



Professional Author

SALARY RANGE (2017): \$29,000–\$77,000ⁱ

I write to entertain, inform or persuade. Whether it’s fiction or non-fiction, dark and chilling or warm and uplifting, comedic or tragic, I’m always trying to tell a story. Literature is my forte, and it is through my grasp of language and grammar that I express myself and my ideas. I am a painter of words and a sculptor of phrases. I will often work with publishers, editors and other authors to make sure my writing reaches its maximum potential. Through hard work and perseverance, I will make myself known I will make myself known to readers, publishers and fellow authors.

The Tip: Being a professional author means being a professional salesperson. The exceptional value of your creativity and storytelling will not sell itself. That’s your job.

PRIORITY KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS:

<p><u>Evidence-based Storytelling Skills</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to use research to develop an evidence-based story • Ability to generate story ideas • Ability to identify target audiences • Ability to create compelling narratives across media <p><u>Advanced Research & Analysis Skills</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to critically analyze literature • Ability to synthesize key themes from multiple sources <p><u>Contextual Knowledge</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of human behaviour • Understanding of context and values of audiences • Essential understanding of topics and themes as they relate to an audience 	<p><u>Advanced Communication Skills</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensitivity to how communications is shaped by circumstances, authorship and intended audience • Formulate and defend positions • Apply written vocabulary to audience <p><u>Additional Skills</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excel at core organizational skills • Excel at intentional curiosity and thoughtful creativity • Fundamental business acumen • Marketing expertise
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BUILDING BLOCK EXPERIENCES:

<p><u>Education & Learning:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor of Arts (English) with a minor in creative writing • Master of Arts (English literature) • Very active in writing professional development workshops and retreats 	<p>I’ve always enjoyed telling stories, but was never sure how to go about it. I found that I had a talent for literature, and decided to pursue a degree in English to learn how to better spin my tales.</p>
<p><u>Employment Experiences:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed a paid internship at Penguin Random House Publishing • Had a short story published in <i>FreeFall Magazine</i>, and was asked to write more in the 	<p>My epiphany moment was when I signed up for Penguin Random House’s paid summer internship. With a firsthand look at the publishing process, I gained insight into the competitive market of literature and realized</p>

<p>future. I ended up writing a series of science fiction short stories on a salary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I worked as a retail clerk for a while as I continued to work on my novel and build connections • I worked as a creative team member at Wordsworth Writing Camp • I published my first novel with Penguin Random House after being given support and advice from other counsellors and creative team members at camp • I was asked to teach a course in creative writing to aspiring youths at Wordsworth • After my Master's degree, I taught courses in creative writing at the local college • I published a second book with Penguin Random House, and am currently writing the next book in my science fiction series 	<p>how hard I would have to work to get something published. I did everything I could to make contacts within the organization and learn basic sales methods to better pitch my novel. I did a simple part-time retail job to fund my writing, and started small with a local magazine that was willing to publish my work. From there I used my connections to Wordsworth and my newfound credentials to get a job as a creative team member at the camp and worked hard to learn how to teach. I used this to improve my writing, and got my first novel published by Penguin Random House, where I had made a few connections. I was then asked to become a counsellor at Wordsworth, where I taught a course in creative writing. I discovered a joy for teaching, and used the experience to get a teaching job at a local college. I use this career to fund my writing as I continue to make a name for myself as an author.</p>
<p>Community Experiences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joined creative writing club in my community when I was 15 • At Wordsworth Writing Camp, I built my network and identified mentors. I now return as a guest mentor to teach others in a course on creativity. 	<p>I found many friends and mentors at my local creative club and at Wordsworth, where I first learned how to write confidently and creatively.</p>
<p>Contextual Experiences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I am a <i>Doctor Who</i> fanatic and attend the annual convention in Los Angeles 	<p>I take the time and money every year to fly out to Los Angeles for an annual <i>Doctor Who</i> convention. I end up meeting lots of interesting people. It's great inspiration for my literary endeavors.</p>
<p>Relationships:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Met local artist at writing club • Met professor at camp 	<p>I was introduced to <i>FreeFall</i> by a friend from my local writing club, who got me in touch with someone they knew there. One of the counsellors at Wordsworth turned out to be a professor who shared my interest in science fiction. She ended up mentoring me in the methods of publication and got me interested in teaching.</p>

ⁱ Earnings for authors will vary dramatically and as a result the “range” is difficult to predict as it may vary from \$100 to \$5M a year. In fact, a study of Canadian authors show more than 80% earn an income from their writing that is below the poverty line. The full study is located below:

https://www.writersunion.ca/sites/all/files/DevaluingCreatorsEndangeringCreativity_0.pdf#overlay-context=news/canadian-writers-working-harder-while-earning-less