

Tips for Aspiring Authors

By Sonya Nimri, author of *Beadalicious* and *Just for the Frill of It*

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1. Research Your Idea

Check out if there are any books out there that are just like the one you want to write. If so, make sure your idea is different enough to hold it's own against them. It's not a bad thing to have books that are in the same category—it's actually necessary—it means there is a market. But you want to make sure your idea is strong within that market and has a spin so it's not a dupe of something out there.

2. Write a Proposal or Don't...

This was the hardest part for me. I actually got a book on writing a proposal and then procrastinated for a few years before getting to it. When I finally wrote it, I realized how important it is to think of all aspects and angles of the book. I'm not sure it helped seal the deal in the end because the publishing company that picked me up didn't pick my idea up but proposed another idea instead.

3. Create a Platform

Start a blog, website, business, writing articles for magazines, anything to get your name out there. It's important to have a platform because name recognition helps sell books and publishers will be less hesitant to go with someone with a platform, thinking that your name will help sell the book.

4. Create a Layout for the Proposal

I actually hired someone to create a chapter of the book the way I would want it laid out in an ideal world. I had friends photograph and illustrate the chapter as if it were "real." I know this isn't a necessary step but I am sure that it helped when I actually gave the proposal to my publisher, they were very impressed with the style and look of the chapter. With craft projects it is important to convey the visual aspect of the book, so I can't emphasize a good visual presentation enough.

5. Submit to Publishers

I've talked to various publishers at different craft book publishing companies and they've all said that they read every proposal that crosses their desk, so find out who they are and send it in! I approached my publisher at the Craft and Hobby Association World Faire,

which is a trade event, because I thought it would be better to go in person and meet them, but it was expensive and I don't know that it made that much of a difference in the end. They told me that it would have yielded the same result to send it in, so that is what I am going to recommend.

6. Don't Take Rejection Personally

There are SO many reasons a publisher could be rejecting your proposal. They could have an author that beat you to the punch with the same idea, or maybe just don't believe that there is a market for your book. Often they are wrong, so don't take it personally. Be flexible and creative and keep coming up with ideas. There are lots of publishers out there, so just keep trying to get your ideas out there. Eventually, you will succeed!

7. Contact me with any questions at www.sonyastyle.com