



May Scoops4Scribes



How to Avoid Author Publishing Scams

While building a healthy network of professionals that support your writing life, it's important to be on the lookout for con artists who pose as a traditional publisher, literary agent, legit provider of a writing contest, and more. The good news is there are well-developed online resources that list bad actors, as well as that provide criteria for what to look out for when an editor or other publishing service provider isn't on a No-No list.

Equally important is keeping your thinking cap on, knowing that these scammers are hitching a ride on a writer's dream of making a name for themselves. It's easy to be taken in by someone with a fancy website, or who promises outcomes such as

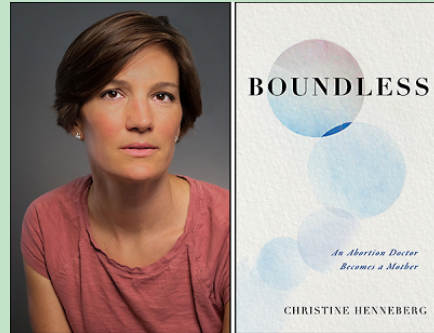
thousands of books sold. Yet an author's success involves many factors, including publication timing and their willingness to work hard on the writing and promoting of their work.

Avoiding Publishing Scams



Take 1: Knowing your genre is key to success

Ideally, defining your work's primary genre will be an early step in the book's development. It makes the work easier to market, helps in considering the primary audience, in language considerations, and for other purposes. If you prefer the traditional publishing route, it's paramount, as this frustrated [literary agent's piece](#) reveals (agents gatekeep the traditional publishing path).



Take 2: Using a nontraditional publishing route allows genre rule bending

When an author's work doesn't fit genre expectations or gets rejected for being controversial, etc., alternative publishing routes provide a way to stay authentic to your voice and story. Examples include an [award-winning work](#) by a physician and mother about choosing to provide abortions early in her career, and Laila Tarraf's mixed [memoir/business leadership book](#) that she found a hybrid publisher for.



Writing Tips & Treats

Writing insights are just a click away, as are behind-the-scene editing tips, ways to dig deeper into life experiences, and more. In each issue of Scoops4Scribes, you'll benefit from the bounty bookmarked for you.

Key Agent Pitching Steps



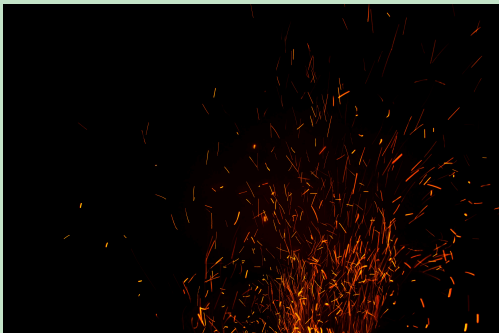
Jane Friedman video of literary agent Lucinda Halpern sharing how to reach agents

Rough Drafting Tips



How to give your early writings time and space to breathe on the page

Writing Prompts



Publishing Routes Update



Prompts from dozens of writing instructors to spark deeper story telling, and more

An indie authors' publishing association shares in-depth details on your options

Vital Wordplay - Elevating Authors & Prose

Coaching + Developmental/Line editing
+ Ghostwriting in the heart of Texas



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