



WaywardSun Audio Productions

Giving Your Novel A Voice For All Time

Audiobook Narrator and Producer

To the self-published author:

In order for your manuscript to be considered ready to be produced into an audiobook it must meet the following criteria.

Manuscript Requirements:

1. **Your manuscript must be professionally edited.** Sorry, but your best friend or spouse doesn't count. Even professional editors will make mistakes so, it is better to have a business professional you paid to do the work and to whom you can complain than jeopardize the coveted relationship of a friend or spouse who just did you a favor. Understand, you wrote every word in the manuscript, and I (as your narrator) am the only person that will ever read EVERY WORD you wrote. No one else will and I *will* come across these editing issues. Most editors/editing companies will use software or AI to review manuscripts and that just cannot catch all the issues. Copy Edits, Line Edits, Proofreading, Comprehensive Edits, and Manuscript Critiques should be considered and professionally performed. **An unedited or poorly edited manuscript slows production of the audiobook considerably and can even stop it altogether.**
 - A. Once you have the fully edited manuscript DELETE all other versions from your computer or at very least, put them in a folder somewhere other than your "My Novel" folder. Having multiple versions and files of the manuscript floating around with similar file names will always lead to confusion with your narrator when trying to work out a difficult area of the script.
 - B. Sending your narrator/producer the wrong version of your script is a **production killer**.
2. **Your manuscript should be properly formatted.** This can be considered a form of editing; however, formatting differs depending on the genre of the novel. (Page size, line spacing, margins, indents, headers and footers and page numbers etc.) This is necessary for referencing words, lines, pages, paragraphs, and pronunciations etc. when questions arise about the material during audiobook production. **Not being able to find a particular section of the manuscript because it is poorly formatted is a production killer.**

3. **Your manuscript should be properly - Chaptered or Sectioned or Segmented.** Audiobooks are electronically searchable based on individual audio tracks. These tracks should reflect the written manuscript's chapters, sections or segments. The best practice is to use numbered chapters with titles however, this is not mandatory and based on the genre of the book, sometimes not appropriate.
4. **Your manuscript Chapters (Sections or Segments) should fall within the commonly used page and word ranges for novels of the same genre.**
 - a. The average adult (fiction) novel chapter length is between 8 – 10 pages long (+/-)
 - b. The average word range for a chapter in an adult (fiction) novel is between 1,500 – 5000 words.
 - c. 9,300 words per hour is the number used to calculate audio length with the written word. Example: If a chapter has 12,830 words, divide that number by 9,300 and result is 1.3795... which means this chapter is over 90 minutes long as an audio track.
 - d. **Audio book track length is measured in time and a single track should NOT exceed 59 minutes. This is the industry standard.**
 - e. If you have chapters in your manuscript that exceed the standard recommendations or exceed the audiobook requirements, these chapters should be divided into an acceptable number of pages to comply with the time length requirements. Whether the chapter is divided into Part 1, Part 2 or Part 3 or named as a different chapter altogether is purely subjective. Remember each "Part" of that chapter will become a separate audio track.
5. **Your manuscript should be saved in an easily accessible and convertible file format.**
 - a. .pdf,.doc,. docx, or .pages are acceptable file formats.
 - b. The file should be made to be printable.
6. **Your manuscript should be written in the industry standard font. Times New Roman 12pt.**
7. **Your manuscript does not need to be published in written or digital form** in order for it to be produced into an audiobook. There are many sites online that will accept the audio tracks without having published your manuscript. Whether your manuscript is published or not the above-mentioned criteria are required in order for your manuscript to be produced into an audiobook in a timely and effective manner. **Now that you have read these requirements once, please read them again.**
8. As always, if you have any concerns about the readiness of your manuscript, please reach out to me at Waywardsunvoiceover@gmail.com I'll be happy to answer any questions