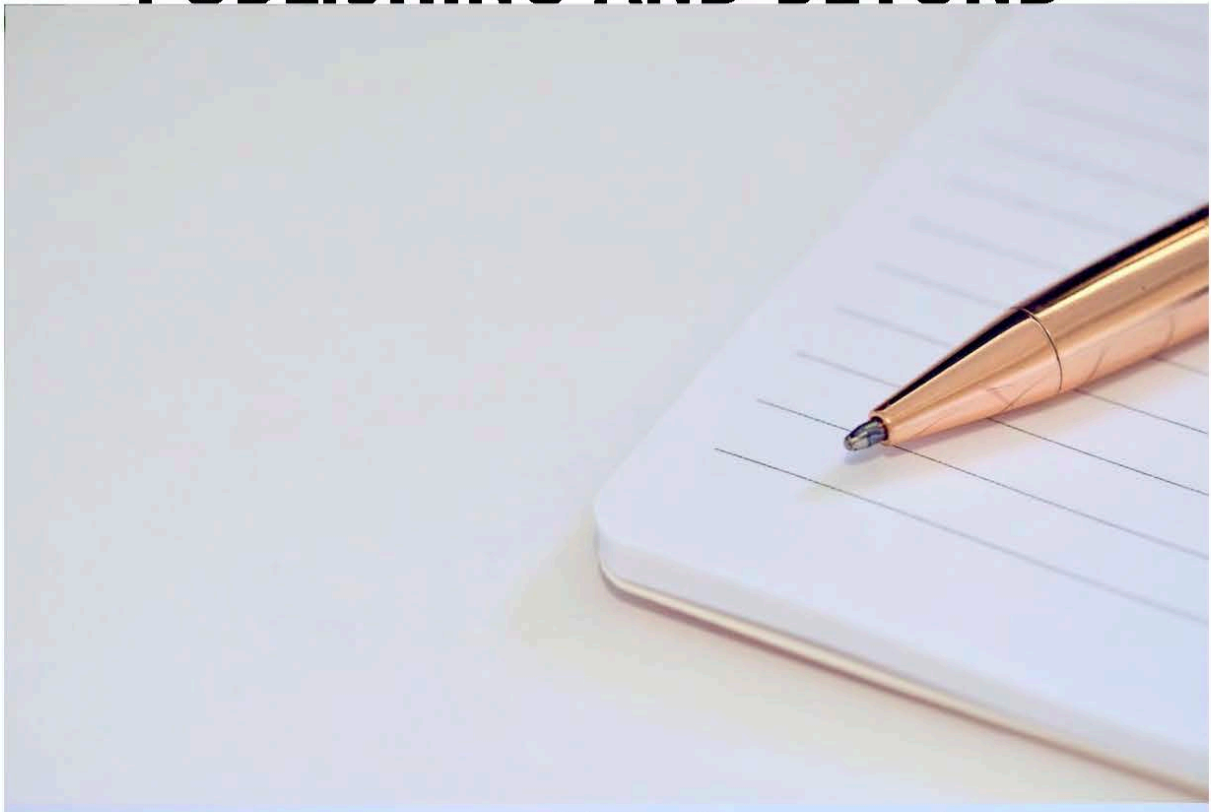


Month 6

PUBLISHING AND BEYOND



From idea to published in 6 months

Month 6

WHERE TO FIND A LITERARY AGENT*

PublishersMarketplace.com

Reedsy.com

The acknowledgements in books like yours

QueryTracker.com

LiteraryAgencies.com

pw.org

ManuscriptWishList.com

AgentQuery.com

**Always always ALWAYS do research on your agents to make sure they are not a scam.*

Month 6

THE QUERYING PROCESS

- 1) Research appropriate agents for your project.
- 2) Make sure those agents are accepting submissions.
- 3) Make a list of emails and submission requirements for each.
- 4) Make sure your manuscript is ready.
- 5) Review your synopses.
- 6) Write a great query letter.
- 7) Follow individual submission instructions exactly.
- 8) Wait for responses. Be patient!
- 9) Send complete manuscripts as requested.
- 10) Let any agents with a full manuscript know if you receive an offer.
- 11) Review offer(s).
- 12) If you do not get any offers after 1.5 months, decide what to do.

Month 6

ANATOMY OF A QUERY LETTER

Feel free to tweak but this is a good start

Dear [Agent name],

Hook

Why you chose to query them in particular/ personalized detail.

Blurb or modified story spine including: Main character, initial setting/ situation, inciting incident, quest/ goal, complications / conflict /and/or antagonist, stakes, question or part of character arc.

Title, word count, genre. (optional: comparable works)

Brief relevant author bio / writing credits / experience /platform.

Polite closing statement thanking them for their time.

Best wishes/ regards /sincerely,

Your full name

Contact info

Month 6

How to AUDIOBOOKS

1. Prep for recording

In general, you'll want your book to remain the same, but you may rework any sections that read better than they sound.

2. Narrator options

Will you hire a narrator or do it yourself? Hint: if you are not comfortable with recording yourself or don't have any podcasting or acting experience, you might want to think twice. However, it can be really rewarding to do your own.

3. Hire a narrator or record the audiobook

Look on Fiverr, UpWork, Voices, or search for them on TikTok. This can cost less than you think. Also, if you do it yourself you will need some equipment. (This equipment is a good investment, but you need to weigh the pros and cons. You'll need a good USB mic, a pop filter, and Audacity.

4. Edit files and double check formatting

5. Upload your audiobook to ACX

ACX works hand in hand with Amazon KDP.

Month 6

AUDIOBOOK RECORDING TIPS

Set up your recording studio

- Quiet room**
- Soft furnishings**
- No echo**
- Kick out kids & pets**
- Script stand**
- Comfy non creaky chair**

Gather your equipment

- Mic stand**
- High quality microphone**
- Pop filter**
- Audio interface**
- XLR cable**
- Powerful computer**
- Recording/editing software**

Record your work

- Practice first!**
- Take breaks**
- One chapter per file**
- Include room tone before & after**
- Speak section headers**
- Opening & closing credits**

Edit & upload

- Doublecheck ACX requirements**
- Consider a sound tech**
- Name the files appropriately**
- Create a sample**
- Don't forget the cover!**

Month 6

AUTHOR BIO/BYLINE

Bio tips

- Write in the 3rd person, present tense. Make it relevant.
- Use active voice.
- Keep it lively. Play around with your tone to see what suits.
- Customize it depending on what it's for.
- (This is important because duplicate content hurts SEO)
- Mention your publication history and any awards.
- Lead with the most crucial facts. Don't forget your credentials.
- Include something unique/memorable.
- If appropriate, include a call to action, social media or website links.
- Brainstorm as to how and where you can use this bio.

Example

"Karena Akhavein, PhD. is a writing coach, author, TikTok, and host of the How to be an Author podcast. Her novels include *Written in Stone* and the upcoming mystery thriller *Gone to Ground*. She splits her time between rural Virginia and beautiful Santa Barbara, CA, where she lives with her husband and a small, furry, demanding writing buddy named Fiona. Follow Karena on TikTok @writingcoach or get writing advice and find out about her courses, appearances, and books at www.creativeandwritingcoach.com."

Byline

What is the most crucial info and how much can you condense it while keeping it compelling?

"Karena Akhavein, PhD. is a writing coach, TikTok, dog mom, and author of books such as *Written in Stone* and the upcoming mystery thriller *Gone to Ground*."

Month 6
WHAT'S NEXT?

Celebrate!

Thank those who helped you

Keep courting reviews, press, and appearances

Update your website

Foster your mailing list

Don't let up on promotion

Create content based on your book theme

Write another book!

Month 6 Checklist

- Did you write an excellent blurb?
- Did you create an author bio?
- Did you create an author tagline?
- Did you query or self publish your book?
- Have you announced the publication or the completion?
- Have you thanked everyone who helped you?
- Have you sent at least 1 email to your list?
- Have you patted yourself on the back?
- Have you booked your chat with your Writing Coach to follow up?

Congrats!!!