

A person wearing a bright yellow raincoat is walking away from the camera across a narrow suspension bridge. The bridge has a wooden plank deck and metal mesh railings. The bridge is set against a dense, lush green forest of tall evergreen trees. The scene is captured from a high angle, looking down the length of the bridge.

HOW TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE READY
TO BE PUBLISHED

THE THREE THINGS YOU NEED TO ASK YOURSELF BEFORE SUBMITTING YOUR BOOK FOR PUBLICATION

FROM CHICKEN HOUSE PRESS

Crossing the bridge from obscurity to published can be a daunting challenge. You've spent months — maybe years — pouring into your manuscript, and now you're at a crossroads: do you write 'THE END' and tuck it away, or does your 'THE END' actually mean 'THE BEGINNING'?

Putting your work out into the world can feel like baring your soul. It's a vulnerable place to find yourself. You feel exposed and frightened. What if no one likes it? What if people don't connect to your words?

WHAT IF?

There are a million reasons not to do something. If being published is a dream you've been carrying in your heart, it's time to make it happen.

But wanting something and being ready for something are two very different things.

Are you ready?

“THE CUTTING OF THE GEM HAS TO BE FINISHED BEFORE YOU CAN SEE WHETHER IT SHINES.”

LEONARD COHEN



THE THREE THINGS YOU NEED TO ASK YOURSELF BEFORE SUBMITTING YOUR BOOK FOR PUBLICATION:



1. HAVE YOU PUT IN THE WORK?

Have you written and rewritten and rewritten again? Have you invited other readers (not just family members or close friends) to read and critique and help you bring your best voice forward? Have you been discerning and ruthless as you've produced draft after draft until your manuscript is at a place where you feel it's your very best work?



2. CAN YOU TAKE THE HEAT?

Making your work available to the public makes you available for public feedback. Name a published author who hasn't received a negative review and I'll show you where to find that pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. You have to be ready for criticism. You also have to be ready for praise. Both can be uncomfortable in their own way. Both can inspire personal growth. Thick skin and humility will go a long way in this industry!



3. DO YOU BELIEVE IN WHAT YOU'VE WRITTEN?

If you answered yes, that's the only thing that matters.

To pursue publication with Chicken House Press, you must have a *complete* manuscript that has been carefully self-edited and peer-edited.

- COVER LETTER
- SYNOPSIS
- OPENING FIVE PARAGRAPHS
- COMMUNITY PROMOTIONAL LEADS
- SOCIAL MEDIA & WEBSITE LINKS (DO YOU HAVE SOCIAL PROOF OF AN AUDIENCE?)

[TAKE THE NEXT STEP TODAY](#)

DEEP THOUGHTS

DO THE WORK; MAKE AN IMPRESSION

PROMPTS TO HELP YOU SELL YOUR BOOK

WHAT MAKES YOUR BOOK UNIQUE

DESCRIBE YOUR IDEAL READER/TARGET MARKET

AGE, GENDER, PROFESSION, INTERESTS, LOCALE, ETC.

A READER WHO LIKES _____ WILL LIKE MY BOOK

WHAT GENRES BEST DESCRIBE YOUR BOOK?

- | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ADVENTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> HISTORICAL | <input type="checkbox"/> ROMANCE | <input type="checkbox"/> JUVENILE | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> COMING OF AGE | <input type="checkbox"/> HORROR | <input type="checkbox"/> SCI-FI | <input type="checkbox"/> MIDDLE GRADE | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DRAMA | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERARY | <input type="checkbox"/> SPECULATIVE | <input type="checkbox"/> YA | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FANTASY | <input type="checkbox"/> MYSTERY | <input type="checkbox"/> THRILLER | <input type="checkbox"/> NEW ADULT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER _____ |

BRAINSTORM LOCAL BUSINESSES/CONNECTIONS
THAT COULD HELP WITH YOUR BOOK PROMOTION

BREAKDOWN YOUR OWN WILLINGNESS TO PROMOTE

(WHERE ARE YOU GOING TO SHOW UP?)