



NOW YOU TRY: PREPARE TO APPROACH SMALL PRESSES

1. Decide if you want to be published by a small press.
2. Compile a list of small presses to target—fill in the first column below:

SMALL PRESS	REASON YOU PICKED THIS PUBLISHER	AUTHOR COMPLAINTS	THEIR BEST-SELLING AUTHORS	CONTACT INFORMATION

3. Check the reputation of each publisher on your list by consulting the Preditors & Editors website (pred-ed.com). Try to distinguish between a few disgruntled authors and a pattern of poor business practices. Eliminate any publishers with consistently reported problems.
4. Check out each publisher on your list in *Novel & Short Story Writer’s Market*, published by Writer’s Digest Books. Based on what you glean, add this publisher’s contact information or eliminate it from the list.
5. Search Amazon for mysteries published by each publisher, and note their sales rank. Search *inside* some of its books to see if they are professionally presented and edited. Decide whether this publisher seems like the company you want to keep.
6. Sort. Prioritize your list from the most desirable small presses and independent publishers to the least.
7. For your final choices, visit the publisher’s website and prepare a query package that meets their specifications for submissions.