

# FAQs About Hiring a Ghostwriter for Your Book or Book Proposal

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## Q: What is a ghostwriter?

**A:** A ghostwriter is a professional writer who helps authors write, edit, and package their content into successful books, book proposals, and e-books. Ghostwriters may also work with authors to find an agent, explore publishing options, market a book, build a publicity platform, extend their branding, and write articles and blogs.

## Q: What is a writing coach?

A writing coach supports and advises an author who is doing his or her own writing, helping with outlining, brainstorming, and meeting deadlines.

## Q: Why would an author hire a ghostwriter?

**A:** Authors may lack the time, know-how, or writing skills needed to craft book proposals and books that will succeed in today's unpredictable publishing market. Working with a ghostwriter allows experts to stay focused on their area of expertise, rather than struggling to squeeze book writing into an already busy schedule.

## Q: When is a ghostwriter hired?

**A:** A ghostwriter can join the team at any point during the creation of a book or book proposal. For example, some authors come to me with nothing but a wisp of an idea; I work with them to define their message, create a program, construct a compelling narrative, write a proposal, and design a strategy to connect with agents and publishers. Some authors are already working with an agent and/or publisher but need help fine-tuning their message or creating a successful proposal or manuscript. Others have a fully written proposal or manuscript that needs to be improved, revised, or completely reimagined and rewritten.

## Q: What does the process of working with a ghostwriter look like?

**A:** An experienced ghostwriter is a flexible collaborator who works within whatever structure an author prefers. In general, however, I have found that the following process works well for writing a book: An author provides me with whatever content is available, and we work together to brainstorm the project in detail and create a table of contents. Once I start to write, we discuss content on a chapter-by-chapter basis. When a chapter is written, the author reads it and provides feedback that is incorporated into a revision. We continue writing and revising in this way until the manuscript is finished.

## Q: Is ghostwriting legitimate? Shouldn't authors write their own books?

**A:** Bestselling books are typically a team effort in which authors work with array of publishing experts, including ghostwriters, agents, editors, copy editors, designers, social networking strategists, and publicists. Writing a bestseller can be akin to starting a small business, with a range of professionals working together to produce a successful book. Collaborating with a ghostwriter can be the most effective way to create a book that resonates with readers, extends the author's platform, and sells well.

## Q: What do ghostwriters charge?

**A:** A ghostwriter's fee depends on many factors, including the size of the project, the deadline, the amount of pre-existing content available, the type of research needed, and the ghostwriter's publishing background. My fees are typical for a ghostwriter with an advanced level of expertise and multiple bestsellers. Contact me at [alice@alicekelly.net](mailto:alice@alicekelly.net) for a quote for ghostwriting, editing, or hourly consulting.



**Alice Lesch Kelly** has written many books, including *The Dignity Mindset* by Susan Hodgkinson, *The Doctor's Diet* by Dr. Travis Stork, *Uncovering Happiness* by Dr. Elisha Goldstein, *Clean Design* with eco-designer Robin Wilson, and *Healthy Mom, Healthy Baby* with Dr. Siobhan Dolan of the March of Dimes. [www.alicekelly.net](http://www.alicekelly.net).