

Self-Publishing Experience Shared

I wanted to get my story out in the world, but didn't want to spend the time sending my manuscript to publishing houses either until it got picked up or until I'd eventually stop from the buildup of disappointment from rejection.

There are thousands of authors bidding for their piece of published pie, but much like an financial investment with an advisor, you can pay the processing fees upfront (Self-Publishing) or have the fees taken off after maturity (Traditional Publishing.)

I admit I was in a rush to get my book out and I love trying new things especially online where time and distance factors don't amount to much compared to conventional correspondence.

So here is my experience:

The story I wanted published was titled *New Beginnings*, a sci-fi/comedy of alien abduction and self-realization. It was about fifty-two thousand words in length and my first completed work.

I opened up a dialog with FriesenPress.com In late November 2015, just to feel things out and get some literature about the services they offer. They are located in Victoria, BC. After a few months debating on which self-publisher to go with, either lulu.com or Friesen Press I decided to choose a Canadian company. It wasn't until mid June 2016 that I signed up with Friesen Press. I completed the publishing process in April 2018.

During my stint with Friesen Press I changed jobs near the end and moved from a one-bedroom apartment in Elmwood to a basement suite of a house on Inkster. By then my contact had been paid in full. I cancelled my internet account with MTS and relied on internet access through my Virgin Mobile Data Plan.

At the beginning I used email to setup times for phone conversations. Had I known that I could have maintained email communications, I would have. I like have written records of what is being discussed. As time went by and things needed to be specified and not left to interpretation, so email became the standard form of correspondence.

As with any company that caters to multiple clients there is always a queue. So plan around the down time by working on different projects or bask in the sun, whatever gets you through to the next message or next step.

They have four levels of service:

- Launch
- Classic
- Signature
- Masterpiece

At the time I was working with them there were only three tiers. They offer promotions and discounts and referral bonuses during and after your publishing process and for those just starting out.

There were six people I dealt with during my two years working with Friesen Press.

-Sales Administrator

-Publishing Consultant

-Administrative Assistant

-Author Services Coordinator

-**Author Account Manager** I spent the majority of my time dealing with this person.

-Promotions Specialist

I was able to take my time in making changes to my work but as I said, I was in a rush. This had me stating that my manuscript was complete before I realized things still could be improved. To make the changes I needed to pay additional fees for changes rendered.

It is up to you to weigh the cost/benefits between Self-Publishing and Traditional Publishing. I do recommend seeking out an editor with a good track record and that you can rely on sifting through and polishing your manuscript all with your input. There are different aspects to editing that can be utilized.

Proofreading – Fresh set of eyes looking spelling and grammar errors, sentence structure, word repetition and context of words.

Copy Editing – Builds on a Proofread on a concentrated level.

Line Editing – Focuses a copy edit down to the sentence and/or paragraph level.

Substantive Editing – Tightening up a manuscript so it makes more sense to the reader.

I am happy for the opportunity to have tried Self-Publishing. I want to take it up a notch and try McNally Robinson's Self-Publishing service and try my hand at Page Layout. I studied a multimedia course at the turn of the century. Page Layout was my favourite part of the course. I still make use of it when I make birthday cards for my family.

Thanks for letter me share.

Brendan Terrick

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