River Dark Books Service Plan 2026-27

Stage	Process	Extent of Service	Cost/Rate (All costs/rates in Euros)
Pre-publication[1]	**Manuscript Appraisal & Meeting**	• Determining the extent to which editing is required • Full read-through with notes where pertinent • **Our opinion** on marketability • Post-appraisal meeting (in-person/or online) • Written report to take home (+ e-mailed)	**0.005 per word** (e.g. 100k words = 500.00)
Pre-release (1) *First contact for your title*	**ISBN + Barcode**	• Purchased from Nielsen (our U.S. partners purchase from Bowker) • Specific output format required for barcode for printing at high quality (required for booksellers)	**150.00**
	Nielsen Title Editor Registration	• Pre-release Metadata submitted to Nielsen: pricing (per region), distribution info, release date, promo info, etc. • Cover upload (when completed) in advance of release (creates visibility for pre-order across retailer websites)	
Production (1) *Interior Physical preparation*	**Editing**	• Developmental: "helicopter view" looking at coherence and cohesion; considering arcs, plotting, internal logic, "macro" pacing, etc. • Line Editing: strengthening your voice and honing your intention; "micro" pacing, conciseness, syntax and rhythm, etc. • Copy Editing: accuracy of grammar, spelling, punctuation, facts and details • Proofreading: final oversight, **using printed proof**; a collaborative process if required	**0.05 per word** (e.g. 100k words = 5000.00)
	Typesetting	• Finalising the "look and feel" of your book • Typeface, sizing, chapter and paragraph markers and breaks, sections, headers/footers, numbering • Internal Art if requested (additional cost)	
	Formatting & Prepress	• Prepping setup for printing and digital platforms • Complying to platform guidelines • Outputting to meet requirements	
Production (2) *Interior Digital preparation*	**Formatting & Conversion**	• Ensuring consistent (and simplified) formatting for flowable text • Formatted Headings (important for e-Book navigation +auto-create indexing) • Cover (when ready) and title+author detail added to metadata prior to conversion • Conversion into ePub 3 format for accessibility and multi-reader flow (can be converted to other formats by request)	**100.00**
Production (3) *Exterior Physical & Digital*	**Cover Art (1)**	• Discussion and collaboration focused on marketability, genre fit, etc. • Rough sketches produced/provided by publisher/author • Max. 3 options provided by **our artist** – select 1 by mutual agreement • Artist builds physical (paperback/hardback) cover/case/jacket and exports to respective platform requirements • Front cover extracted for e-Book (required for Nielsen/Gardners listing and other pre-order options) and exported to requirements	**500.00** (includes multiple export formats)

[1] At Stage 1, neither party (i.e. River Dark Books/the author) commits to publication. If either party decides not to proceed with publication, the author agrees to pay the costs only and wholly for the Manuscript Appraisal and Post-appraisal meeting (0.5c per word), and River Dark Books will not charge for any subsequent service(s).

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Pre-release (2) *Marketing tie-in activity*	**Nielsen Title Editor Update**	• Metadata can/should be updated whenever new data arises; e.g. book reviews or promo/launch info[2]	**SFI Subscription**
	Gardners Listing	• Pre-release listing fed by CPI for POD (print-on-demand) titles • Direct listing if (litho) short run is ordered for Gardners inventory • Listing with Gardners will automatically feed **this specific edition** to Amazon (i.e. not an Amazon KDP title) • Bookseller Catalogue listing optional (**extra cost** but good for seasonal buying)	**100.00** (Catalogue listing by further agreement)
	Webpage build	• Full webpage on templedarkbooks.com • Author pic and bio • Title Cover + Blurb • Sample chapter(s) on (protected) flipbook	**Included**
	River Dark Books Catalogue & AI Sheet	• AI (Advance Information) Sheet emailed to booksellers • Title cover and details included in RDB catalogue, available on website and emailed to booksellers	**Included**
Distribution	**Inventory & Storage**	• Digital files held with CPI for POD (print-on-demand) • Inventory of either POD or (litho) short run in Gardners (U.K.) website[3] • Direct fulfilment by River Dark Books of orders placed through SFI store on templedarkbooks.com[4]	• **Storage billing by mutual agreement** • **SFI Subscription**
Placement *Discovery & Reach*	**Bookstores**	• Gardners (storage and POD setup) facilitates bookseller ordering across Ireland and the U.K. • River Dark Books can supply directly through existing bookseller network[5] • Placement in Roe River Books, Dundalk, Co. Louth	**Included**
	Website	• SFI Store placement for paperback including mock-up images, blurb, and review opportunities[6]	**SFI Subscription**
	e-Reader Platforms	• Amazon KDP (if requested)[7] • Draft2Digital (multi-platform delivery to retailers and libraries) • ePub files (no DRM) sold directly in the SFI store on templedarkbooks.com[8]	**SFI Subscription**
	Conventions	• By mutual arrangement between publisher and author • Inventory must be purchased (at cost price + shipping) for placement	**Billing by mutual agreement**
Marketing	**Maintaining Visibility & Discoverability**	• Author webpage • Author interviews (on webpage and socials and newsletters) • Blog posts – pre- and post-release (by publisher and author[9]) – on the SFI Blog on templedarkbooks.com	• **SFI Subscription for Blog access** • **Paraphernalia billing by mutual agreement**

[2] Updating Title info with Nielsen will not incur further costs, for as long as the author's SFI Publishing/Professional Member subscription remains current.

[3] Author will be advised of print costs and ***ongoing*** storage costs prior to any decision on inventory.

[4] SFI Publishing/Professional Member subscription required

[5] Because booksellers across the U.K. and Ireland operate on a "sale/return" basis, River Dark Books will invoice the author for books sent to retailers, and debit/credit will be applied to royalty calculations. Author agrees to pay royalty debits (i.e. minus amounts) within 30 days of receipt of royalty statements

[6] SFI Publishing/Professional Member subscription required

[7] Some authors choose not to publish to Kindle due to its "no opt out" AI-scraping designed to answer readers' questions about the title.

[8] SFI Publishing/Professional Member subscription required

[9] SFI Publishing/Professional Member subscription required for Collaborator/Guest Writer access on website

		• Bookmarks, roll-up banners, posters[10] • Inclusion in ad campaigns where relevant[11]	• **No extra cost for inclusion in existing ad campaigns**
Royalties	**80% to author**	• Author receives 80% of net receipts twice annually[12]	
Merchandise	**POD setup[13]**	• Printful plug-in on templedarkbooks.com feeds SFI Store • Mutually agreed designs on e.g. t-shirts, hoodies, caps, mugs	**100.00 setup per item**
Addendum (1)	**SFI Membership Perks**	• SFI Blog Post "Guest Writer" access (promote yourself and your work) • SFI Store product placement: eBooks, physical books (facilitated by POD or inventory) • SFI Store Merchandise setup and placement • Ongoing Nielsen Title Editor listing and updates • SFI Member updates on webpage and socials/newsletter • Pre-release feedback option through SFI Feedback Hub • Inclusion of your title in Ad campaigns across Meta platforms	
Addendum (2)	**Author Rights** *Non-exclusive*	• Author retains the right to provide/promote/pitch their title to other retailers, platforms, printers, agents, or publishers[14] • Author retains the right to withdraw from River Dark Books listings and all subsequent services **<u>at any time</u>**[15] • Author retains 80% of third-party rights (e.g. film/TV, games, audiobooks)	

[10] 500 bookmarks will be provided free of charge; further items (or more bookmarks) are chargeable, and costs will be discussed with author before ordering.

[11] SFI Publishing/Professional Member subscription required

[12] "Net receipts" is an industry term referring to the final amount received by the publisher following e.g. retailer discount off RRP (mutually agreed), production/platform delivery costs. River Dark Books will provide a royalty statement twice annually and payment will be sent to author within 30 days of receipt of royalty statements.

[13] SFI Publishing/Professional Member subscription required

[14] River Dark Books asks that we are informed of any such decisions, as advice may be warranted, which we are happy to give. The author's independent supply of their title to retailers outside of our network will invariably require inventory in hand with the author, which we are happy to facilitate at cost price + shipping.

[15] Any services related to SFI Membership will run their course until the current subscription period expires.