Taking the Short Tack Resources Summary

The following is a summary of the resources referenced in the book *Taking the Short Tack: Creating Income and Connecting with Readers Using Short Fiction* by Matty Dalrymple and Mark Leslie Lefebvre, organized by chapter.

Traditional Publishing Market

Submission Search Engines / Tools / Trackers

- Duotrope – Enables searches for appropriate markets (duotrope.com)

- Ralan – Provides listings of markets in speculative genres (ralan.com)

- Submittable – Enables searches for appropriate markets; used by a number of traditional publishing platforms as their submission tool (submittable.com)

Other Publication Listings

- *The Write Life* article "Where to Submit Short Stories: 23 Magazines and Websites That Want Your Work (www.thewritelife.com/where-to-submit-short-stories/)

- *The Writing Cooperative* article "Top 6 Online Resources for Short Story Markets" (www.writingcooperative.com/top-6-online-resources-for-short-story-markets-81282a93f0b1)
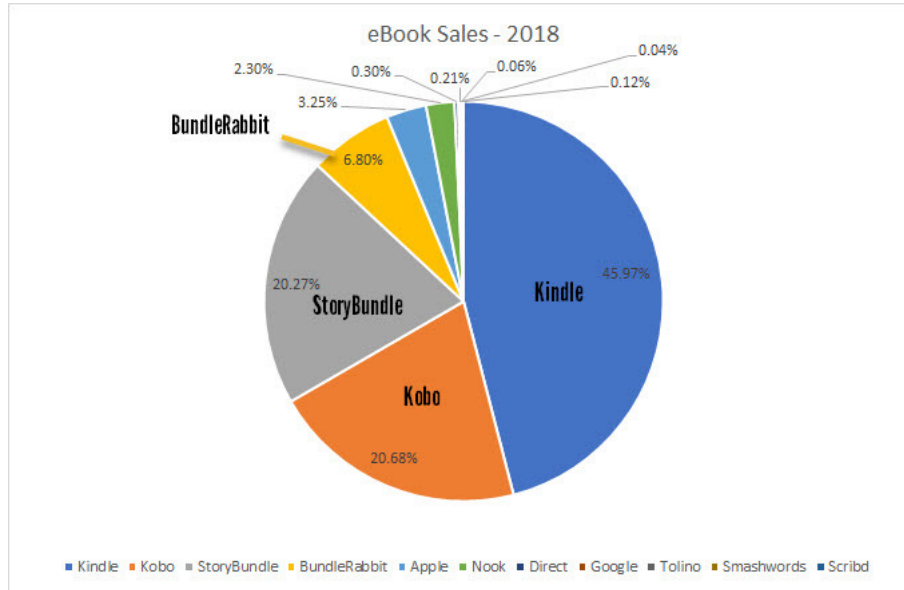
Submission Guidelines

- *Proper Manuscript Format* – Each market has its own submission guidelines (and violating them is a quick way into the reject pile) but William Shun's *Proper Manuscript Format* is a reference cited by many markets. Note that one update to this venerable document is that submission in Courier font is no longer recommended. (www.shunn.net/format/story.html)

Rights

- Douglas Smith's book *Playing the Short Game: How to Market and Sell Short Fiction* – An invaluable resource, just as valid for the traditional publishing industry as it was when it was published in 2014

- Kristine Kathryn Rusch's weekly blog, "Business Rusch" (www.kriswrites.com/category/business/)

Mechanics of Indy Anthologies

In 2019 for e-books, StoryBundle was Mark's largest income stream, exceeding even Amazon—this despite (or perhaps because of) StoryBundle's philosophy that readers pay whatever they think the bundle is worth.

eBook Sales - 2018

(Pie chart values: 45.97% Kindle, 20.68% Kobo, 20.27% StoryBundle, 6.80% BundleRabbit, 3.25%, 2.30%, 0.30%, 0.21%, 0.06%, 0.12%, 0.04%)

Legend: Kindle ■ Kobo ■ StoryBundle ■ BundleRabbit ■ Apple ■ Nook ■ Direct ■ Google ■ Tolino ■ Smashwords ■ Scribd

Storybundle – 44.16%

Kindle – 44.15%

Kobo – 6.94%

Apple – 2.17%

Scribd – 0.81%

Nook – 0.62%

OverDrive – 0.47%

BundleRabbit – 0.38%

Google – 0.31%

Standalone e-books

James Scott Bell's *How to Write Short Stories and Use Them to Further Your Writing Career* – Offers tips on set-up of short fiction on Amazon's KDP platform

Geoff Shaw's "How to Succeed with Kindle Short Reads" – Online course describing approaches to and benefits of publishing short works to Amazon (www.udemy.com/course/how-to-succeed-with-kindle-short-reads/)

Foreign Language Markets

Douglas Smith Article: Selling to Foreign Markets (www.smithwriter.com/FML_article)

Douglas Smith's Foreign Market List (www.smithwriter.com/foreign_market_list.htm)

Audio

Findaway Voices – From Findaway's website: "Findaway Voices gives you access to the world's

largest network of audiobook sellers and everything you need to create professional audiobooks." (www.findawayvoices.com/)

Author's Republic – From Author's Republic's website: "Author's Republic is more than just an audiobook publisher. We're a new solution for getting your audiobook onto more platforms and in front of more listeners in the easiest way ever." (www.authorsrepublic.com/)

Chirp – BookBub's audiobook promotion platform (www.insights.bookbub.com/introducing-chirp-new-way-promote-audiobooks/)

Patron Support

Patreon – A membership platform that makes enables supporters to provide financial support to creators (www.patreon.com/)

Buy Me a Coffee (www.buymeacoffee.com/) and tinyCoffee (www.wpplugindirectory.org/tinycoffee/) – Enable supporters to provide financial support to creators

Offering Your Story for Free

BookFunnel – A subscription service that provides a landing page URL from which readers can download your work (www.bookfunnel.com/)

Editing and Proofreading

Natural Readers – Free text-to-speech service (www.naturalreaders.com/online/)

Cover Design

Self Pub Book Covers – Pre-designed book covers for purchase (selfpubbookcovers.com)

Easy-to-use design tool with templates – canva.com, bookbrush.com

Unsplash – Source for beautiful free images (Thank the creator for offering you the use of their work for free by crediting them where possible—Unsplash makes this easy to do.) (unsplash.com)

Links and QR codes

QR Zebra – Service to create QR codes to enable readers to scan a digital image that will launch a specified web page (free and paid plans) (www.qrcode-zebra.com/)

Books2Read Universal link creator – Enables the reader to go to one landing page that will provide links to all the major online retailers (www.books2read.com/)

Books2Read Reading Lists – Free service to create a web page that groups together multiple books (yours and/or other authors'). To access the Reading Lists creating and editing tools, log onto your Books2Read account and, from the LINK TOOLS tab in the header, click the Reading Lists option.)

Vellum – Formatting software that lives up to its tagline, "Create Beautiful Books" (easily, we would add). Enables simple generation of pdf files for print and mobi (Kindle) and epub files for e-books. (www.vellum.pub/)

QR Codes

     A QR code is a machine-readable code which stores information such as website URLs that can be read by a smartphone camera. Here's an example of a QR code generated via the free service QR Zebra that takes the reader to a Books2Read-created Reading List of Matty's Ann Kinnear Suspense Shorts—check it out by scanning it with your smartphone camera!
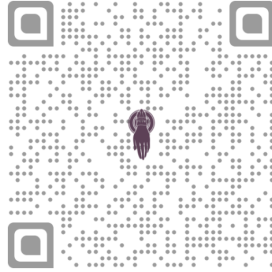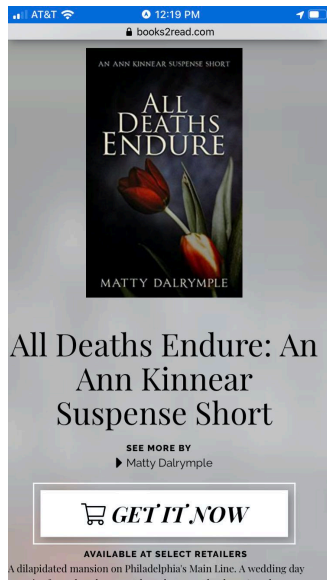

     Scanning the code should bring up a view similar to this:
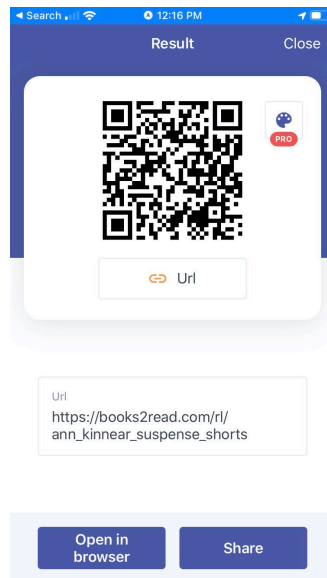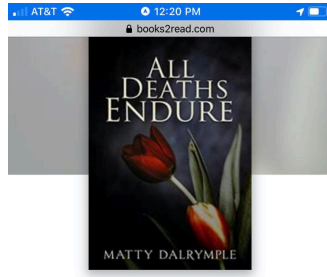

     Clicking on the Open in browser button will bring you to the Books2Read Reading List page.
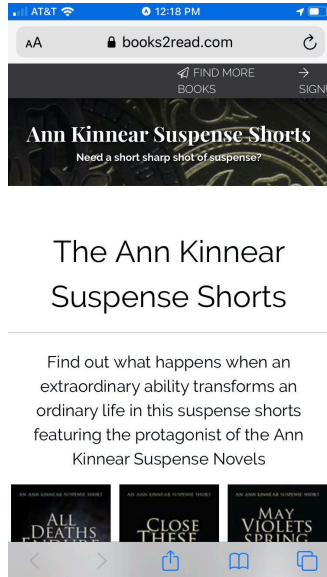
Clicking on the cover of one of the books will bring you to the Books2Read page for that book.

Clicking GET IT NOW displays links to all the online platforms on which the story is available.

Available from these ebook stores: