backgrounds and lived experiences. They encourage authors from diverse backgrounds to submit for this reason. The editors want the work to be set in the present in an American small town. They hope the books leave readers feeling optimistic, empowered, and connected.

Harlequin Special Edition allows for submissions of stories between 70,000 and

75,000 words in length. This is on the longer side for a Harlequin imprint.

They publish four new Harlequin Special Edition Books every month. You can get a good feel for what they have recently published here.

To learn more go here, and scroll down to Special Edition.

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 covers seem to really have gone downhill over time. 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)

On their website it is 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 for a long time now.

They stress that work needs to already be edited before being submitted.

To learn more or to submit, read their full submission guidelines here.

JMS Books

JMS Books is a small electronic press that focuses on publishing LGBTQ+ erotic romance, romance, and young adult romance. They publish mostly shorter work, but stories between 40,000 and 60,000 words in length are eligible (but not guaranteed) to be published in paperback if they sell 50 electronic copies within the first six months of release. Stories longer than 60,000 words will be released in eBook and print format via print on demand. They use Amazon as their printer and distributor.

They do not publish any heterosexual romance, or any work that is only erotic without a romance element.

They publish stories starting at 12,000 words, with no strict upper limit, so are a little different than most traditional manuscript publishers in that regard, where the minimum starting length is usually much higher.

They have deadlines for seasonal stories and other submission calls on their website here.

All submissions to these themes must be Adult LGBTQ+ romance, any heat level, any subgenre, over 12,000 words in length. You can learn more about the details of the themes and how they are published here. They are not published as anthologies, but as individual stories. They are also open to other stories that are Adult LGBTQ+ Romance and Erotic Romance, that don't fit these themes.

They have been around for a while and have mostly received positive feedback for a small press on the Water Cooler, except for one post in 2019 that strongly implied their authors had to help with work usually reserved for the publisher including helping find keywords for Amazon and cover art image options. You can read the details here.

On their website they do state that they assign all books an ISBN an editor and cover art. But they also say "Before you submit, make sure your story is well-written, free of errors, and checked for grammar. Submissions with extensive problems, including those of plot and character, will not be accepted." Which makes it clear to me that the editor is not doing much in-depth work, if any.

There are a number of minor typos on their site and some out of date information is still there.

When I first reviewed them, through late 2025, they had a note on their site that said "**Please realize the large majority of our audience are women.** This means we are looking for **M/M romance and erotic romance, and not merely gay fiction**. If you don't understand those terms, research the genres before submitting your story to us to make sure we are the right publisher for you."

This has been taken down and replaced in 2026 with this note “JMS Books is opening our doors to all forms of queer fiction! In today's world, it is absolutely essential to make our voices heard, and we believe that powerful, diverse storytelling is one of the best ways to do that.”

They do have a readers rewards programs and seem to generally understand their audience over all. Their website is focused on readers over writers.

They have a long list of what sells best for them and what they don't publish if you scroll down on the submission guidelines. We can not cover all the formatting and submission details here, so please read the full submission guidelines before submitting and please only submit if you feel like your work is a good fit for the publisher.

They do not pay advances but authors earn 50% royalties on all electronic and print sales from their website and distributors. They do not specify if that is off gross or net.

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.

Page & Vine

Founded in 2022, Page & Vine describes themselves as a "boutique romance imprint" (although they do not appear to be an imprint, but their own independent company). They specialize in "bringing BookTok and social trending titles to bookshelves internationally." They were founded by #1 NYT bestselling author Meredith Wild.

They are distributed by Simon & Schuster in the US and Australia, and with Melia in the UK. You can learn more about them and see their masthead here. You can see the books they've published here.

They are currently open to submissions in the following subgenres of romance: contemporary / romcom / romantasy / horror romance / small town / clean & wholesome.

They will NOT consider: fantasy / sci-fi / YA / 5+ book series.

They do not specify that they will only work with self-published authors, or those that already have a following on BookTok, but they do say that along with the book summaries you should include "sales and author stats, and specifying interest in full rights/print only."

Obviously their focus is very different from publishers who do not want previously published work.

Unlike a lot of other BookTok/influencer-founded presses, they haven't received that much press and I had a hard time finding out very much about them outside their site.

To learn more about submitting, go here, and scroll down. They currently are closed to submissions and plan to reopen in June, 2026.

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. Make sure to read all these guidelines closely before submitting.

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

To learn more, visit their website here. You can read their submission guidelines here.

Quills & Quartos Publishing

Quills & Quartos Publishing was founded in 2019. They started with a very specific vision, to focus on publishing the best Austenesque romance fiction. This is of course a niche market within a niche market, so if this is not the right fit for your work, please don't submit or read further. However if you are a fan of Jane Austen's work and write work that is inspired and influenced by her work, they might well be the right fit. You can get a good feel for what they have previously published here.

Because they have such a narrow focus, they also appear to have an established audience of readers and many of their books are well reviewed on Amazon and elsewhere.

I did notice a few broken/mixed up links on the website, but generally it was well organized and easy to navigate.

They are not interested in erotica, but allow sexual content as long as the story stands alone without it. They state that all "sexual scenarios must be consensual".

They ask that submissions be made via email, and that you submit your full manuscript, alongside a synopsis, word count, and short author bio. All should be Word doc/docx format, double spaced in 12-point Times Roman font. They are open to novellas (30,000-40,000 words) and novel (70,000-1000 words) length submissions. They do not want headers or page numbers (which is rare and unusual), but they do want page breaks between the chapters.

One of the other unusual stances they take, is that they are fine with authors submitting work that has been previously posted online as long as you can provide the link to the content that proves you are the author. This isn't a complete surprise given their focus. They are looking for Austenesque work and much of what they publish is

technically fanfiction, work that features characters originally created by a different author. In this case because they are focused on an author whose work is no longer under copyright, there are no barriers to other authors using these characters (and many of the big five publishers have in fact published books featuring these characters by different authors). Since many fanfiction authors share their work as they write, asking for work that has never been published online before, might be tricky.

They do make it clear that if they publish your work all work that has previously appeared online must be taken down when the contract is signed.

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.

95 Manuscript Publishers with Geographic Restrictions

106 Poetry Manuscript Publishers

65 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.

Sometimes this negative behavior is only via email. Aggressive or rude emails sometimes happen, and I'm not going to remove a publisher from the guide for sending one or two (but I do add warnings), but if it is behavior that repeatedly happens, we will not list a company.

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 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@authorpsublish.com.

7. They've asked not to be listed by us.

This is rare, but it does happen. Because of the mass amount of submissions some of our subscribers send, some publishers have asked to be delisted. We've also had a few publishers ask us to delist them, because we've disclosed their bad behavior in the review.

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 shares the relevant details. 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 well 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, little effort into marketing, 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: Do you contact the publishers first before publishing the review?

Answer: When we were first starting out, I did reach out to the editors during the review writing process. They were kind and engaging and often told me inaccurate and misleading information. Some of the nicest editors I interacted with treated authors horribly.

I realized that I had to have a similar approach to restaurant critics or book reviewers. I had to review without informing the editor first, and the information I provided

would reflect what was on their website, and elsewhere on the internet, including watchdog sites.

This generally is more labor intensive and more accurate. If I get something wrong, generally the editor reaches out and clarifies and shares information directly – with proof. In all our years only one publisher has complained about our approach, on Instagram, and then refused to answer our emails.

But most of the time everything works out, and no one is unhappy.

Question: Why do you make mistakes?

Answer: There are actually a lot of ways for me to answer to this question, but first and foremost, I'm human, and all humans make mistakes.

It takes me about two weeks to update the guide and then it takes Jacob another two weeks to prepare it for publication. Publishers can (and do!) change their guidelines during that period. Mistakes happen. 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 and all the content we produce.

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 through ads. This worked well for five 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 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.

About a year ago I started to encounter more publishers open to previously self-published work. They were also open to almost all genres of fiction. Subscribers are always asking for more publishers that do both these things, and I was excited to start reviewing them. But every single site that fit this description started to feel off when I started to dig deeper.

For example they would have an extensive FAQ section, but not ever disclose the contract, or royalties, or come out and say they would not charge authors.

I started reaching out to these publishers directly, as an author, to try and learn more. I never submitted work to them, but I asked polite questions about their contracts. None of the presses replied. I did not review them.

Thankfully, over time, I have found out directly from authors who worked with them, that they ended up having to pay for some aspect of the publication, usually a significant sum for editing. The money would go to an editor approved by or directly working for the press. This would happen even when the work was already professionally edited.

This behavior marks the publisher as a vanity press. It really bothers me because authors think they are getting one thing, but they are actually getting another. So please reach out to me if a press says that they are open to previously self-published manuscripts and most genres of fiction. I might already know about them.

Question: Why does the distributor matter?

Answer: Distributors are a necessary part of the process. They help make the difference in terms of placing books directly in stores.

Not all distributors are created equal. Ingram for example, is one of the largest and best-known distributors, and yet anyone can sign up at be distributed by their main imprint. If a publisher boasts about being published by Ingram, it is not a good sign.

All this means is that someone could order your book at a bookstore through Ingram. It will not be on the shelves, and visible.

However, Ingram has a number of imprints and specific focuses, like Publishers Group West, that are actually effective at getting books on shelves.

A number of the big traditional presses run their own distribution services now. They distribute their own books and other publishers' work. They only work with publishers that have already proven themselves.

Question: How long does it take you to update the guide?

Answer: I don't really want to think about it, but it takes me about 40 hours to update the guide and I do this twice every year now, once in the spring and once in the fall. I don't do this all at once, because I have lots of other work on my plate as well, but I try to complete all the revisions within a two-week period, and then Jacob tried to get that work published and out to our subscribers within two weeks. All of this, of course, is in addition to the work regular work I do reviewing manuscript publishers for Authors Publish Magazine.

Question: I find the guide really overwhelming. I am looking for a publisher of picture books (or any other genre), and yet these publishers are not all in one place. How do I find them?

Answer: One of the best and most underutilized ways to use the guide is actually the search feature. You can use it to easily navigate the PDF in a way that makes the guide much more approachable and less overwhelming. You might miss some publishers this way, but you should be able to find most of them. I actually use the guide all the time, to check which publishers are open every month.

Question: Where are all the poetry publishers? What do you have against poets?

Answer: First off, I am a poet, so there's no bias there. Most of the readers of the guide are not and most poetry presses have short submission windows or limited demographics, or both, which means they don't qualify for a full review and/or it's hard to get the timing right. There are poetry publishers in the guide (you can use the search feature to find them!) but there's also a whole list here: 106 Poetry Manuscript Publishers, which we link to elsewhere in this book also.

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.

C.V. or Curriculum Vitae

A C.V., short for Curriculum Vitae, is similar to a resume, but focused on credentials and experience directly related to a specific field. In publishing, this usually includes a list of past publications, readings and speaking engagements related to one's writing, and directly relevant teaching experience. It is not typically primarily focused on work experience. Past publications, achievements, and writing awards, are often featured first, if relevant.

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/