



Preparing For Self-Publishing

If you've reached this stage, you've already invested a great deal of time and energy into your book. This is the moment to make sure your manuscript looks as strong and polished as it deserves to be.

A Quick Prompt to Get You Started

Before you think about platforms, covers, or marketing, take a moment to look at your manuscript with fresh eyes. This isn't about rewriting, it's about making sure the text is *ready* to move into the publishing stage.

Key Things to Check

- **Consistency of style**
Are your chapter headings, spacing, and paragraph styles uniform throughout?
- **Dialogue punctuation**
A quick scan for quotation marks, commas, and line breaks can save headaches later.
- **Scene breaks**
Use a consistent marker (***, **, or a blank line). Platforms treat these differently.
- **Spelling of names and places**
Make a list of character names and check them against the manuscript.
- **Timeline sanity check**
Does the sequence of events make sense? Are there any unintentional jumps?

A Simple Exercise

Pick one chapter, not the first, not the last, and read it aloud.

Ask yourself:

- Does the rhythm feel right?
- Are there sentences that trip you up?
- Does the dialogue sound natural?

Reading aloud is one of the fastest ways to catch small issues before they become big ones.

You're not aiming for perfection. You're aiming for *readiness*. If you've checked the basics and the story holds together, you're ready to move on to formatting and design.