

Contact Us

For Additional Information or Services:

A.K. Child

akchild@akchildscifi-fantasy.com

<http://www.akchildscifi-fantasy.com>

Copy Editor

Maeghan Jo Kimball-Peyruc

703-909-1810

Maeghan.Jo.Kimball@gmail.com

Developmental Editing and Writing Coach

Marguerite Labbe

Margueritelabbe@gmail.com

Who we are

A.K. and Maeghan are both writers and independent editors with several books published. We also work with NaNoWriMo and can be seen hosting write-ins and events across Fairfax County.

A.K. is originally from the Pacific Northwest but has been in the DC area for over 20 years. She has been participating in NaNoWriMo events since 2007 and has been a Northern Virginia region co-Municipal Liaison for several years. She has four independently published novels under the name A.K. Child and is a professional editor.

Maeghan, currently residing in Sterling, VA, is a lifelong Virginian, with 4 books published under her name and 4 under a pen name. Her most recent publication is Incident Zero, a dystopian fantasy, which can be purchased from your favorite online retailer.

Marguerite grew up traveling all over the place but settled down in Maryland. She writes Gay Romance mixed in with Paranormal, Sci-Fi, Horror. While she doesn't offer editing services, she's a great resource for up-and-coming writers.

How to Publish Your Book



**Maeghan Jo Kimball
A.K. Child &
Marguerite Labbe**

<https://www.feralwritersclub.net>

Table of Contents

Preparing your Manuscript.....	1
Query Letter Anatomy.....	2
How to Get an Agent.....	3
Types of Publishing.....	4
Take Aways.....	5



Take Aways

Know Your Genre and What that Means



When trying to sell your manuscript, you need to know your genre and what the hallmarks are for that genre. Writing a Cozy Mystery, ensure you're under 100,000 words and have no sex or foul language. Writing a Sci-fi? Are you sure it's Sci-fi and not Fantasy? Don't try to sell it to a house that doesn't publish Sci-fi.

Vet your Agents and Publishing Houses



Always look further into your agents and publishing houses. Are the other writers happy there? What are the sales? What are they willing to do for you? What are they demanding from you? Publishers are there to make money and aren't always on your side.

Prepare Your Manuscript and Yourself for Rejection



Your story isn't for everyone. Finding the perfect agent and publishing house may not happen. Be prepared. Don't become Scar and the hyenas. Keep trying, and consider self-publishing.

Different Types of Publishing

Traditional vs. Independent

Traditional publishing, sometimes called a “book deal,” is when a publishing house agrees to publish and distribute your manuscript. This is usually done after the query letter and finding the agent who has set up the deal. Think of this as winning the lottery without the million dollars. The publishing house will take care of promotion, cover art, and final editing (and even some other editing) to meet their criteria for the book. They then usually own the rights to your book.

Independent publishing can mean two things: one is an independent publisher, and the other is self-publishing. An independent publisher might handle aspects, including printing and distribution, however, the author is usually still responsible for editing, development, and design. Depending on the contract, the publisher may own some rights, and the author may own some rights.

Self-publishing used to be a dirty word, but it has come a long way. This is precisely what it sounds like; the author is responsible for all parts and retains all their rights. However, be careful to read any contract carefully, as not all print on demand companies are the same.

“Publishing is a business. Writing may be art, but publishing, when all is said and done, comes down to dollars.” -Nicholas Sparks.

Preparing Your Manuscript

It all starts with a manuscript, right? Well, what’s the difference between a manuscript and a draft? What a great question!

The difference between a draft and a manuscript is simple. The draft is the piece as it’s written. A manuscript is when it has been formatted for submission or publication. Assuming you have gone through your drafts, beta readers, and editors, the next step is formatting it the way the publisher wants. There are some basics, so let’s start there:

- One font style and size;
- Spacing consistent throughout;
- Chapters clearly marked;
- Title pages;
- No pictures or notes; and
- Clean and professional looking.

This list isn’t exhaustive, and publishers/agents will have their own submission criteria. Be sure to follow their requirements, or you will be rejected without review.

Need help getting to this point? See our pamphlet on editing, or see Maeghan or A.K. about becoming a client.



Writing Your Query Letter

The 5 Components of a Query Letter

- Salutation**
Dear [Agent].
- Story Section**
Character and stakes
Introduce the main character(s) and the initial goal.
Complication
Talk about the complication and emotional issues.
Goal and consequences
If the main character is going to save the day, they must do something or consequences.
- Stats**
Title is a [genre] novel, complete at XX,000 words.
[It should appeal to fans of [Novel] and [Author]]
or [It combines the trait of [Novel] with the trait of [Other Novel]. [Reason why you queried this agent in particular]]
- Bio**
I write from my home in [place] [with my family].
When not writing, you can find me doing Activity1 or Activity2.
- Closing and Signature**
Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Your Name

MORGANHAZELWOOD.COM

Courtesy of Morgan Hazelwood. She is an awesome fount for publishing and writing knowledge. Please look her up on all social medias.

How to Get an Agent

So your query letter is ready. Time for an agent. How do you find one?

The place to start is online. The internet is a great resource. *The Guide to Literary Agents*, and *Writer's Market* are published annually, and available at most book and e-book retailers. A couple of good websites -

- The Manuscript Wish List
- Query Tracker
- Publisher's Weekly
- The Submission Grinder (for short pieces)

Once you find a couple agents you like, make sure they work with your genre. Look into them and see who and what they represent. What publishers have they had success making deals with? You want to make sure your book and you are a match. Think of it like internet dating. Vet them before you move forward.

Now you have a list and are ready? Great. Start with 5-10. Don't bulk query. You want to give plenty of time to get feedback, typically 6 weeks to 3 months. If you get the rejection, because you will get rejections, read what they said. Is it a form rejection? Or did they give specific feedback?

Why you get rejected can help. Did you follow their guidelines? That will get you rejected instantly. Did they like your book, but it's not for them? That's awesome. Sometimes they may steer you to another agent. Did your book just not match what they are looking for?

Last bit of advice, don't re-query instantly to the same agents. Make sure you really look at why you were rejected and work on fixing those problems before resubmitting.

