

# The Cost of Doing It All Without Help

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In the current age of the self-publisher, authors relish the ability to circumvent profit-taking middle-men, such as agents and publishers. As a result, the traditional gatekeepers that ensure a polished literary product have been superseded by self-publishers who have opened the floodgates to mediocrity. For a fee, the self-publishing industry will print any author's work without regard to quality or professional standards.

Self-published authors determine the extent of editing. Unfortunately, most authors don't typically recognize their limitations and errors—"They don't know what they don't know." A novice author may feel exhausted after finishing a first draft, not realizing that the manuscript may be 12 revisions away from being ready for print.

When an experienced agent/publisher reviews a manuscript, they not only cite errors, but also raise concerns for additional changes to the structure, development, and related aspects. Since they are the ones investing in the project, they serve as gatekeepers to ensure that the product is perfected.

By skipping the gatekeepers, the self-published author will spend a lot of money to print the book with their initial elation dissolving into embarrassment. For example, recently when reading a self-published book, the author wrote that smoke was "bellowing." He meant "billowing." Bellowing means shouting; billowing means to "flow out with an undulating motion."

When an author confuses words such as "billowing," the customer starts "bellowing" for a refund.

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