The Proof Angel Summary of

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The changing role of the publisher

Before the recent advances in technology, a publisher stood between the author & the public, acting as a gatekeeper. They filtered out bad ideas, and worked to improve promising ones that needed a little extra help.

They still do in a lot of cases. However, new technology means that:

- anyone can publish a book, and

- some publishers offer less help. They expect to receive a more polished product now, and often provide less support with marketing.

This post argues that money has replaced publishers in the role of gatekeeper:

http://popediting.wordpress.com/2013/10/24/is-money-the-new-gatekeeper/

While the post has a lot of useful material, I think the title misses the point. In self publishing the gatekeeper is the software that produces the final product. If you can use that, you are through the gate.

The important thing to remember is the rest of the process. What has changed is the position of the "gateway". Traditionally, the author had to get through the gateway, be accepted by the publisher, and then begin the process of editing, refining, & designing. Now those processes are a preliminary to the gateway of the publishing software.

The self publishing author is free to upload the first draft & publish it, but it is much wiser to go through the equivalent of the old fashioned refining process first.

Find an epublisher

If you are on the verge of indie publishing, here are some publishers you should consider:

http://ow.ly/vFSZ8

What rights are publishers looking for?

New authors often get confused about the legal side of the business. When you sign with a publisher, what do they want? How does self publishing fit into the picture? This post gives some useful background.

http://ow.ly/vFPvN

How do I submit my work to an agent?

It is always difficult to write this sort of letter. You know you have to make an impact, but you also have to be concise.

Here are some thoughts on what to say. And probably more importantly, what not to say.

http://playle-editorial-services.com/how-to-query-a-literary-agent/

Make your self-published book look professional

Here are some useful, common sense tips from The Alliance of Independent Authors to improve your self published book.

http://ow.ly/vFRc5

How to find out what people highlight in your book

When you are reading in Kindle, you may have spotted a dotted underlining, indicating that other people have highlighted that passage. It shows when more than 3 people highlight the same thing.

As an author, you can find out what passages people are highlighting in your book. Find out how here:

http://beyondpaperediting.blogspot.co.uk/2014/01/free-r-for-authors.html

Obviously you can't find out why people find those passages interesting, but isn't it useful to have some insight into your readers' minds?