Jay O'Connell
BOOK PRODUCER

Before you pay anyone for help with your book.

AI-enhanced publishing scams are everywhere, and they go after first-time authors and memoirists. I know smart, tech-savvy people who have fallen for them. And if you have recently published anything on Amazon, you are being targeted as we speak.

These rules will help protect you.

The rules

1. Money flows toward the author. Real publishers pay you. Real agents never charge a reading fee.

2. Nobody legitimate comes looking for you. "We loved your book" from a stranger is how most scams start.

3. Check that the people are real. Google them yourself. Don't ever use the link or phone number in the message.

4. Pressure is a tell. A real offer will wait a week.

5. Never pay with gift cards, wire transfers, or crypto. If anyone asks for this kind of payment, never speak with them again.

6. Keep your rights. If you pay for any service, you keep your copyright and your files.

7. Search before you sign. Search the company's name with "scam," and again with "Writer Beware."

Watchdog lists

Writer Beware: writerbeware.blog

ALLi service ratings: selfpublishingadvice.org/best-self-publishing-services

Report a scam: reportfraud.ftc.gov

Or just ask me

Email me about any editing or publishing offer, and I'll tell you what I think. No charge, no obligation.

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I provide end-to-end publishing services to my clients, and know what they should and should not cost you. I can evaluate legitimate business models, and differentiate between subsidy presses, small presses, vanity presses, and out-and-out fraud.

jayoconnell.com/scams