



GURT DOG PRESS

FAQ for Authors

Use the search function of your document viewer to locate key words if you have a particular question, or simply scroll through and check out the variety of questions we've been asked, along with their corresponding answers!

Do you sell print copies, or only e-books?

Originally, we weren't sure if we would be able to provide print copies and were planning to expand into them at a later date. Fortunately, we have decided that we will enable our publications to be purchased via Print On Demand on Amazon and Barnes & Noble. All books published through us that are longer than 30,000 words will be available in hard copy.

Do you offer anything in the way of PR or marketing?

Gurt Dog authors are offered a discounted rate for PR campaigns arranged with our sister company, [B Proud PR](#). We like to get involved in promoting our authors' work, and so even if you decide to arrange promotions with a different PR company, or even decide to organise it yourself, we will always be available for advice and help, and we will take part in promoting your book on our social media.

Do you charge anything? Will I have to pay to have my book published with you?

Absolutely not. We do not charge money for publication, nor do we expect authors to pay us for editing, formatting and everything else that goes into preparing a book for sale.

The only thing that authors are expected to put money into is their PR campaign, but this is commonplace for many small presses. Please be wary of publishers who expect you to pay

money upfront just for them to even consider your manuscript.

How much will I earn from sales?

Gurt Dog authors receive 50% of all profits from the sale of their books, a very generous offer! This includes both e-copies and print copies.

At the time of writing this, we are a brand new company, with our first release coming out in June, so as of yet, we do not have any solid calculations for sales, but you can be assured that we will work our hardest to ensure that all our releases find the right audience. Your success is our success and vice versa.

Do you accept submissions for books that have been published before? Will you accept my book if it was previously available on sites like WattPad, or if it was self-published?

Yes, yes, and yes. If it was published by another company, we will accept it as long as the original contract has ended and all rights have been returned to you.

Books that were previously self-published will need to be removed from sale before you sign a contract with us, and we will assign the new release its own individual ISBN.

Books that were available for free on sites like WattPad can remain where they are, but must be reduced down to a preview or sample. For example, you could leave up the first chapter or two so that readers can get a taste of your work before they make a purchase.

My book is the first in a trilogy and/or series. Do you offer trilogy contracts?

We contract every book individually, but we do accept series and trilogies. We would aim to release the series in a timely manner, perhaps one per year, which would give more than enough time in between for editing etc. If your book was previously published, for example, by another publisher or self-published, and has already been edited, we could potentially stagger the releases, or organise a bulk release for the complete set.

All of this is discussed with authors prior to release, because everyone's book is unique and what works for one author may not for another.

Do I get a say in what goes on the cover?

New authors will be sent a form to fill out, which includes a description of the kind of cover they would like. We will provide cover art using this description and check with you to ensure that you are happy with it before publication. This option is free of charge.

You can also commission an artist to create a cover for you, but it is up to you cover this cost, and to make sure that the artist has allowed you to retain the rights to the artwork. If your book was previously published, we are happy to publish it using the same cover, provided it is of an acceptable quality.

If I publish with you, will Gurt Dog Press demand the first look at my next piece of work?

No. We believe authors are entitled to choose their publisher, and if you do not want to publish your next novel with us, either because it's not the right fit for our style or because you'd like to try out another publisher, it's your call. We won't insist that we get first refusal for each consecutive novel you complete.

If you do choose to submit to us again, we will assess your next submission with fresh eyes as if it had come from someone totally new. The submission process for existing Gurt Dog authors is more informal, however.

What happens if I want to leave the contract?

Authors can dissolve the contract any time before publication. If you are unhappy with any editing decisions made, or if, for whatever reason, you do not wish to work with our editor, you can request to dissolve the agreement.

After publication, however, the contract stands until two years from the date the contract was signed, which is when it would ordinarily roll over into a third year. As long as we are contacted before the third year rolls over and are notified that you do not wish to renew it, all rights will be returned to you.

If I choose not to renew the contract and the rights are returned to me, do I get to keep the edited version of the manuscript?

Yes, of course! Even though it was edited by our team, the work is still yours. All rights means all rights.

Do you offer advances?

Unfortunately no, but this is pretty common for small press publishers, mainly because most publishers of our size have a much smaller turnaround, along with a much smaller output of publications. Because of that, we offer a better rate of royalties.

I've had bad experiences with editors in the past; will you demand significant changes to my manuscript or force me to cut parts of it?

We will work with you to ensure your manuscript stays as close to what you intended, and will only suggest changes. We won't make demands or insist that you cut parts of your story out. Any major changes we suggest is purely constructive.

That aside, the editing stage is mainly to address grammar, spelling and punctuation, and to ensure that the chapters are properly arranged. You will be heavily involved in this process and will receive a lot of communication throughout the entire editing stage.

Which version of English do you edit to?

All manuscripts that have been written by authors where English is their second language are edited to UK English, unless otherwise requested. If you are American, Australian etc. we can edit to your regional version of English, so that your manuscript retains its dialect and slang. UK English is our go-to version, since although we are based in Sweden, two thirds of our publishing team are British.

Do you provide free author copies?

Yes, all authors will receive two free hard copies upon publication. These will be sent out after the hard copy version of your book becomes available for purchase via Print On Demand.

Do I have to pay for review copies when it comes to promoting my book?

Very few reviewers insist on receiving hard copies for review nowadays. The vast majority of advance review copies are in digital format, as almost all reviewers, especially bloggers and people who frequently take part in book promotion campaigns, tend to expect that the copy they receive will be digital. Obviously, that reduces the cost of these copies to zero!

Because of the publishing process in regards to Print On Demand, hard copies are unavailable until the release day. If someone absolutely must have a hard copy for review, this can be arranged, but the author will have to cover the cost of this. Please be wary of reviewers who demand hard copies for review; sometimes, people who do this are just looking for a freebie they can resell.

How often are royalties paid?

They are paid out quarterly, and you will receive a statement via email that will list your total sales and how much profit was made.

Will you pay taxes on my behalf, or do I have to arrange to pay taxes myself?

Being an author is a job, but technically, we aren't your employer. It is up to every author to register with their country's tax agency and to report their income, no matter how small or how big those profits might be.

My novel is about LGBTQ+ characters, but I myself am not. Do I have to be queer for you to publish my queer novel?

You don't have to be an Own Voices writer to submit to us, as long as your novel aligns with our submission guidelines and is something you think we might be interested in. Our guidelines state that we are looking for stories that have queer main characters and also that happy endings are essential.

Obviously, Own Voices are incredibly important for queer fiction, but even if you aren't queer, as long as you have done your research and have written fiction that respects the identities you have chosen for your characters, we will assess your submission just like any other.

If you are writing about a demographic that you are not a part of, we do advise that you seek out a sensitivity reader for your work.

Do you accept Erotica submissions?

It depends. If your novel has a strong storyline, then erotic scenes, no matter how sexually explicit, are acceptable. However, if your novel is a work of pornography with little to no storyline and generic characters that have no purpose besides to take part in numerous, consecutive sex scenes, then it would probably

be better if you submitted to one of the many publishers that specialise in Erotica.

We are intent on breaking away from the objectification of queer identities.

My story has a graphic scene in it. Is there any content that you will not accept in submissions?

As stated on our website, we absolutely do not accept stories that feature scenes of bestiality or paedophilia. Things like rape, murder, domestic abuse, war, and other violent acts are permissible, provided they occur for a reason. These are all very difficult subjects that frequently appear in Horror fiction, so we tend to expect that we will receive submissions that are shocking or graphic. We urge authors not to be apprehensive about submitting just because they have written something exceptionally dark.

Content warnings for each publication will be listed on our website to enable people to make the best decision about which book they would like to read.

Ultimately, even if a submission fits our guidelines in every other way, acceptance is at the discretion of the members of Gurt Dog Press.

I co-wrote my submission with another author; how do royalties and contracts work if there is more than one writer?

All contributing authors must sign the publishing contract, and by extension, must provide us with payment details so that we can pay out. Profits will be split between the number of authors that wrote the novel, so if two people co-wrote together, they would receive 50% each of the author royalties.

I have a question not listed here; can I speak with someone from your team?

Of course! You can reach us via email at contact@gurtdogpress.com or you can DM us on our [Twitter](#) or [Instagram](#) pages.

This document will be updated in the future with other questions, and therefore is subject to change.