

THE READY *Enough*TM TEST

Am I Ready to Publish—
or Am I Just Afraid to **Let Go?**



A QUICK
SELF-CHECK
FOR AUTHORS



THE READY ENOUGH TEST

- ☒ Is my message clear?
- ☒ Have I done the necessary editing and review?
- ☒ Does my book deliver on its promise to the reader?
- ☒ Have I addressed the problems I know about?
- ☒ Am I still improving — or just delaying?
- ☒ Would waiting longer truly make the book substantially better?
- ☒ What am I really afraid of?

*Ready Enough is the place
where your book meets the world.*



COURAGE

CLARITY

CONFIDENCE

CONNECTION

IMPACT

YOUR STORY
MATTERS.



*Take
the next
step.*



THE AUTHOR COLLAB

More Readers. More Impact. Together.

THE READY ENOUGH TEST™

Am I Ready to Publish—or Am I Just Afraid to Let Go?

An Author Collab Quick Check

There is a difference between publishing too soon and waiting too long.

Your book deserves thoughtful writing, professional preparation, and respect for the reader. But it does not need endless polishing while you wait for the magical moment when you feel completely confident.

That moment may never come.

Use this quick check to determine whether your manuscript truly needs more work—or whether you may already be **Ready Enough**.

PART ONE: IS THE BOOK READY?

Check each statement you can confidently answer **YES** to.

☐ **My message or story is clear.**

I know what this book is about and what I want readers to experience, understand, learn, or feel.

☐ **The book delivers on its promise.**

The content matches what the title, subtitle, description, genre, or premise promises the reader.

☐ **The manuscript is complete.**

There are no unfinished chapters, missing sections, placeholder notes, or major gaps I know still need attention.

☐ **The structure works.**

The chapters, sections, or story progression follow a logical and satisfying path.

☐ **I have received appropriate outside feedback.**

Depending on the book, this may include an editor, beta readers, proofreader, subject-matter expert, critique partner, or trusted reader.

☐ **I have addressed the important feedback.**

I haven't simply collected opinions. I've thoughtfully considered them and made the changes I believe improve the book.

☐ **The manuscript has been edited and proofread.**

I have taken reasonable steps to eliminate errors, inconsistencies, awkward passages, and distractions.

☐ **Facts, names, quotations, permissions, and sources have been checked where necessary.**

☐ **The presentation supports the book.**

The cover, formatting, title, subtitle, description, and other publishing elements appropriately represent the work.

☐ **I would feel comfortable putting this book into the hands of my ideal reader today.**

PART TWO: AM I STILL IMPROVING—or JUST DELAYING?

Answer these as honestly as you can.

When I make changes now, are they substantially improving the book?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Mostly I'm tweaking things I've already revised several times.

Am I seeking more feedback because the manuscript needs expertise—or because I want someone to tell me it's finally good enough?

- ☐ I need specific expertise.
- ☐ I'm not sure.
- ☐ I may be looking for permission.

Can I identify a specific problem that must be fixed before publication?

- ☐ Yes, and I know what it is.
- ☐ Maybe.
- ☐ No. I just don't feel ready.

If I postponed publication for another six months, would the book become substantially better?

- ☐ Absolutely. There is important work left to do.
- ☐ Possibly.
- ☐ Probably not. I would mostly keep polishing.

Which statement sounds most like me right now?

- ☐ **The manuscript needs more work.**
- ☐ **The publishing pieces need more work.**
- ☐ **I need professional help with something specific.**
- ☐ **The book is probably ready. I'm the one who is nervous.**

That final answer is worth paying attention to.

PART THREE: WHAT AM I REALLY AFRAID OF?

Finish this sentence:

If I publish this book, I'm afraid that...

Now ask:

Is this a problem with my manuscript—or a fear about what might happen after I release it?

Sometimes “I’m not ready” is simply **fear wearing a very respectable outfit.**

Naming the fear doesn't mean it disappears.

It means fear no longer gets to disguise itself as preparation.

PART FOUR: THE READY ENOUGH CHECK

You may be **Ready Enough** when:

- ☐ The book fulfills its promise.
- ☐ The manuscript has received appropriate editing and review.

- ☐ You have addressed the problems you know about.
- ☐ You are no longer making substantial improvements.
- ☐ Your remaining changes are mostly tweaks rather than corrections.
- ☐ You can clearly identify your intended reader.
- ☐ You believe the book has something worthwhile to offer.
- ☐ The biggest thing holding you back is uncertainty about how people will respond.

If most of those statements are true, your next task may not be another revision.

Your next task may be letting go.

THE QUESTION THAT CHANGES EVERYTHING

Stop asking:

“Am I completely ready?”

Ask instead:

“Am I Ready Enough to take the next step?”

Ready Enough does not mean careless.

It doesn't mean rushed.

It doesn't mean publishing work you know isn't finished.

Ready Enough means you have done the work—and you refuse to require perfection before allowing that work to enter the world.

YOUR READY ENOUGH ACTION

What have you been postponing?

- ☐ Finish the manuscript
- ☐ Send it to an editor
- ☐ Choose the cover
- ☐ Upload the book
- ☐ Set the publication date
- ☐ Announce the book
- ☐ Ask for reviews
- ☐ Enter an award
- ☐ Pitch a podcast
- ☐ Contact a bookstore
- ☐ Pursue a speaking opportunity
- ☐ Approach a potential collaborator
- ☐ Other: _____

My next step is: _____

I will take it by: _____

And then?

Take the step.

Because confidence doesn't always come before action.

Sometimes **action is what creates the confidence.**

A Final Reminder

Your book may never feel perfect.

You may never feel completely ready.

That's okay.

There comes a point when preparation has done its job and experience needs to take over.

Your book cannot reach readers from inside your computer.

You don't have to be completely ready.

You just have to be READY ENOUGH.™

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