



## Welcome to August 🌸

*We tell ourselves stories in order to live.*

— Joan Didion, writer and journalist

We have an exciting lineup for August. First, we want to give a shout out to an organization we're partnering with. Then, we'll share tips on how to take advantage of the dog days of summer to self-edit, write for a global audience, and be cautious of predatory book publishers. Our project spotlight is *Not Autistic Enough*, a compilation of heartfelt reflections, engaging stories, and practical strategies. Last, our author resource this month talks about choosing the right nonfiction genre for your writing.

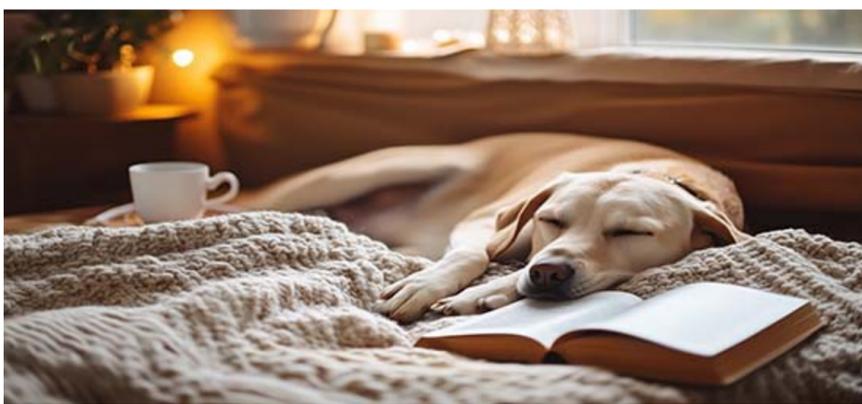
Happy Reading! 🌻

## WE ARE STRONGER THAN CENSORSHIP

Technica wants to give a shout out to one of the IBPA Board Members, Lee Wind, for starting an organization called We Are Stronger Than Censorship ([STRONGER](#)).

As censorship is on the rise, particularly of LGBTQ+ and BIPOC material, STRONGER is working to get banned books into schools and libraries that are at risk of losing valuable content in the face of censorship. In wanting to support this cause that is so closely aligned to Technica and what we believe in and do, we're partnering with STRONGER through blog posts, social media, word of mouth, and of course, t-shirts (every purchase includes a donation of 2 books to offset 1 book banned book!).

You can purchase your shirt [here!](#)



### Use the Dog Days of Summer for Self-Editing Without Losing Your Voice

We're in the dog days of summer. Are you somewhere where those long, heavy-lidded afternoons make everything feel a little slower and a little softer? Or maybe you're like us at our home base in Carrboro, North Carolina, where we've had rain, rain, and more rain. Either way, does it feel a little hard to focus during these long summer days?

August may not be the easiest time to start something new. But it *is* the perfect time to return to something you've already written. It's a great time to dig in, reflect, and begin the process of polishing. August is revision season in disguise!

If you've got a draft sitting in a folder, now might be the time to blow the dust off and give it a fresh look.

To that end, here's what we want to talk about today: how to edit your work without scrubbing away what makes it uniquely yours.

#### Editing vs. Eroding Your Voice

Over the years, we've seen how it's possible to over-edit your writing into something clean and competent but to also, in the process, leave the writing flat and forgettable. One author we know had reworked an entire book so many times that her voice was completely erased. Technically, everything in the story was on point, but it came to lack emotional resonance. It ceased to be voice-driven. By the end, she felt it wasn't her story anymore and it took a fair amount of time and work to bring her voice back into the mix.

So now, when we talk to writers about revision, we always start with this:

#### Editing should make your writing stronger, not more generic

Self-editing can get overwhelming fast if you try to fix everything at once. To avoid that sense of overload, we like to use a three-tiered approach. Here's how we like to break it down:

#### Review Your Draft in Three Rounds

##### Round 1: Story Clarity

Check the foundation. Do your scenes move the story forward? Does your character's motivation track? Are your turning points landing?

##### Round 2: Voice & Rhythm

Now read it aloud. Whether you write fiction or nonfiction, determine if the piece *sounds* like you? Are your characters' voices distinct? Are you over-smoothing or over-polishing?

##### Round 3: Line Edits

Now you can go in with your proverbial pruning shears. Clean up sentence structure, trim repetition, check for grammar. Just remember: don't let the techy details drown your natural flow.

#### Here is a sample of what that process might look like with a voice-preserving example:

##### Rough draft:

She was so mad she couldn't even think. Wanted to scream. Or cry. Or maybe throw the phone. Or all of it.

##### Over-edited version:

Her emotions overwhelmed her, clouding her judgment and stifling her response.

##### Final voice-aware version:

She wanted to scream. Or cry. Or throw her phone into the next county. Maybe all three.

It's kind of like how things unfold for Goldilocks in the fairytale, only instead of discovering the perfect oatmeal, chair, and bed, we're in search of the best way to say what we're trying to say. In the examples above, the first is raw. The second is too refined. But the third feels *alive*.

#### Seasonal Reminder

There are times during the year that seem to facilitate slowing down and recharging. For us, that happens during these dog days of summer. They are great for taking a breath and listening to your own words again. Sometimes magic happens when we revise what's already on the page.

We here at Technica Editorial encourage you to revisit that half-finished draft. Crack open the file that scares you. Read it out loud. And trust your voice as you revise, because you *can* polish without losing what makes your writing distinctly yours.

Let these dog days work in your favor.

You've got this!

**P.S.** If you're deep in revision and not sure what's working (or what's not), hit reply or book a consult. We're here to help you bring clarity to the chaos, always without erasing what makes your story shine.

👉 **Check out our manuscript editorial services**, as well as a variety of author resources. Click [here](#) 📖



## Writing for a Global Audience: Self-Publishing Books That Resonate Internationally

by Matt Wade

When you are writing a book with the intention of self-publishing (either fully on your own or through a dedicated self-publishing platform), you might be content to publish solely in your country of residence. However, you may wish to also publish for international markets, whether purely for financial reasons or because you seek global fame or recognition. But if you want to pursue this latter route, there are several strategies you will need to balance—and not all of them involve merely writing.

### Overcoming Language and Cultural Barriers

In the course of writing your book in English (for the sake of this discussion), you should consider writing as clearly as possible, so that English-as-a-Second-Language readers will easily understand the narrative, no matter their language proficiency. You might also consider explaining local references in greater detail than usual, or otherwise offering context to key narrative moments, so that global readers will better comprehend and appreciate the significance of such moments.

Once you have finished a draft, your next step should be to send it to beta readers who can review it for culturally insensitive, gender-insensitive, or biased material within the story, and can suggest ways to make your book more appealing to and resonant with foreign readers. In this manner, your readers can feel valued and represented by your story, rather than poorly pandered to or offended by gross stereotypes.

Finally, when you have produced a draft that satisfies you and your beta readers (and thus any potential customers), you can employ a professional translation service to adapt your book into many languages, thus making it more accessible to a global audience (not only foreign readers who can comprehend English).

Delve into the details [here](#).



## Predatory Publishers Move into Books: Sites and Tools for Authors to Avoid Getting Scammed

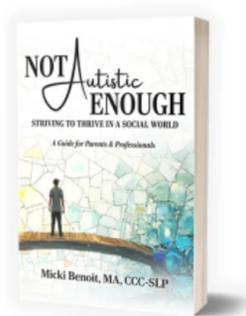
by Chris Moffitt

Predatory publishing has unfortunately become a big business for con artists. In the realm of journal publishing, predatory publishers have sadly been prominent for years now. The need for scholars to publish regularly and quickly has led to numerous scam journal societies popping up offering publication but at a fee. The number of predatory publishers increased dramatically during the COVID-19 era. These predatory journals promote articles with inaccurate research and articles without peer review. Reputable authors have fallen prey to predatory journals due to the promise of quick publication. Predatory publishers are now expanding and targeting not just journals, but also the book industry.

The rise of Open Access (OA) publishing has given a major opening for predatory publishers to target susceptible victims. Many reputable OA book publishers come with author processing charges (APCs) upon acceptance and publication in order to pay for essential processing services involving peer review and composition costs. Predatory publishers use this to their advantage by charging similar fees but not providing any of the peer review services that the fees are supposed to cover. Due to the similarity in fees being charged, it becomes quite difficult for authors, especially early career researchers, to distinguish between legitimate publishers and those that are scams.

... [Read on](#).

## Project Spotlight



### ***Not Autistic Enough: Striving to Thrive in a Social World***

by Micki Benoit

*Not Autistic Enough* is a compilation of heartfelt reflections, engaging stories, and practical strategies—all focused to help the reader better understand the unique needs of this neurodiverse demographic. Technica fully managed this project, including cover and page design, copyediting, page composition, proofing, and final print- and web-ready files. We also created an ePub of the book, and helped the publisher with ISBN registration and platform uploads.

*Not Autistic Enough* is available for purchase on [Amazon](#).



Looking to finally finish that manuscript you've been working on? Take the next step. Technica Editorial offers editorial support including copyediting, developmental editing, interior page layout and design, cover art, and more.

[Contact us!](#)



## Choosing the Right Nonfiction Genre for Your Writing

A Technica Resource

Nonfiction is a vast and diverse genre. From memoirs that peel back the layers of personal history to investigative journalism that exposes societal truths, the nonfiction genre offers quite a few options for storytellers. So, if you have a story to tell—a tale rooted in reality, a journey through the tangible and the true—how do you choose the right nonfiction genre for your story?

Check it out [here](#).

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