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The Submission Process

What Should Writers Expect With The Subs Process?

There are hundreds of publishing options available for both new and seasoned authors. From self-funded vanity presses to high-rolling advances from the 'Big Five' publishing houses... and the process is different for all of them.

So how do submissions work here at *Inspired Quill*?

SPOILERS AHEAD!

First Round Submissions

You Send Us:

- Cover Letter (in the email body)
- First 2 Chapters (Prologue counts) or 15 pages if no chapters (as Word Doc attachment)
- Synopsis (500 words max) (as Word Doc attachment)

Note: Responses can take up to eight weeks, as we receive a lot of submissions. If you're
absolutely sure that you adhered to our guidelines but haven't heard from us within this time, please send a follow-up email. We may have had even more items to go through than usual, or some pesky email gremlins may have eaten your submission.

FIRST ROUND RESPONSE

We love it! Progress to Second Round Submission

It's Not For Us: Time permitting, we'll respond with a short critique, and a few pages of editing - we're happy at this stage to answer any questions. We'll also let you know if we would welcome a resubmission in the future.

SECOND ROUND SUBMISSION

You Send Us:

- Full manuscript (attached as Word Doc)
- A bit about yourself (as outlined in our initial email response)

Note: Responses to this second phase can take up to eight weeks. If we haven't responded within the allotted time, please send a follow-up email to ensure that your full manuscript reached us safely, or that gremlins haven't reappeared.

SECOND ROUND RESPONSE

We Love It! Go to the next section
It's Not For Us: We'll always respond with a reason for declining your work, and (time permitting), a few pages of editing - we're happy at this stage to answer any questions. We'll also let you know if we would welcome a resubmission in the future.

THIRD ROUND FACE-TO-FACE

This is where we get to know each other a bit better.

We'll set up a video call via Google Meet. During this 'two-way interview', we'll tell you a bit more about Inspired Quill, and ask you some questions about your expectations. Then we expect you to grill us with questions of your own!

Over the years, we've found this conversation is essential. It keeps things transparent from the start, and it's the best way to check we're a good fit for working together long-term.

We're A Match! Go to the next section
On Second Thoughts...: If it turns out that we're not a good fit, or our expectations don't align, no problems! The process ends here, but we'll still be happy to answer any industry-related questions, and wish you all the very best with your publication journey!

CONGRATS! YOU'VE BEEN OFFERED A PUBLISHING DEAL!

Once we both decide we'd like to move ahead, you will be sent an electronic copy of our blank boilerplate contract. We understand this phase can be super exciting, so we don't send filled-in contracts until you've had a minimum of a week to look through it, which gives you a cooling-off period to show it to your friend/spouse/lawyer/goldfish and get back to us with any questions.

You're Happy With The Contract: Go to next section
You have Queries: We will go through each query one by one, taking as long as we need (you will never be pressured or be rushed along by the IQ team). Sometimes the fix is a simple clarification of wording or an update of processes. Any deeper changes may require a further video call.

Remember: We're always open to discuss our contracts and to amend as required (or explain why certain aspects can't be tweaked).

TIME TO SIGN THE CONTRACT

Once any amendments have been made, we will send a digitally signed copy of the contract to the Author, who will also initial the bottom of each page, print off a copy of the last page, sign, scan, and send it back to IQ for our records.

The Contract Has Been Signed: Go to next section
Actually, This Isn't For Me: There are no obligations for either party until the contract is signed, so if you have second thoughts about IQ as a press, anything in the contract, or you've decided you'd prefer to self-publish or try with a different publisher - you do *not* have to sign anything. Just let us know so we can close the submission and cheer you on your journey!

HUZZAH! WELCOME TO THE IQ COHORT!

We'll arrange another video call to go through what happens next in more detail. But in a nutshell, the Author will get sent a link to your very own 'publication process timeline' (which we would have discussed in our initial meeting). This timeline includes all of the important deadlines from Editorial to Design to Marketing (including the publisher's action points for transparency and accountability).

During the time it takes to get your book into the best possible shape, we will work with you on building your online presence, getting your website to its shiniest, and talk through what the marketing process will look like during the launch. You'll be consulted on items such as cover creation, and the editorial process is also completely collaborative.