

BY: MAKELL LOGAN

The Independent Publishing Guide: For Plotters & Outliners

Step One: Create A List Of Ideas

DON'T SIT ON YOUR FIRST THOUGHT. ALLOW YOUR MIND TO WANDER.

Write down however many ideas you can think of. Consider the genres you like, topics that interest you, etc. Even ask yourself, "What have I been avoiding lately?" Write it down. But separate what you've been avoiding from what you don't like, what you're afraid of, or what you don't want to do. An idea doesn't have to be something concrete, it can even be one word, so long as it empowers your creativity.

Step Two: Chose One Idea

NARROW IT DOWN.

From your list chose one idea to take with you and turn into a story. When selecting an idea, ask yourself these three questions, "Does it captivate you?" It should inspire you and get your ideas flowing. "Did you come up with the idea? Do you want to write about it?" Write something that you want to write, don't just focus on what people like to read. "Can you write it?" If you don't have any experience with the topics or subjects talked about in the idea, don't convince yourself that you can't write it. Think about whether or not you'd be willing to use your time to do research in order to make up for your lack of experience.

Step Three: Identify The Main genre

WHAT KIND OF STORY ARE YOU TRYING TO WRITE?

Take a closer look at your idea, "What genre does it fall under?" Action Adventure? Romance? Sci-Fi? Mystery? If you can't place it anywhere right off the bat, research the genres out there to find the one that resonates with your idea the most. It might take time, but by knowing the genre, you can begin to learn more about it and take a giant step towards writing an amazing story.

Step Four: Read & Learn

LEARN FROM THOSE BEFORE YOU.

There are so many writers and stories out there for you to learn from and take advantage of. No one can teach you how to be a great writer, but they can serve as a reference. Read stories in the same genre as your idea, look for similarities and differences between them. Identify the things you like and dislike. Take notes on all these things because they can be useful when creating and writing your story.

Step Five: Stop & Think

TIME FOR A PAUSE.

Take a good look at everything you've written down so far, cross things out, section them, organize everything in a way that helps you understand better. It may take time but it's worth it. If you have things that you're unsure about or want to write out more do it. Get whatever thoughts out now because once you start writing it'll help you have a better understanding of what you're writing, and fewer doubts that could hinder your process.

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Step Six: Research

BUILD THE FOUNDATION FOR PROGRESS AND SUCCESS.

Look into whatever you're unsure about and find the answer to your questions. If you don't have any questions or doubts revisit your thoughts and ask yourself, "Why? How? What?" You may find things that you want to know more about or need to learn more about to create a concept that readers can enjoy. If your concepts and ideas are solid, look into your main genre more, maybe you can discover some new things that you didn't learn in your initial research

Step Seven: Decide The Setting

WHERE IS YOUR STORY GOING TO TAKE PLACE?

On Earth? In an altered timeline? Space? A fantasy world? How about the time period and level of civilization? The future? The past? Or modern-day? If you don't already have an answer to these questions, take a moment and think, "What is the best place for this story to take place in?" Depending on your answer you may have to do more research. It might even open another path for your story, and give you more to think about because where your story takes place is as important as the story itself.

Step Eight: Create A Cast Of Characters

WHO'S DRIVING THE STORY?

Create a character sheet with the different actors in your story and take note of all the important details. Of course, you want to know the traits and abilities of all the characters, but do you need to know the background of the extras? Do they contribute to any development in the story? If not, you don't need to. Your characters should have flaws and face real challenges because no one is perfect. Seeing them overcome their flaws can motivate and inspire readers.

Step Nine: Think Of Key Events Or Arcs

WHAT'S ELSE IS GOING TO HAPPEN?

You already know where your story begins and ends, but what about the events in between? Of course more is going to happen, but what? You should already have some ideas swirling around in your head or written in your notes. So bring everything together, refine them, create more, and whatever else you need to do. Every event/arc should have some purpose that'll either lead to plot or character development.

Step Ten: Chose A Structure

DECIDE THE FRAME OF THE STORY.

There are many different structures out there like the Five-Stage Plot Structure, the Three Act Plot Structure, the Milieu Story Structure, the Idea Story Structure, the Event Story Structure, the Character Story Structure, the Mirror Story Structure, and more. All of the ones mentioned here are mentioned on my website, but there are more out there if none of these suit you, so do your own research even create your own. Once you've decided, fill the structure in with your events/arcs, and plans.

Step Eleven: Plan

WHEN ARE YOU TRYING TO FINISH BY?

Be reasonable. Knowing your genre, how long should your novel be? More than 50,000 words? Then it's going to take some time, which is okay, so appropriately make time during the week to write, and schedule breaks. Can you write every day? If not, you may want to try to write more during the week to make up for it. Are you a slow writer or a fast one? Do you have a hard time concentrating? Depending on your answer you might want to rework your writing schedule and incorporate small breaks between sessions, so you don't strain yourself. Create a timeline that works for you.

Step Twelve: Write & Edit

WRITE. EDIT. WRITE. EDIT. WRITE.

Follow your schedule, and write your story. Make sure you set aside time for editing. It can be at the end of your writing session, the beginning of the next, at every milestone, whenever works for you. You may need to do more research as you write. So be flexible with your schedule, and make adjustments when you NEED to. Depending on where your planning to publish your novel you may need to edit the format, so it can be uploaded properly. Once you've finished your novel, move onto the next step.

Step Thirteen Pt.1: Identify The Target Audience

WHO'S GOING TO READ YOUR NOVEL?

The target audience is who's going to read your novel, or to put it another way who you're trying to sell your novel to. To figure this out, compare your book to similar books out there, you may have already read some similar books during step four. Well, their audience is most likely your intended audience. After you've pinpointed your audience, describe your ideal reader. Once you've got a clear picture, move onto pt.2.

Step Thirteen Pt.2: Seek & Recieve Feedback

TIME TO GET SOME ADVICE.

Ask people who do and don't fit into your target audience to read your story and get their opinions. Using a forum or questionnaire to collect responses should help you receive better and more helpful feedback. By doing this you should understand your audience better. When looking at their response remember that you can't please everyone, and you weren't trying to, so be careful when using their advice to revise your story.

Step Fourteen: Create A KDP Account

THE FIRST STEP OF PUBLISHING.

All you gotta do is visit <https://kdp.amazon.com> and create an account, using either an existing amazon account or a different email. Once you update your tax information and hit "finished" you're all set!

Step Fifteen: Chose A Launch Date

WHEN IS IT COMING OUT?

Decide when you are going to publish your book. Look around online for advice on when to do so, based on your book's genre. On the website, I have a post on this specific topic, so feel free to use it as a reference when completing this step.

Step Sixteen: Create Your Launch Team

YOU CAN ONLY MAKE IT SO FAR ON YOUR OWN.

Surround yourself with people that will enhance you, and not drag you down. Ask your friends, family, and maybe even your fanbase to support you and cover for your weaknesses no matter what they may be. Don't forget that you can also hire people. Make sure you have members of your team who, love your book, want to help you, and are enthusiastic about it, among other things.

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Step Seventeen: Build Up The Hype For Your Book

LET EVERYONE KNOW WHAT'S ON THE WAY!

Talk to everyone you know who might be interested. Post about it on social media. Bring it up on any blogs or websites you're a part of if it's appropriate. Show them your cover, give them a brief synopsis of your book, tell them when it's coming out, and do whatever else you can think of to build up the hype.

Step Eighteen: Publish Your Book

IT'S TIME TO AMAZE THE WORLD!

The launch date is right around the corner, so it's time to publish your book. Before you upload your book to your KDP account, make sure it's properly formatted, I mentioned it previously in step 12, but now that you have a team you may want to have one of them with experience proofread it and make sure everything is good to go. If everything is good on that part, then your all set to publish.

Step Nineteen: Promote Your Book

LET EVERYONE KNOW WHY THEY SHOULD BUY YOUR BOOK.

You've created the idea. You've written and edited the book. You created a launch team, and together you built up the hype for your book. Now, you've finally published it. All that's left for you to do now is promote it. Just like you did when you were building up the hype, post about it, add it to your story, spread the word. Plus now that it's published you can set up interviews with people to give your story another voice besides your own. Be creative with your methods and show your ingenuity.

A Little About Me

A WRITER & READER.

My name is Makell Logan, and I write under the pseudonym Pyris Silver as a member of Deceit Fixation. I plan to create games based on the literature written by the members of Deceit Fixation. So, I would appreciate it if you checked out my writing (it's free) and left some feedback, the link can be found in the "My Work" section of the site. As a writer, my goal is to create fantasy stories for readers to enjoy, that will allow them to escape from reality if only for a moment, and experience a new world from someone else's perspective as reading has done for me.

Final Remarks

A MESSAGE FROM THE CREATOR.

I hope that this guide helped you create a wonderful story that you can be proud of for the rest of your life. If you plan to continue your writing career feel free to use this guide along the way; and If you ever want to talk about the contents of the guide or about writing and your story, you can contact me via my email makellologan@gmail.com. By the way, don't forget to send me the link to the novel, I'd love to read what you produced (so long as I can afford it.)



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