

Publishing Paths Cheat Sheet

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Traditional Publishing

- No upfront cost to the author
- Pro editing, illustration, production
- Hard to break into (usually need an agent)
- Little creative control, long timeline
- Limited marketing support

Self-Publishing

- Full creative & financial control
- You retain rights and royalties
- You're responsible for everything
- Can be hard to stand out
- Some stigma still exists (but changing!)

Hybrid Publishing

- You pay upfront, but get support
- Keep rights and more royalties
- Usually includes editing/design
- Must vet carefully (quality varies)

Vanity Publishing

- Charges high fees + takes royalties
- Accepts anyone, little quality control
- Often overpriced, low-quality books
- Minimal real marketing help
- Red flag: says 'self-publishing' but controls everything

Where do I fit? _____