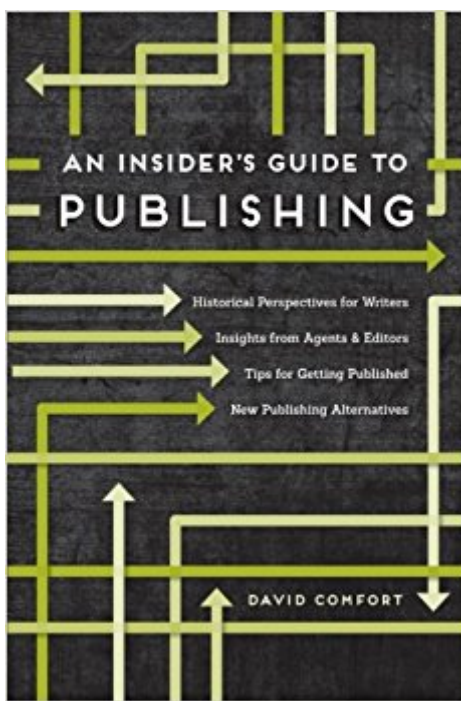


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# An Insider's Guide To Publishing



## Synopsis

"Perseverance is much more important than talent. Because so many talented people fall by the wayside." --James Michener

The history of writing is full of authors striving to succeed in a hyper-competitive publishing world, contending with agents, editors, publishers, critics, and sometimes the greatest challenge of all - overnight success. For all of the extraordinary changes that have recently taken place, however, there are a few things that remain the same. Getting published still requires persistence, preparation, and smarts, as well as an understanding of how the business works, where it's been, and where it's going.

An Insider's Guide to Publishing pulls back the industry curtain for millions of published and aspiring authors, revealing Hemingway's famous feuds, Poe's raving madness, Capote's vengeful wit, and much more. With clever insights and dark humor to spare, David Comfort, a thirty-year veteran of the publishing trenches, explores the achievements and failures of literary masters and editorial workaholics to show readers how they, too, can: Use their creativity and composure to overcome publishing pitfalls. Work with agents, editors, publishers, and critics like a pro. Deal with rejection - and success - while avoiding the madhouse. Navigate the pros and cons of both traditional and self-publishing. An Insider's Guide to Publishing shares the wicked wit and wisdom of some of the craziest and most ambitious authors and editors of all time - proving that even the talented need luck, pluck, persistence, and the inside scoop on this rapidly changing industry in order to succeed!

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## Customer Reviews

An Insider's Guide to Publishing is a well-researched dose of reality for aspiring novelists looking to get their work published. Although not mentioned on the cover, the content is specifically for writers of fiction. It is organized into 58 short chapters grouped in 13 parts, making it convenient to read in small increments of spare time. David Comfort demonstrates a sense of humor in his own writing and his selection of quotes from others. The proliferation of writers and the decline in readers are recurring themes. Programs like National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) and the Breakthrough Novel Award (ABNA) exemplify this trend. Getting published has never been easy. The author reports that Stephen King's *Carrie* was rejected by thirty publishers. But now the top-tier publishers have been acquired by six multi-billion dollar corporations interested only in blockbusters. There are twenty-one thousand small publishers, of which a small percentage publish fiction. "The critical link in the chain is of course the first: the author selling to the agent. Today it is nearly impossible to be published without one. The agent is the liver of the publishing digestive system. No s\*\*\* gets past her." Five chapters focus on agents. "Many novelists were born in short fiction." The New Yorker pays respectably, but accepts approximately zero percent of unsolicited manuscripts. "The overwhelming majority of literary magazines, however, offer contributor copies in lieu of payment." Many authors turn to self-publishing. "John Grisham self-published his first novel" | Wayne Dyer [self-published] *Your Erroneous Zones*, which later sold 35 million copies | In 2008, for the first time in history, more books were self-published than traditionally published.

Anyone who has had the privilege and pleasure of reading the works of David Comfort (this reader's first experience was being submerged in the wise and hilarious *The Reborn Bible 2.0, The 2nd Coming of the American Rapture*) knows that Comfort is not only a brilliant writer, he is one of the keenest humorists and knowledgeable authors putting pen to paper (or computer keyboard) today. This new book is an exposé of the hallowed halls of the publishing industry, and not only does Comfort take us on a flying carpet tour of the history of book publishing as taken from the mouths of the great writers, at times scathingly funny and at other times incredibly insightful, he in doing so offers some of the most useful information for authors established and just birthed that can be found in the plethora of writer's self help books available today. To list David Comfort's credential for gathering this rich compendium of information is likely unnecessary: the truly keen reader will immediately recognize the name as one of the more influential in the industry. He has published four popular nonfiction trade titles, has been a finalist for the Faulkner Award, Chicago Tribune Nelson Algren, America's Best, Glimmer Train, and Narrative, as well as a nominee for the Pushcart Prize,

and has been selected to appear in The Evergreen Review, The Cortland Review, Scholars & Rogues, and Inkwell, the Montreal Review, Stanford Arts Review, InDigest, and Writing Disorder. That is a soup-Ãf-Ã§on, but sufficient for now. What Comfort provides in this exceptional book is first, a humorous view of how even the greatest of authors have through history struggled with the same roadblocks facing new authors today.

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