

Is Your Manuscript Publication-Ready?

A simple, no-pressure checklist — organized around the READY Method we use with every author we work with.

Check off what's already true for your manuscript. Don't worry about what isn't — most authors land somewhere in the middle, and that's exactly the right place to start.

R Review

- ☐ A professional editor (or a careful, thorough self-edit) has been through the full manuscript
- ☐ You've gotten real feedback — beta readers, an advance-reader group, or people in your actual audience
- ☐ You know what you want a reader to walk away with — not just what's currently on the page
- ☐ Any formatting you added while drafting has been flagged, so nothing meaningful gets lost by accident

E Edit & Format

- ☐ Manuscript file is clean — free of leftover quirks from drafting that can cause real problems later
- ☐ Consistent styles are applied throughout, so a table of contents can build itself
- ☐ Margins, spine gutter, and line spacing are set correctly for print
- ☐ A separate ebook version exists and has been tested across devices and font sizes

A Amplify

- ☐ You've started gathering cover reference — books in your genre you're drawn to, or a sense of the feeling you want yours to convey
- ☐ Cover concept fits your genre — readers recognize it in half a second, before reading a word
- ☐ Cover is built from the exact KDP template for your final page count and trim size
- ☐ Book description is written in your own voice, speaking to the reader you actually want to reach
- ☐ Keywords and categories are researched against Amazon's current rules, not last year's advice

D Deliver

- ☐ Paperback file is converted to press-quality PDF (CMYK, not the RGB your screen uses)
- ☐ Cover file is locked to your final page count, so the spine width is correct
- ☐ Ebook file has been tested in Kindle Previewer and exported in Amazon's own format
- ☐ Keywords, categories, and description match across your print and ebook editions

Y Yours

- ☐ A KDP account is set up, or you know exactly what it takes to set one up
- ☐ Every file is gathered in one folder, ready to upload
- ☐ You know publishing is immediate — it's yours the moment you click Publish, no one else's approval needed
- ☐ You have at least a loose sense of what happens after publish — website, email list, reviews

Where you land

Mostly checked? You're closer than you think — let's talk about getting this across the finish line. A few boxes still open? That's completely normal; most authors we work with start right about here. All of it still open? That's a fine place to start too. The only real mistake is staying stuck at "someday."

Ready to talk about where your manuscript stands?

[Start a Conversation → corestarpublishing.com/contact](https://corestarpublishing.com/contact)