

# Writing and Self-Publishing Fiction Worksheet

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This is the worksheet for April's seminar, which you can find in audio and transcript forms at: [www.writershuddle.com/seminars/apr2014](http://www.writershuddle.com/seminars/apr2014).

This month, Ellie di Julio and I had a wide-ranging discussion about writing and self-publishing fiction. I've pulled out some of the key points here, and have included useful links for further reading at the end.

## Shifting Viewpoints in a Novel

Ellie's novel *The Transmigration of Cora Riley* uses first-person, then third person, then a different first-person narrator. This began as a bit of an experiment. Ellie's had some feedback from readers who dislike first-person narratives – which seems to be quite a common dislike.

On the other hand, first person has the advantage of making it easy to stick with one character's viewpoint (you can accidentally slip when using third person limited).

## Deciding to Indie-Publish

Publishing your book yourself is quicker than seeking a traditional deal, and it allows you full control. Once you've indie-published, though, regular publishers are unlikely to look at your work unless you can show it's sold really well.

It's also good for writers who want to produce a trilogy or series, as (a) this is a good way to market your books and (b) publishers will usually only sign one book from you initially.

## Advice for SF/F Writers

If you're writing science fiction or fantasy, read widely – and include older works too. Don't worry about being unduly influenced. There are only a

handful of basic plots, and there's nothing wrong with using an idea or taking inspiration from something you've read.

## Promoting Novels

You need to try a lot of things and see what works for you. Ellie's experience of paid promotion wasn't great; it's better to stick with grassroots support. Don't forget about the offline world – e.g. doing talks, handing out business cards. People are more likely to buy your book if they have the sense they know you.

## The New Legitimacy of Fanfiction

With Kindle Worlds (Amazon publishing fanfiction from selected authors, in selected worlds) and mainstream successes like *Fifty Shades of Grey*, fanfiction has gained a new legitimacy. We both agreed that, as authors, we'd find it a huge compliment rather than a threat if someone wrote fanfiction based on our novels.

## Useful Links:

[Ellie Di Julio](#) (Ellie's website)

[Ellie's contact page](#) (with links to her social media profiles)

[Self-Publishing Podcast](#) (Jonny B. Truant, Sean Platt, David W. Wright)

[How I tripled my writing productivity](#) (blog post)

[Deconstruction: Lessons learned from paying for book promotion](#) (blog post)

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