

“I wrote a book!”



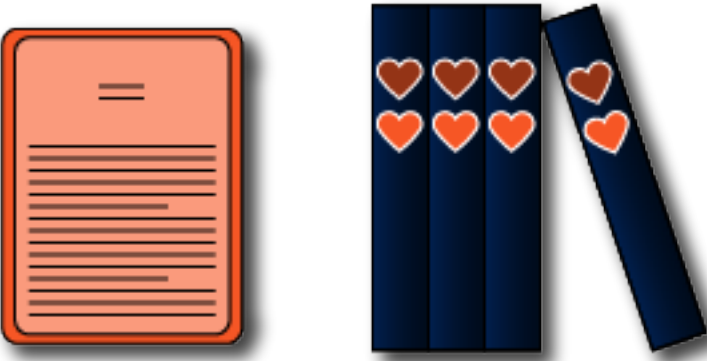
“You should get it published!”

@doctorbeewrites

“I’m trying!”
aka
How Indie
Publishing Works

1	 <p>Create a “query package”</p> <p><i>This typically includes a cover letter (called a query letter), a synopsis, and the first few pages of the book.</i></p>	2	 <p>Send queries to independent publishers/ small presses</p> <p><i>Only a small fraction of submissions will move forward. Some publishers won't allow you to submit to them if you also have a submission out with another publisher.</i></p>	3	 <p>Interested publishers ask to read a partial or full manuscript</p> <p><i>Publishers request the manuscript for around 3-10% of the queries they receive.</i></p>
4	 <p>Editor offers a deal to publish the book</p> <p><i>Only a fraction of full manuscripts read will result in an offer.</i></p>	5	 <p>If they want, authors can reach out to agents to represent them in the deal</p> <p><i>Typically, this is done if the author has already sent queries out to agents and can nudge those who already have their query and/or manuscript. Not all authors do this.</i></p>	6	 <p>The author (or agent) negotiates the terms of the deal</p> <p><i>The advantage of an agent here is that they can often negotiate better terms on behalf of the author, although they then take a 15% commission of earnings.</i></p>
7	 <p>The author revises their book with editor feedback & guidance</p> <p><i>Books go through several types of editing, and often multiple rounds of each kind.</i></p>	8	 <p>The publisher handles cover design, interior book layout, marketing, and distribution</p> <p><i>Authors often have a good amount of input on some of these decisions and can work more collaboratively, although the publisher generally has final say.</i></p>	9	 <p>The book is published!</p> <p><i>This is typically a year or more after the publishing deal is first signed.</i></p>

Common Ways of Publishing with Independent Presses

 <p>Published as Digital First</p> <p><i>Before committing to paying to print a book, these publishers release e-book versions, then determine whether/how many books to print.</i></p>	 <p>Published as Digital + Print On Demand</p> <p><i>Instead of printing many copies of books that may not sell, publishers only print a copy of the book when someone orders it. This means the books are not stocked in bookstores.</i></p>	 <p>Published, Printed, and Distributed</p> <p><i>The publisher prints many copies of the book and sends them to bookstores to put on shelves.</i></p>
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This process can take months or years. While it differs from traditional Big 5 publishing and can make space for books that may not have huge mainstream appeal, it is still very competitive and many books are rejected. Books published this way typically reach fewer readers than a Big 5 publisher, but the author-publisher relationship is often much more collaborative.