So You Wrote a Book... Now What?

A SIMPLE GUIDE TO SELF-PUBLISHING YOUR PAPERBACK

FROM MANUSCRIPT TO PUBLISHED AUTHOR



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

SoYouWroteaBook...NowWhat?

Welcome & About Jennifer Lee 1

Step 1: Before You Upload Anything 2

Beta Readers&Editing 2

Formatting Your Book 4

Trim Size,PrintingOptions&Costs 4

Step 2: Understanding ISBNs, Copyright & Distribution 6

ISBNs andASINs 6

PurchasingYour OwnISBN 7

eBooks andCopyright 9

Publishing&DistributionOptions 11

Step 3: Getting Ready for Amazon KDP 14

Setting Up Your KDP Account 15

PreparingYourManuscript&Cover 16

CreatingYourPaperbackListing 19

Keywords,Categories&AIGuidelines 20

UploadingYourManuscript&Cover 24

ReviewingYourBookinPrintPreviewer 27

Paperback Rights, Pricing & Royalties 29

Setting YourBookPrice 30

UnderstandingRoyalties&Payments 31

Taxes & SalesReports 33

The Final Ste ps to Publication 35

Scheduling Your Release 35

OrderingProof&AuthorCopies 36

What HappensAfterYouPublish 38

Book Reviews&AuthorCentral 40

Frequently Asked Questions 41

Helpful Publishing Resources 42

A Final Word From Me to You 43

Copyright & Educational Use Notice 43

Formatting Is Different from Editing

I learnedthisalong the way. Editingfocuseson your**words**.

Formatting focuses on how those words become a **book**. Your formatter may work with things such as:

- Page size
- Margins
- Chapter headings
- Page numbers
- Paragraph spacing
- Fonts
- Front and back matter
- How chapters begin
- The overall appearance of the printed pages

I personally chose to outsource my book formatting and used **Wild Words Formatting**.

I recommend professional formatting, especially if this is your first book. There are do-it-yourself options, but formatting a book for publication requires more than making a Word document look nice.

Paperback and eBook Files Differ

Don't assume that the file used to create your paperback will automatically be the correct file for your eBook.

Print books and eBooks behave differently and have distinct formatting needs.

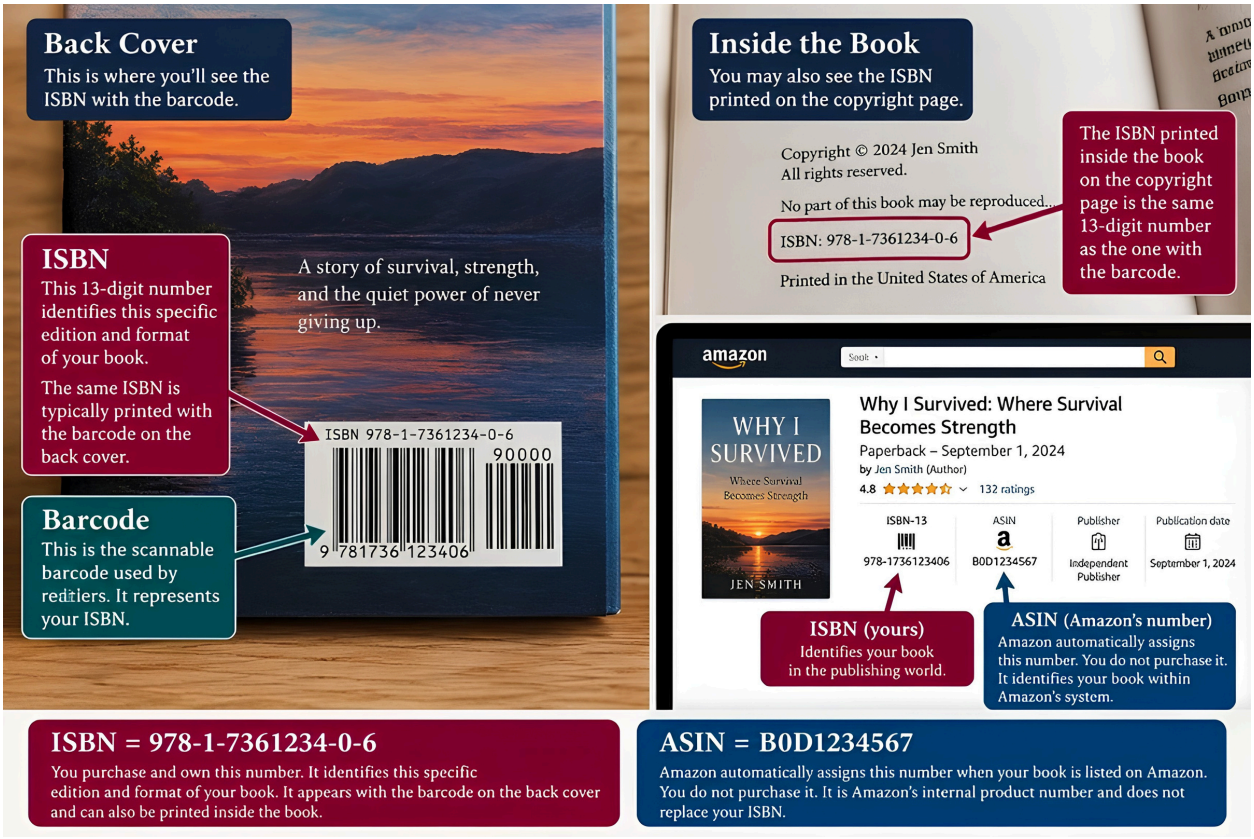
If you plan to publish both, tell your formatter before the project begins so you understand exactly which files will be provided and what each file is for.

Before Formatting: Decide Your Trim Size

Trim size is simply the finished size of your printed book.

For example, a 6" × 9" book measures 6 inches wide and 9 inches tall.

Before choosing your trim size, look at other books like yours. Pick them up and see what feels comfortable.



Where Do I Get an ISBN?

IfyouRepublishingintheUnitedStates, you have two options:

- **Purchase your own ISBN** through Bowker, the official U.S. ISBN agency.
- **Use afreeISBN** offered by Amazon KDP for eligible paperback and hardcover books.

Bowker website: https://www.bowker.com/

If you decide to purchase your own ISBN, you can buy a single number or a package of multiple ISBNs.

Remember, different book formats need separate ISBNs.

For example:

Paperback: 1 ISBN
Hardcover: 1 ISBN
eBook: May need its own ISBN, depending on where and how you publish it

If you're publishing only one paperback, a single ISBN may be enough. But if you plan to publish more books or different formats, purchasing a package could save you money.

Where Can I Publish My Book?

Once your manuscript is ready, you'll need to decide where to publish and distribute your book.

There are several options, and you don't have to use all of them. Your choices will depend on whether you're publishing a paperback, hardcover, eBook, or a combination.

Here are three platforms I've personally used.

Amazon Kindle Direct Publishing (KDP)

Amazon KDP allows you to self-publish paperback books, hardcover books, and Kindle eBooks.It's where I started my publishing journey, and it's a popular option for first-time authors.

You can publish directly through KDP without paying an upfront publishing fee. Amazon deducts printing costs from your paperback or hardcover royalties when a copy sells.

Learn more: https://kdp.amazon.com/

Draft2Digital

Draft2Digital helps authors publish and distribute both **eBooks and paperback books**.

For eBooks, it can distribute your book to retailers such as Apple Books, Barnes & Noble, and Kobo, as well as participating library platforms.

Through **D2D Print**, it can also make your paperback available for purchase through online retailers and for bookstores and libraries to order.

This gives authors another option for reaching readers beyond Amazon KDP.

Learn more: https://www.draft2digital.com/

IngramSpark

IngramSpark is a publishing and distribution service that helps make print books available to bookstores, libraries, and online retailers.

This gives authors another way to reach readers beyond Amazon.

Remember: Just because your book is available for bookstores to order doesn't mean they'll automatically carry it on their shelves. **Learn more:** https://www.ingramspark.com/

These details affect the size of your cover, especially the width of the spine. That's why I recommend finishing your interior formatting before finalizing your cover.

Here's the order to remember:
Choose Trim Size → Format Interior → Confirm Final Page Count → Finalize Cover

Jen's Note:
When I published Why I Survived, my formatter provided me with both an editable Word document and a finished, print-ready PDF.

I keep the Word document in case I need to make changes, but the print-ready PDF is what I upload to Amazon KDP.

My advice? Keep copies of your interior and cover files in a safe place. You may need them if you update your book or decide to publish through another platform.

Before You Begin Your Paperback Upload

You're almost ready to upload your book to Amazon KDP!

Before you begin, make sure you have the following ready:

□ Your final, print-ready interior PDF

□ Your finished paperback cover file

□ Your ISBN, if you purchased your own

□ Your book title, subtitle (if applicable), and author name

□ Your book description

□ Ideas for your keywords and book categories

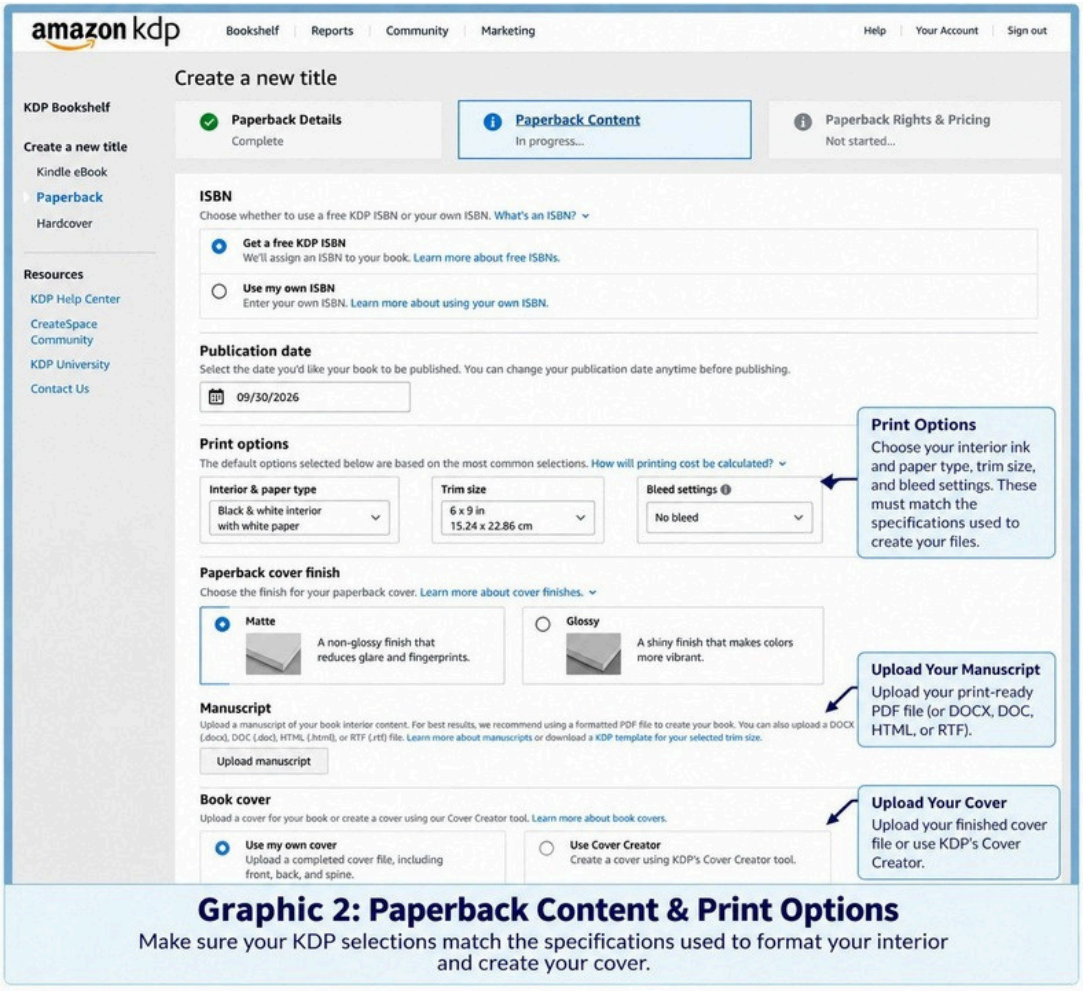
□ Your planned selling price

□ Your trim size and printing choices

Jen's Reminder:

Don't worry if you're still deciding on your keywords, categories, or pricing. We'll go

through those as you work through the KDP setup process.



Graphic 2: Paperback Content & Print Options

Make sure your KDP selections match the specifications used to format your interior and create your cover.

You'll be asked about:

- ISBN
- Publication date
- Interior ink and paper type
- Trim size
- Bleed
- Cover finish
- Manuscript
- Book cover

Jen's Note: What I Earn Per Book

My paperback, *Why I Survived*, is listed on Amazon for **$17.99**.
When someone purchases a copy through Amazon, my reported royalty is **$8.21 per book**.

That means I don't receive the full selling price. Amazon calculates my royalty based on its pricing structure and printing costs.

My advice? Before setting your price, look closely at the estimated royalty KDP displays. Don't just think about what your book will sell for. Think about what you'll actually earn from each sale.

How and When Do You Get Paid

When you set up your KDP account, you'll enter yourb anking and taxi nformation.

Amazon uses this information to pay your royalties.

For authors in the United States, **direct deposit** is generally the easiest way to receive payments.

Your earnings are deposited directly into your bank account.

With direct deposit, there is generally no minimum royalty amount required for payment.

Here's something important to know: **You don't get paid immediately when someone purchases your book.**

Amazon KDP generally pays royalties approximately **60 days after the end of the month in which the sale was reported**.

For example:

A book sold in January is generally paid for at the end of March.
A book sold in February is generally paid for at the end of April.
A book sold in March is generally paid for at the end of May.

Expanded Distribution royalties generally take approximately, 90 days after the end of the month

Ready for the Next Step?

Has "I don't know where to begin" kept you from taking a step?

I can help.

If you're ready for more guidance, the full, So You Wrote a Book... Now What? Self-Publishing Guide walks you through the next stepswith clarity, encouragement, and practical support.

GET THE COMPLETE GUIDE - 37

Visit thehealinginsharing.com to explore the complete guide and additional author resources.



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