



Submission Guidelines

Dear Writers:

Plenary Publishing is a small publisher with a big vision: to publish works that capture the essence of the American cultural experience. To us, that means digging deep to discover the stories that are not being told, expanding the opportunities – and audiences – for writers of color, and offering varying perspectives and information that can transform our communities. Ultimately, our mission is to: (1) develop and publish books that depict the depth and beauty of the American cultural experience; (2) develop and support authors of color and expose them to mainstream markets; and (3) inspire our readers to dream (and believe) big and actively improve their lifestyles.

Of course, that may sound like fluff, or, perhaps, some formulaic mission statement. But if you love books as much as we do, you've realized that there are many voices that we have not heard, stories that are not being told, and information that needs to be shared in our rapidly changing world.

We believe that writers of color are not one dimensional, and that our views and interests run the gamut. We also believe that our stories should not be limited to a few shelves in a bookstore, because our experiences are as American as anyone else's.

Thus, our mission is personal and real, and we hope that our titles will challenge and engage, inspire and entertain, and reach our readers in a way that sparks conversation and spurs change. To get there, however, we are committed to building a relationship with our authors to produce the best work possible, and to providing them with the support and resources to reach their audience.

We welcome your submission, and sincerely hope that you'll take a chance on us. And, that your first book with us is the beginning of a long and fruitful partnership. Here's to the next generation of multicultural authors.

Tieffa N. Harper

Tieffa N. Harper
Plenary Publishing, LLC

A. Our Interests

At this time, we're focusing on fiction of interest to the African-American community, but we are certainly interested in (and welcome) great works by authors of other backgrounds. We have future plans to expand into non-fiction and works that appeal to other demographics. That said, we must emphasize that we are not limiting any of our authors solely to their target audience, and we plan to aggressively market our authors to other reading markets. We are specifically interested in the following fiction genres:

- Christian Fiction
- Children & Juvenile Fiction
- Contemporary Fiction
- Historical Fiction
- Legal/Medical/Political Fiction
- Mystery/Suspense/Thriller
- Romance
- Science Fiction & Fantasy

We are open to other works that may not fall within these genres, but we are not accepting cookbooks, poetry and short stories. We are also not interested in formula or stock fiction. Please note that **submissions must be at least 70,000 words**.

B. Your Needs

We take the publishing relationship very seriously and plan to offer careful attention and significant resources to each author's title. This includes offering higher than average royalties (though we are not a vanity or subsidy publisher), developing aggressive marketing campaigns and promotions, and arranging nationwide book tours (on our dime, not yours).

C. Guidelines

It may seem as if we're asking for a ton of supporting material, but as your potential publisher, we're seeking to not only publish your work, but to develop a strong working relationship. At this time, we are not accepting paper submissions (our small way of saving a few trees). All submissions must be emailed to us.

In the body of your email, introduce your work and give us a sense of your reasons for writing the book.

Please attach the following to your email:

1. Synopsis. Please provide a one-page synopsis of your work.
2. Outline. We believe that this is a critical part of the writing process. Please include an outline of key plot events with your submission.

3. Three Chapters of Your Manuscript. We prefer the first three chapters. If you are not submitting the first three chapters, please make sure that your outline explains key plot events that will properly setup your writing sample.

4. Author Biography. We would like to get a sense of you as a person, and your inspiration as a writer. Please include your contact information.

Please adhere to the following mechanical requirements (yes, we're being picky, but you will make it easier for us to read your submission):

1. Lead with a working title page that lists the name of your submission, complete contact information, total manuscript word count and submission date.

2. Use 1" margins on all sides.

3. Begin each chapter on a new page.

4. Double-space your chapters.

5. Use 12-point font. Our fave fonts are Times New Roman, Garamond and Palatino. Please do not use any fancy fonts or overuse boldface, underline and italics.

6. Run spell check. We'll cut you some slack since we'd ultimately edit your work, but too many typos are distracting.

7. Do not attempt to typeset or design your manuscript.

8. Do not include pictures or illustrations.

9. Do not send a submission that needs to be formatted or corrected. When we open your submission, we just want to read your work.

Please email your submission to: submissions@plenarypublishing.com

D. Don't Call Us, We'll Call You.

Because of the high volume of submissions that we receive, we cannot provide a personal response or a timeframe as to how long it will take to review your work. Please do not send follow-up emails, call or send mail regarding your submission. We promise that we're reading everything in our in-box, and we'll contact you regarding the status of your submission.

Thanks for your interest in Plenary Publishing.