

# The Proof Angel Summary of

## Resources for authors: September 2015

### How to settle down to your writing research

Sometimes, it is really difficult to settle down to doing research for your book. Occasionally it feels as though you are afraid of the task. This post might help you to knuckle down and [get on with some proper research](#).

### How to approach the beginning and end of your book

Are you struggling to write a decent beginning and/or end for your book? [This exercise might get the ideas flowing](#).

### Names invented by writers

There are various ways to sort out names for your characters. One of them is to make them up. Here is a list of some of the more [successful names that have caught on](#), like Fiona. I must admit, I've never come upon anyone called Lestat in real life.

### 4 hidden dangers of writing groups

Writing groups can be very useful for solitary or beginning writers. It gives you a chance to bounce ideas off someone who is on the same wavelength, and find out about different approaches to whatever is troubling you.

As we all know, nothing is perfect. Here is a list of the [disadvantages of writing groups](#).

### Getting your characters right

Getting your characters believable is a strange topic. Sometimes characters just work. Other times, the harder you try, the more wooden they get. Here is a nice post about [character development for writers](#).



The Proof Angel is the trading name of Sarah Perkins, freelance editor and proofreader.

## So what is a sensible words per day target?

Many people find they stay more focussed if they have a target. They don't let themselves stop until that target is reached.

Target setting is always difficult. Too hard and you'll get discouraged. Too easy, and it isn't worth the bother of setting it. It can help to see how other people do it.

Here is a post about the [daily word targets of some successful writers](#).

## How to sort out your dialogue

If you are writing a novel, dialogue is a vital part of your product.

It gives your story life.

Here are a series of posts that will help you get to grips with it:

- [How to shape and structure spoken words](#)
- [Do you say it out loud or keep it to yourself](#)
- [6 ways emphasise can change meaning](#)
- [5 ways punctuation makes it perfect](#)

## Writing a blurb

I have yet to meet anyone who enjoys writing a blurb.

I wonder whether most people put the task off because we know that blurbs are key marketing tools. Putting it off creates a sort of block, so that when you do manage to make a start, nothing flows.

One good way to prepare is to look at the blurbs other people have written. Not only will you see plenty of good ideas to inspire you, but you will also see ideas you don't like. If something stops you from looking at a book, then you should avoid that in your own blurb.

There is no magic way to write a blurb, but here are some posts to give you some guidance:

- [Writing a short book blurb.](#)
- [How to write an inviting cover blurb for your book.](#)
- [How to write an effective blurb for a self-published book.](#)
- [5 elements of a book blurb.](#)
- [Writing blurbs for novels.](#)

## How to prepare pictures for an ebook

If you are preparing an illustrated ebook, this post has some sound basic guidance about [dealing with the pictures](#).

## Better book design

We can all recognise a good book design when we see it. It just works.

Sometimes a book is so beautiful that we think to comment on it. Other times, a well-designed book is easy to look at, easy to read, nice to hold, easy to navigate, and generally easy to use. For those books, the excellence of the design may not be the thing we notice, but it is fundamental.

Good design supports the user in a very subtle way.

If you are trying to improve the design of a book, it can be hard to work out why it isn't working.

This list of [top ten book design tips](#) is a good place to start.

## How to sign your book

Sometimes the simplest things are much more complicated than you thought. Once your beautiful book has been published, one of the things you are likely to be doing to market it is book signing. Seems simple, doesn't it? If that is what you think, you may be surprised at the length of this [practical post about book signing](#).

## How publishers make decisions about what to publish

To state an obvious fact, publishing is a business. Publishers produce products that will make a profit. If you want to find a publisher for your work, it is useful to know what goes into the decision.

If you are self publishing, it is good to be realistic about what you are letting yourself in for. If you are prepared to suffer a loss for the pleasure of being a published author, it is sensible to assess just how much that loss might be.

This post explains [the profit and loss account of a book](#).

## Creative book marketing

Most authors don't like marketing their books. When you have to keep plodding away at a task you don't like, it gets very tedious. Try [this list](#) to help you liven things up a bit. If that isn't enough for you, try these:

- [How to use a quiz to promote a book](#).
- [10 ways writers can use twitter to reach their readers](#).
- [Book marketing truths few experts will admit](#).

- [Do you market your book around Google?](#)
- [The job of getting book publicity.](#)
- [How to get book reviews.](#)

## Using transferable skills for book marketing

Sometimes you need a different perspective on a job. Particularly a job you don't really like.

These posts give a different slant on book marketing:

- Using knowledge [gained from a failed marriage.](#)
- Using guidance on [applying for a job.](#)

## 30 social media tools for writers

There's a vast array of apps and gizmos out there to help us navigate modern technology. This list gives some of the best [social media tools for writers.](#)

## Are you producing an ebook?

If so, here is a collection of links to help you with ebook production:

- [How to create an ebook with sigil.](#)
- [How to find the hidden formatting that will mess up your ebook.](#)
- [At a glance ebook formatting for kindle publishing.](#)
- [Kindle textbook creator.](#)

If you are on the relevant version of Word, you might also be interested in [using "cross-eyes" to prevent ebook formatting-problems.](#)

## Useful tools for the self publisher

If you are publishing a book yourself, there are many tools around to help you along your way. Here is a list of [the 12 best tools to use before self publishing a book.](#)

## Keep your story moving

Once you have got over the trauma of starting your book, and you have a plan for the story, it can be easy to get bogged down. Try these links for some tips about how to keep your story moving:

- [The 3 surprises you need in a story.](#)
- [Who are the three characters driving your plot?](#)
- [All about pacing: the 4 most important things to remember about pacing.](#)

## Curing writer's block

Here is a couple of links about coping with writer's block:

- [25 proven ways to beat writers block](#)
- [13 tips for actually getting some writing accomplished.](#)

## A different perspective on academic publishing

The world of academic publishing is not a particularly glamorous. Many of us never give it much thought.

If you are an academic, credits for your published articles, papers and books are an important part of your CV.

This post gives a [different perspective](#).

## Writing a gripping book

Writing a gripping story can be a bit intimidating. Here are some links to help the process along.

- [Suspending disbelief: three tips to keep your reader hooked.](#)
- [A tense situation: 5 tips to help you write a gripping read.](#)
- [Make me care: 9 ways to ensure an unforgettable read.](#)

## Are you stuck on the draft of your book?

Writing a book is like any big project. You have a surge of enthusiasm, then things slow down. Sometimes they slow down completely, and you need something to get you back on track.

Here is a collection of links that might help:

- [Should you write for yourself or your audience?](#)
- [Unhinged: 3 plot devices you should definitely be using.](#)
- [3 steps to help you write brilliant descriptions.](#)
- [Dare to compare: 5 ways to check if your ending suits your genre.](#)