

Publish
or Perish
or just PUT your
words out there?

What counts as Published anyway?



BOOK



ZINE



ARTICLE



POEM



PICTURE

And what counts as Published-ish?

Start a **blog** –
IT'S **PUBLISHED**

(and publishers
will care)

Sheila Deeth

*HOME**BLOG**WRITING**BIBLE**WHATIFS**BOOKS**FREESTUFF**ABOUTME**CONTACTME*




BlogFlower Child Blog Tour !InterviewsReviewsRadio InterviewGuest posts

THANK YOU A. F. STEWART

[Click here to find Refracted in a list of top 10 books of 2011 !](#)

I REVIEW BOOKS FOR

Nights and Weekends



Find my Books at

Mongrel Christian Mathematician

Dreaming... Waking...


DISCLOSURE: Sometimes I receive or win review copies of books from authors, publishers, publicists or other book blogs. Except for the review copies, I don't receive any kind of monetary/gift compensation for my reviews.

COFFEE RATINGS FOR BOOK REVIEWS

Every good book deserves a good cup of coffee...

1. Mild, light, crisp coffee: *short, sharp, quick read*
2. Bright, lively, easy-drinking: *cool, easy-reading, relaxed*
3. Balanced, smooth, full-flavored: *interesting plot, a regular kind of brew*
4. Rich, elegant, complex: *complex characters and plot*
5. Bold, dark, intense: *bold, dark, intense!*

AWARDED 5TH PLACE IN SCI-FI AND FANTASY SHORTS !!!



Flower Child: the story of a grieving mother and her unborn child. Nominated in P&E, short story, sci-fi. Thank you for your votes!

*The LORD shall preserve thy going
out and thy coming in from this
time forth, and even for evermore.*

Psalm 121:8

Create a
calendar –
choose the
words and
images –

IT'S
PUBLISHED-
ish

2011 CALENDAR

A French Bulldog is sitting on a green lawn, looking towards the right. Its tongue is hanging out. In front of the dog is a yellow and black soccer ball with orange ribbons tied around it. The background is a blurred green field.

Lulu

*You lived your life at such a pace,
Left all the other pups behind,
Won every race, chased every toy,
Devoured with joy each meal you'd find.*

*You loved so well, with sweetest face
And dangled tongue, sweet Lulu-belle,
And clattering paws, McLovin' pup,
So hard to see how fast you're gone.*

*You lived at such a pace you'll not
Grow old; your love grows never cold,
This place not empty, just a little
Quiet; we're left behind.*

*Goodbye, good dreams, good memories tell
Good girl, you loved us well.*

Write a poem,
illustrate it, and **hang**
it on your wall –

IT'S PUBLISHEDish!

You **put** your words out there if
you just send it in an email too,
or share it with a friend, but it's
not published until it's publicly
available, hanging on the wall in
the town hall.

Stick it together with
Duct-Tape

IT'S PUBLISHEDish

(He only made 12 copies)



Staple some pages together and
make a **Zine** –

IT'S **PUBLISHED** as soon as you
sell it!

(poems, stories, essays, diary...
whatever! If it's publicly available,
publishers will call it published.)



Make a **Photo Album**, with
captions, and give it to someone
as a gift –

IT'S **PUBLISHEDish**
(and it's private)



Family History Storyworth.com

We've bought our
copies so it's
PUBLISHEDish



STORYWORTH

ALL STORYTELLERS

UPCOMING QUESTIONS

PRIVACY



ALL STORYTELLERS > SHEILA DEETH & GRAN

Sheila Deeth & Gran



MANAGE ACCOUNT

EDIT COVER

PREVIEW BOOK

ORDER BOOK



SHEILA AND GRAN SHARING STORIES

Storyworth

Enter a **contest** and win, or
submit a piece to an anthology
and get it accepted –

IT'S **PUBLISHED**

Definitely published





Writers Mill

Writers helping writers

CATEGORIES

Select Category

RECENT POSTS

Minutes 2023 01 15

Detail and Dialogue, from talk
by Maryka Biaggio, Jan 2023

Minutes 2022 12 18 Goals and
Achievements

Millworks-Framing Life

Writers' Mill Minutes
20221120

RECENT COMMENTS

judyb on Protected: Above the
Snow

judyb on Protected: See You
Next Fall

judyb on Protected: Why?

SIGN UP

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HELP

SCHEDULE

CONTESTS

CRITIQUE

LINKS

BOOKS

LIBRARY



PROTECTED: -FEB. 2023 ENTRIES & VOTING PAGE

Theme: *Winter Days*

Contest Host: Michael Fryer

Thank you for participating in this portion of our February contest --
You are invited to **READ** each entry, **ADD** one or two comments below each entry (*optional but appreciated*) and then **SCROLL DOWN THE PAGE** for the **VOTING BALLOT BOXES**.

Post your votes by midnight, Wednesday, February 15th

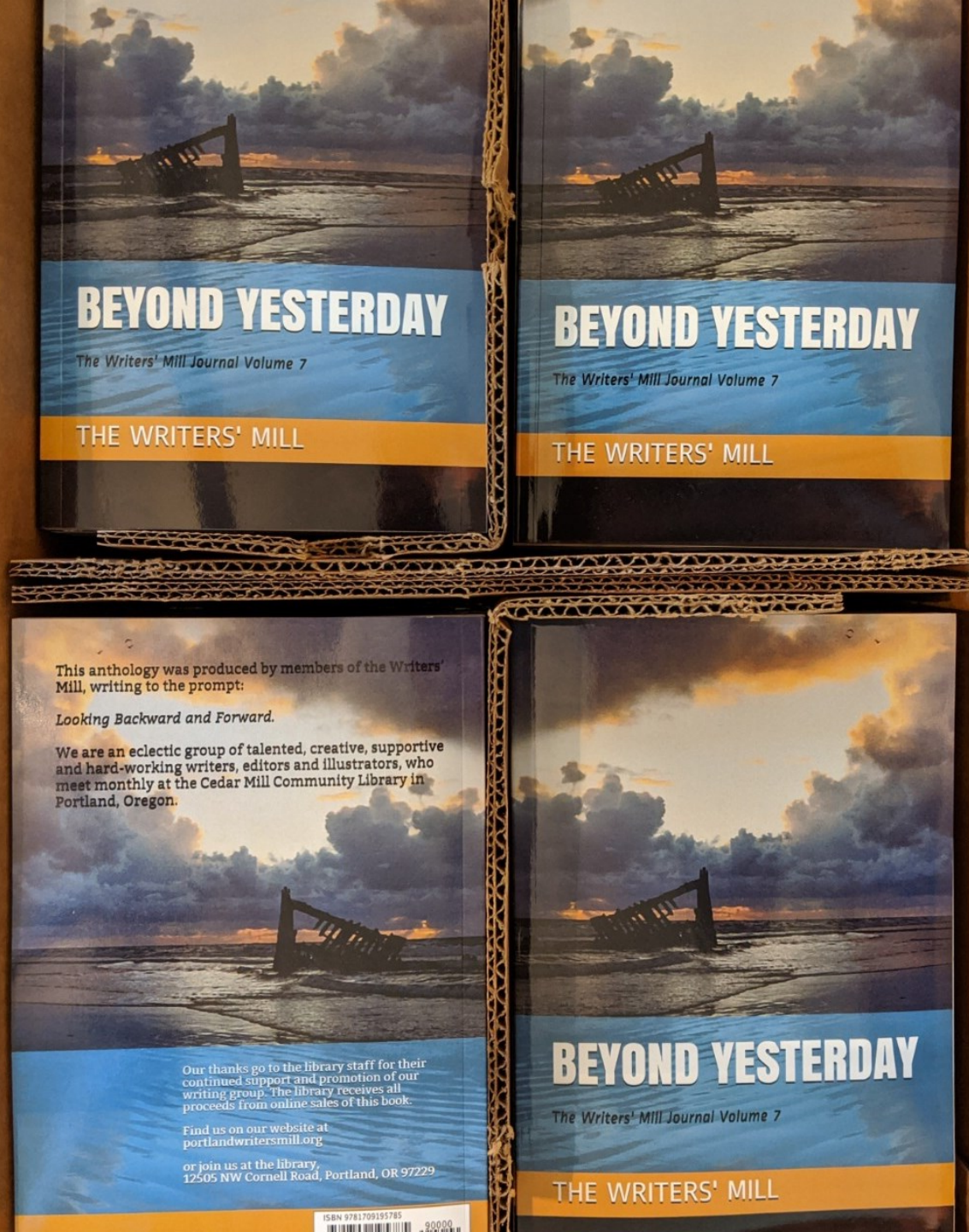
ENTRIES

A Story About Arrows	A Winter Morning (poem)
Above the Snow	Goodnight Winter (poem)
See You Next Fall	Silver Linings (poem)

Enter a **Writers' Mill Contest** –
it's not
“published” but

IT'S
PUBLISHEDish

(Publishers will not
consider it
published because
our site is
password
protected.)



Submit something for
the **Writers' Mill Anthology**

IT'S **PUBLISHED!**

(No longer password
protected, therefore
definitely published)

Ebooks
or Print Books –

If it's for sale,

IT'S **PUBLISHED**



Tails of Mystery Sheila Deeth

Meet Fred. He might be a German Shepherd. His small friend Joe is probably a Chihuahua. And the mysteries they investigate range from exploding houses to waste bins with contents carelessly exploded across the floor. Squirrels, cats and raccoons will be the traditional enemies, but who knows what strange friendships might form in this household as an exciting year goes by? Join Fred and Joe while they explore laundry room, streets and kennels, wagging their tails and solving all the mysteries they can find.

Tails of Mystery

Sheila Deeth



or Self Publish –

even if you never make any sales

IT'S **PUBLISHED** as soon as it's
for sale!

Find a Publisher

Fred might be a German Shepherd, and Joe is probably a Chihuahua. The mysteries they investigate range from exploding houses to waste bins and laundry baskets. Squirrels, cats and raccoons are their traditional enemies of course, but who knows what strange friendships they'll form as they wag their tails and solve all the mysteries they can find.



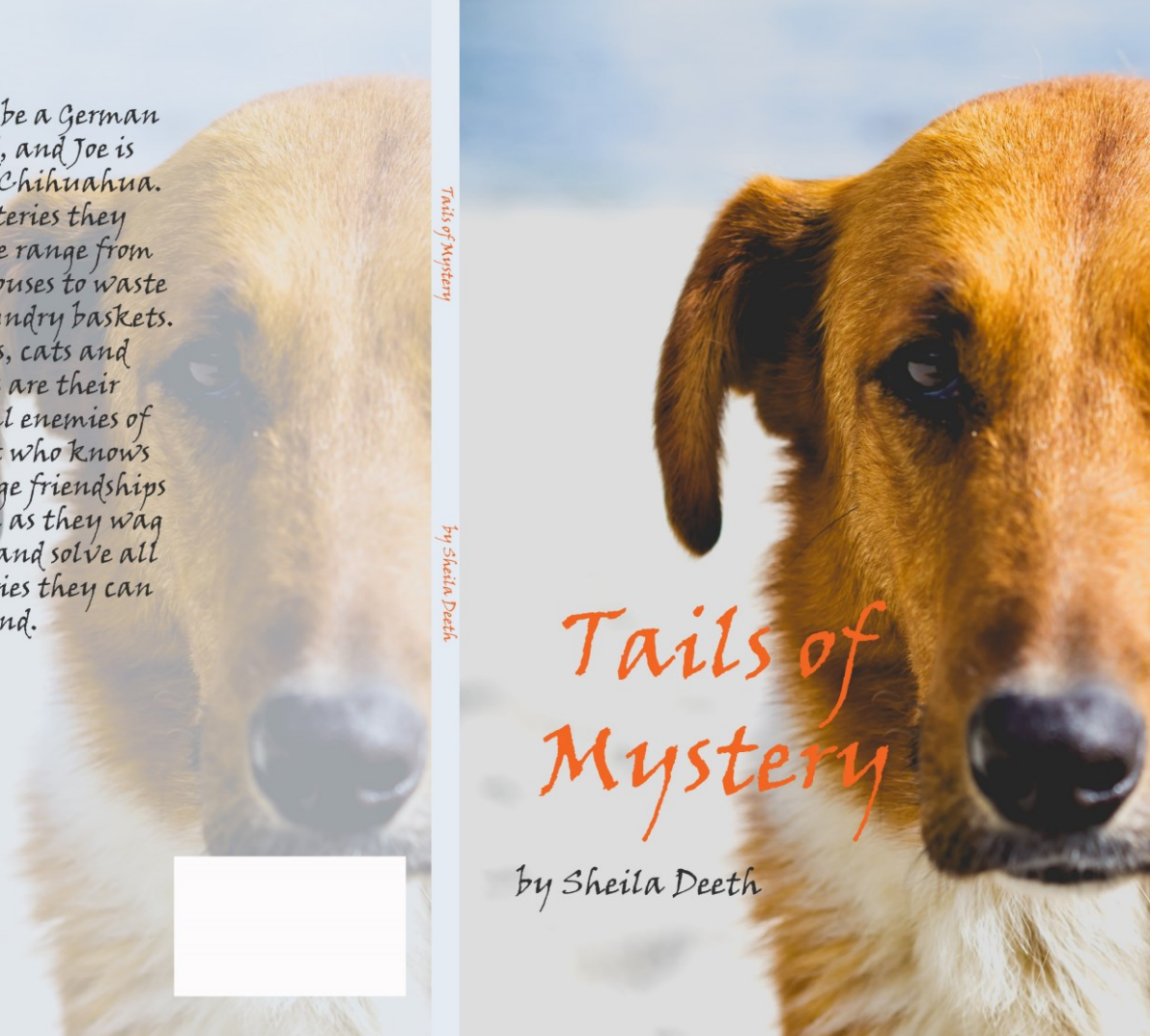
Published by Ink-Filled Stories

Tails of Mystery

by Sheila Deeth

Tails of Mystery

by Sheila Deeth





Picture Book,
Poetry Book,
History Book,
Cricket Book,
Chess Book,
Novels, Novellas
and More –

PUBLISHED

Or just write a letter to a
friend... It's not
published, but

IT'S PUBLISHEDish!

(email counts too!)





Three Questions:

- What's your name?
- Are you published, or published-ish? And
- What sort of "putting your words out there" do you most aspire to at this moment?



1) How do you find places to Send Your Writing?

- Authors Publish <https://authorspublish.com/>
- Poets and Writers <https://www.pw.org/>
- Oregon Humanities call for submissions: <http://oregonhumanities.org/rll/magazine/call-for-submissions/>
- Tualatin Valley Creates <https://tvcreates.org/>
- Writers' Market (you might have to subscribe) <https://writersmarket.com/>
- Anthologies? Read one that you like, then look for them online and submit to the next edition
- Does anyone use any online submission tools (to find where to submit, keep track of submissions ect)?
 - Submissiongrinder <https://thegrinder.diabolicalplots.com/>
 - Submittable <https://www.submittable.com/solutions/publishing-and-journals/>
 - Duotrope <https://duotrope.com/promo.aspx>
 - Querytracker <https://querytracker.net/>

2) How do You Find an Agent or Publisher?

- Conferences? Willamette Writers (<https://willamettewriters.org/>) conference (spendy but great)
- Read the back of a similar book, write proposal, submit...
- check out publishers online? <https://querytracker.net/>
- Follow them online? Write reviews for them? Friend them on facebook? Exchange comments?
- How to check a publisher is legit?
 - <https://www.facebook.com/prededitors/>
 - <https://writerbeware.blog/>
 - <https://www.allianceindependentauthors.org/> (but you have to pay to belong)

3) How do you Find an Editor?

- <https://www.fiverr.com/>
- <https://indigoediting.com/>
- Northwest Editors Guild at <https://www.edsguild.org/> for Northwest editors
- Facebook, Goodreads... – meet people, see recommendations
- Might need more than one editor
- More editing after you get the contract – might give advice on avoiding copyright problems
- Join an organization and look on their website
 - Willamette Writers <https://willamettewriters.org/>
 - NIWA <https://www.niwawriters.com/>
 - Alliance of Independent Authors <https://www.allianceindependentauthors.org/>

4) What if you haven't got an Editor?

- <https://www.grammarly.com/> (free)
- <https://prowritingaid.com/> ("Grammarly on steroids"?)
- <https://hemingwayapp.com/>
- New Editor tool in Word on the Review tab, and Excel to keep track of haircolor etc.
- Read aloud – Word can do that too!
- Read backwards...
- Look for repeated words – we all have our favorites: so, but, and, ...
- Join a critique group – writers helping writers!



5) How Long is a Book?

- Picture book 1,000 words
- Short story 5,000 words
- YA/Middle grade 50,000 words
- Novella 30,000 words
- Novel 70,000 words
- Historical novel 90,000 words
- Epic 100,000 words



6) How do you write about Real People?

- Memoir – there are some legal guidelines
 - better to write about people who are dead,
 - but descendants might have concerns
- Family history – maybe let people read it before it's published
- Fictionalize it
- General history
 - “Based on” means it should all be true, but
 - “Inspired by” means you can use your imagination
 - “Fictionalized” means none of it has to be entirely true

7) Have you ever written in collaboration with another author? Or been a Ghost-Writer?

- Ghostwriting?
 - Sometimes editing turns into something close to ghost-writing
 - Jim worked with someone to help/and or ghost-write their story
 - <https://storyterrace.com/> – you can pay a professional to help you write your memoir or
 - Team up with someone else in a group?
- Collaboration? It's not easy matching writing routines and styles
 - Maybe alternating chapters in a novel, or alternating stanzas in a poem
 - Could try having one author write one character's pov and another author write another's.
- Could be a fun exercise for a contest sometime?

8) What about series?

- How often should new books come out? **Look at dates on other people's series**
 - How long does it take to write a book? **13 years or more – how long is a piece of string?**
 - How many do you have to have written to sell the series? Sell one, but have more than one written
- Do the characters have to change and grow older? Look at other people's series in your genre
- How do you keep track of details?
 - Scrivener <https://www.literatureandlatte.com/scrivener/overview>
 - Snowflake method <https://www.advancedfictionwriting.com/articles/snowflake-method/>
 - Campfire <https://www.campfirewriting.com/>
 - Liquid storybinder <https://www.blackobelisksoftware.com/>
 - Word Anvil <https://www.worldanvil.com/>

9) What happens after you get an Offer?

- Timeline to publication? *You might hear nothing for a year or more*
 - What if it's taking too long? *Be patient, but make sure the publisher is still publishing.*
- Editing process?
 - What if you hate their edits? *Meeting face to face (zoom) and talking to editor as a person helps you realize they just want to help. Might not have to accept all their edits*
- Book covers? *You can't decide how it looks, but you can have input*
- Advertising material?
 - <https://www.vistaprint.com/>, <https://gotprint.com/> or make your own advertising stuff and print locally
- Getting paid? *Hope for the best.*



10) What about Copyrights, First Publication Rights, eBook Rights... and Lefts?

- If you write a blog or content for a website, that is published.
 - Most publishers want “first publication rights”
 - Some are willing to accept “exclusive rights” (not available elsewhere) and might republish something if you remove it from your blog
- How do you protect yourself when you share your work?
- Your copyright is yours as soon as you write, **but**
 - You might want to register it with the copyright office (costs money, formfilling, and copies) in case anything goes wrong, **but**
 - The copyright office won't help you, and lawyers cost a fortune.
- You “give/sell” your first publication rights (maybe others) when someone publishes you.
 - A contract will state exactly which rights, and over what period of time.
 - Writers' Mill just wants permission to publish, even if not first publication.



11) How do you Advertise Your Books?

- Give a talk: local library, historical society, bookstore – would depend on library's programming, book's audience, etc.
- Contact people you know:
 - high school alumni magazine
 - Neighbors – maybe advertise on <https://nextdoor.com/> or write something for your neighborhood association newsletter
- Attend an event: Beaverton city library's local author's fair, Oregon historical society Holiday Cheer
- News release to local papers, but lots of papers don't do book reviews any more
- Social media – Facebook page, Instagram, TikTok (video)
 - Do a book talk or create a book video to put on <https://www.youtube.com/>
 - Join facebook groups, meet people who might like your book; you help them and they help you
 - Find someone to do social media marketing on <https://www.fiverr.com/>
- Create a "signature" line for your emails, advertising your book.
- Make a website (Zita has given various presentations on how to do this and might be willing to do another one)
- Bookmarks, Flyers, etc. You can make your own with Word, Canva, MS Publisher, InDesign. and save as a PDF then take it to a printer: Kinko's, Staples ...Full color costs more.
 - or use online tools: <https://www.vistaprint.com/>
 - <https://www.gotprint.com/>
 - <https://www.zazzle.com/>
 - Cedar House Media Printing on Allen Blvd.
 - Minute Man Press, Beaverton.



12) How do you Sell Your Books?

- Amazon (takes a cut, sets a “minimum” sale price)
- Independent bookstores (but they don’t like Amazon)
 - Sell on consignment – you deliver the books. They sell them and give you a percentage of the sale price.
 - You might want to make sure you’re still making a profit!
 - List on Ingram to make available outside Amazon, but cuts into your profits
 - Print with IngramSpark as well as with Amazon (but still hard to get into stores)
 - The whole “returns” thing is a disaster waiting to happen – bookstores like to be able to return unsold books, whatever condition they are in, and you have to pay
- Go to local bazaars, farmer’s markets, etc (Some authors have booths at local farmers markets, but they may have to “register” their business first)
- Give talks and hand-sell – you get a better profit that way, even if you reduce the price!



13) How /why would you decide to self-publish?

- Enjoy the challenge?
- Got bored with getting rejections?
- Want more control over style and cover?
- Want to control when the book is released (e.g. if it's immediately relevant)?
- Just want to get it finished

14) Is Self-Publishing Difficult?

- Look at the help section on our website
<https://www.portlandwritersmill.org/help-2/>
- Be ready to learn – it does take time, and you will make mistakes
- Be patient – you'll figure it out eventually

15) What Tools do you need to make a Zine?

Definition – a publication you make and distribute yourself – booklet, CD, comic... any topic, offers free expression outside of formal publication. A Zinester is someone who makes zines. For more info (and help) try:

- Independent Publishing Resource Center (IPRC) <https://www.iprc.org> 318 SE Main St. Suite 155, Portland, OR 97214, (503) 827-0249, Hours: Mon., Tues. & Sat. noon-6pm Wed. 6-9 p.m. Thurs. & Fri. noon-9 Sun. Closed Facebook: IPRCDPX
 - **Annual event:** Portland Zine Symposium www.portlandzinesymposium.org pdxzines@gmail.com Most recent event was in September 2022, at Portland State University. Previous ones were in August. Info updated within a few months of the coming symposium. In addition to the weekend event, related events are held. You can get on the mailing list for email updates. Facebook: PortlandZineSymposium
- Long stapler
 - Printer, paper, and ink
 - A way to get things on the right pages
 - A program that lets you move text and images around on the page
 - Or access to a good photocopier

16) What Tools do you use to Format a book?

- Can do it just with Word (see our website)
- Vellum <https://vellum.pub/>
- Scrivener <https://www.literatureandlatte.com/>
- Kindlecreate <https://www.amazon.com/Kindle-Create/>
- InDesign <https://www.adobe.com/products/indesign.html> (expensive)

17) What Might I need to know about Book Design?

- Why left-facing pages matter (left-facing = odd-numbered. Chapters or sections often look best starting on left-facing pages)
- Why you don't want single-word lines at the ends of paragraphs (Word helps with widows and orphans, but sometimes you need "manual line breaks" to make things look better)
- Why white-space matters (poor white space gives a poor reading experience – not so relevant for ebooks though)
- Where to put the copyright information (top of first right-facing page after title)

18) How do you make or purchase a cover?

- <https://www.fiverr.com/>
- <https://www.canva.com/>
- Photoshop <https://www.adobe.com/products/photoshop.html>
- Upload an image to Amazon kdp, but make sure it's the right
 - Size
 - Shape
 - Resolution (300dpi or more)

19) What Might I need to know about Cover Design?

- Fonts
- Spacing of text – for a good visual effect, you'll want to control the space between lines)
- Colors – do you choose contrasting or matching colors for text compared to image
- Width of spine – is there room for any text? (Kdp can be picky, because the print process sometimes offsets the spine and they don't want purchasers rejecting your book)
- Back-cover blurb – can be same as blurb on the Amazon page
- Reviews – these look good on the back cover, but then you'd need readers before you publish

20) What Genres are we writing in?

We'll ask this one in a later meeting. It would be good to know the answers

- Scifi/Clifi/Fantasy
- Romance
- Action/Adventure/Spyfic/Warfic
- Mystery/Police Procedural
- Travel/Foreign settings
- Kids/Picture books/Chapter books
- YA/older middle grade
- Mixed genres, multiple genres, and sub-genres?



Keep Those Questions Coming...