How to Get Published

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Acknowledgement of Privilege
My Books

Featured in Oprah magazine, Cosmo, Buzzfeed

Starred reviews from Publisher’s Weekly and Booklist

Published in multiple countries and languages

Del Rey 2021

Dely Rey 2022
STEP ONE

Write the book
STEP TWO

Get an agent

(This is your MOST important relationship)
What you need to get an agent

- A completed manuscript
- A query letter
- Patience
- You do NOT pay your agent
Resources for getting an agent

- Google–Literary agents [genre]
- Author socials/acknowledgement statements
- MSWL
- Query Shark
STEP THREE

Going on submission

(AKA entering the seventh circle of hell)

(that is not a joke)
“Going on Sub”

- Agent shops your books to publishing houses
  - Big 5
  - Smaller presses
    - You do not pay for this
- This can take YEARS
- Sometimes your book dies
- How do you stay sane?
WRITE THE NEXT THING
STEP FOUR

The Book Deal

(your brain on drugs)
This is it. This is the thing.

- Agent handles the details
- Money (Advances)
- Number of books
- Timing
- Copyright
- Subrights
- This is why that relationship is so important
Working with your editor

- After all that, you still gotta fix the book
  - Developmental edits
  - Line edits
  - Copy edits
  - Pass pages
Marketing

- Get good at social media
  - But that doesn’t always work
- Possible publisher campaigns
  - Giveaways
  -Appearances
  - Book tours
  - Commissioned fan art (you can also do this)
- Things that don’t work
  - Bookmarks
  - Pre-order swag
But let’s talk about money
(aka why most of us still have day jobs)
(which we are honored to have)
What does a six figure deal really mean?

2 books

$50,000 per book
Payouts

- Signing your contract (12,500 x 2) = $25,000
- Editor acceptance of book 1 = $12,500
- Publication day of book 1 = $12,500
- Year anniversary of book 1 = $12,500
- Editor acceptance of book 2 = $12,500
- Publication day of book 2 = $12,500
- Year anniversary of book 2 = $12,500
But . . .

- Your agent takes 15%
  - $12,500 becomes $10,625
- TAXES
  - Put away 28% of every check
    - $10,625 becomes $7,650
  - Average time between payouts varies
- You don’t get anything else until royalties kick in (every 6 months)
QUESTIONS?