

LESSON 9 - BUSINESS DOS AND DON'TS

- Whether self-set or by a publisher, agent, editor or other vendor you are working with, be professional.
- Meet deadlines.
- Be cordial and respectful.
- Don't expect your agent, editor or other vendor you work with to be available 24/7. They have lives too, and you're not their only author. Their time is valuable. Use it wisely.
- Be reasonable. These people are not there to do you harm. They are there to help you.
- Know your genre and subgenre. Be sure your book is categorized correctly. Key words are the key to getting your book noticed.
- Do clarify expectations up front, no matter who you are working with.
- Don't sign a contract without understanding fully what rights you are signing away. (Audio, translation, movie or film rights, gaming, televised syndication, etc.) If you don't agree with the term, ask in a professional manner to have them changed before signing. If they disagree, rethink your position. If it's important to you, you may wish to walk away from a contract where valuable rights are being tied up and maybe never used.
- Understand how long rights are held and the process should you decide to withdraw them from a contract, should the publisher stop working on your book after a specified period.
- Understand what happens to your rights, should the publisher go out of business.
- Determine whether to go exclusive with an indie-publisher or go wide. This is an individual choice, depending on your goals and preference.
- It's a good idea to have an entertainment attorney review a contract before signing.
- It's a good idea to have a professional tax expert manage your taxes.
- The huge learning curve for beginning Indie published authors is steep, but once you've published a couple books, you'll flow through the complex process easily.



PROFESSIONAL HELP / RESOURCES

Your best resource can be your professional writer organization and your peers. Find your tribe and use their expertise. Don't forget to give back as you learn, to share with other up-and-coming writers. Below are a few resources I've used. I hope you find them helpful.

- The Emotion Thesaurus, A Writer's Guide to Character Expression by Angela Ackerman & Becca Puglist is a help guide I find indispensable. I keep it beside my computer and refer to it continually. It's my favorite reference book.
- Buy a good thesaurus and a hard copy dictionary. Keep them handy.
- Chicago Manual Of Style Online <https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org>
- <http://writersalmanac.org>
- <http://www.quickanddirtytips.com/grammar-girl>
- Write Globe: <https://writeglobe.com/>
- Marie Force's Formatting Faries
- Merry Banerji / Meredith Bond, Anessa Books, Formatting and Coaching www.anessabooks.com and merrybond.books@gmail.com
- IngramSpark <https://myaccount.ingramspark.com/>
- Findaway Voices (produce/publish audiobooks) <https://findawayvoices.com/>
- Scrivener [Scrivener | Literature & Latte \(literatureandlatte.com\)](http://Scrivener | Literature & Latte (literatureandlatte.com))
- Grammarly (Self-Editing Resource—Note: This is fine for getting the manuscript ready for submission to your editor. I do not recommend solely self-editing). [Free Proofreading Tool and Tips \(grammarly.com\)](#)

There are some useful resources at this link on my website. Check them out. FOR AUTHORS – Lynda Rees, Author, The Murder Guru (<https://www.lyndareesauthor.com>)



Dear Author Friends,

We authors need all the help we can get. I've located several key resources I use and wanted to share with you, my fans and writers. I hope you find them helpful. Here are the links to those fabulous resources:

EDIT-OUT WORDS & WORD CHOICE:

- [Weak words](#)
- [1000 Strong Verbs](#)
- [Grammar Slammer](#)
- [An Introduction to Filtering](#)
- [Keep Readers Close To Action](#)
- [Names in fiction](#)

SHOW, DON'T TELL

- [Body Language Cheat Sheets](#)

POV—STAYING IN DEEP POV

- [Passive Voice](#)
- [Deep POV: What's so Deep About It?](#)
- [Deep POV](#)

Again, I hope this is helpful to you.

Lynda Rees

Murder Guru

Love is a dangerous mystery. Enjoy the ride!®



Lynda Rees

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B&N <https://bit.ly/3n4R1fZ>

Amazon <https://amazon.com/author/lyndarees>

Audio <https://adbl.co/3fYLQLh>

KOBO/RAKUTEN <http://bit.ly/2oFL9he>