



💡 *From Idea to Published Book* 📖

Writing a book can feel overwhelming, but every published author started exactly where you are now: with an idea. This quick guide walks you through the major stages of the indie publishing journey.

IDEA: Every book begins with a spark. Before worrying about publishing, covers, or marketing:

- ☐ Write down your idea.
- ☐ Identify your genre.
- ☐ Decide who your ideal reader is.
- ☐ Create a simple goal:
- Finish one chapter
 - Write 500 words
 - Complete the first draft

💡 *Progress beats perfection.* 📖

WRITE: You can't edit a blank page.

- ☐ Create a realistic writing schedule.
- ☐ Track your word count.
- ☐ Keep notes about characters, places, and ideas.
- ☐ Allow yourself to write imperfectly.
- ☐ Finish the first draft before worrying about edits.

💡 *The goal of Draft One is completion, not perfection.* 📖

REVISE: Now shape the story into something stronger.

- ☐ Look for plot holes.
- ☐ Strengthen weak scenes.
- ☐ Remove unnecessary sections.
- ☐ Improve pacing.
- ☐ Make sure each chapter moves the story forward.

💡 *Revision is where many good stories become great stories.* 📖

EDIT: Editing focuses on clarity and consistency.

- ☐ Check grammar and punctuation.
- ☐ Verify names, dates, and timelines.
- ☐ Review dialogue.
- ☐ Read the manuscript aloud.
- ☐ Ask beta readers for feedback.

💡 *Fresh eyes catch mistakes you can no longer see.* 📖

ALHc Starter Guide For Indie Authors

A Little Help Company
Honor • Understand • Guide



PREPARE FOR PUBLISHING: Your manuscript is nearly ready.

- ☐ Choose your trim size (6"×9" is common).
- ☐ Format chapter headings consistently.
- ☐ Add front matter:
 - Title page
 - Copyright page
 - Dedication (optional)
- ☐ Add back matter:
 - About the Author
 - Other Books
 - Contact Information
- ☐ Save a master backup copy.

💡 *Formatting is the bridge between a manuscript and a book.* 📖

QUICK REALITY CHECK: Most authors do not become overnight bestsellers.

Successful indie authors focus on:

- ✓ Finishing books
- ✓ Building relationships
- ✓ Learning the craft
- ✓ Continuing to create

💡 *Every finished book teaches you something valuable.* 📖

PUBLISH: Time to share your work with the world.

Popular platforms include:

- ☐ Amazon KDP
- ☐ Draft2Digital &/or Books.By
- ☐ IngramSpark
- ☐ Direct Sales through your website
- Before publishing:
 - ☐ Order a proof copy.
 - ☐ Review every page.
 - ☐ Fix any final errors.

💡 *Never skip the proof copy.* 📖

CONNECT WITH READERS: Publishing is the beginning, not the finish line.

- ☐ Create an author profile.
- ☐ Share your journey online.
- ☐ Join author communities.
- ☐ Celebrate milestones.
- ☐ Attend conventions and local events.

💡 *Readers connect with authors, not just books.* 📖

Need A Little Help? ALHc supports indie authors through:

- 📖 Publishing Guidance
- 🎯 Author Mentorship
- ✍️ Professional Formatting
- 💡 Creative Business Support

Created by KJ Davis

Author • Mentor • Owner, A Little Help Company • Learn More: www.alittlehelpco.com