KDP BOOK LAUNCH CHECKLIST

CRAFT • PUBLISHING • SUCCESS

Pre-launch prep through release day and beyond

New to launching a book? Key terms

- **KDP** (Kindle Direct Publishing): Amazon's self-publishing service. This is where your ebook and paperback are uploaded and sold.
- **Pre-order:** readers can buy the book before release. Amazon holds the sale and delivers the book on release day. Upload the final ebook file 72 hours before release. You don't need to upload a pre-order file before then.
- **ARC (Advance Reader Copy):** a free, pre-release copy of your book sent to reviewers. See Section 2.
- **Front matter / back matter:** the pages before the story (title page, copyright page, dedication) and after it (author's note, links, “about the author”).
- **Patreon / SubscribeStar / Scribble Hub:** platforms where serial readers follow authors. Here they're used for early previews and release announcements.
- **H-Lit / Harem-Lit.com:** the harem-literature community site with its own author listings, release calendar, and collectible card game.

1. Manuscript, Rights & Editing

EDITING PASSES

- Pass 1 — finish developmental/line edits

  Developmental edits look at the big picture (plot, pacing, characters). Line edits look at the sentences (clarity, rhythm, word choice). Do the big picture first, because line-editing a scene you later cut is wasted work.

- Pass 2 — FINAL edits (last polish pass before submission)

  A final read-through for typos, formatting and continuity errors. Once you upload to KDP, changes are slow to make, so catch them here.

COVER & BLURB

- Draft blurb / back-cover copy

  The blurb is the short description on your book's Amazon page. It sells the book, so it should hook the reader without spoiling the ending.

- Workshop cover concept and blurb draft with peers before finalizing

  Show drafts to other authors or readers and ask what they'd expect from the book. Fresh eyes spot confusing or misleading copy you can't see yourself.

RIGHTS & FORMATS

- Get ISBNs for all formats

  An ISBN is a unique book identifier that retailers and libraries use. Amazon's KDP will assign a free identifier for ebooks and paperbacks, but it is listed as an Amazon ID and cannot be used in other stores. If you want to sell through other stores or libraries, buy your own ISBNs. In the US they cost money from Bowker. Some other countries issue them free through a national agency, but require you to register as a publisher first.

- Register copyright

  Copyright exists automatically once you create the work, so you don't need to register it to own it. Formal registration is a US-specific process (through the US Copyright Office), and other countries may not have an equivalent. In the US it's only needed if you ever want to sue someone for infringement.

2. Pre-Launch Setup

- Front matter complete

  The pages before your story: title page, copyright page, dedication, and any content note or table of contents.

- Back matter complete, with community links (Section 4)

  The pages after the story: an author's note, a "thanks for reading" page, a review request, and links to where readers can find you. Only the back matter technically needs the community links. Many authors put them in one place in the front matter too, so that anyone who only downloads the free sample still sees them.

- Series links updated on Amazon

  On the book's Amazon page, a series box links to your other books in order. Set it up through KDP's series field so readers can find Book 1, Book 2, and so on.

- Amazon metadata (title, subtitle, categories, keywords, description)

  Metadata is the information Amazon uses to list and search for your book. The Reddit thread below sets out the hard rules (Amazon's requirements) and soft rules (recommended practice) for publishing on Amazon: https://www.reddit.com/r/HaremLitAuthors/s/42fZHFtKVc.

- Format eBook interior

  "Interior" means the text and layout of the book itself, not the cover. Tools such as Reedsy, Draft2Digital, Atticus and Vellum turn your manuscript into a properly formatted ebook file.

- Set pre-order date

  Choose the release date within KDP. Readers can pre-order from the time you schedule the pre-order until this date.

- Set up author accounts on Embre.net and Harem-Lit.com

  An account on each site lets you create a listing for your book and publish updates. Embre is straightforward. Harem-Lit has its own tiers and vetting steps, so review their process on the H-Lit website, since it may change.

- Notify ARC / review team

  An ARC (Advance Reader Copy) is a free, pre-release copy of your book. The ARC/review team is a group of readers who receive these copies before release and agree to post an honest review on release day. Use an email list or sign-up form to recruit them and tell them the release date. Reviews from them help your book show up on Amazon and Goodreads, and help readers trust a new book.

- Create preview listing on embre.net

  A listing page with a preview of the book (usually the first chapters), so readers can sample it before pre-order or release.

PROMO GRAPHICS (OPTIONAL, MAKE ONCE & REUSE ACROSS PHASES)

Images you'll post around the internet. Make them once, in standard sizes, then reuse them for each phase.

- Pre-order graphic

  Advertises the pre-order. Usually the cover with the release date and a pre-order call to action.

- Patreon / SubscribeStar graphic

  A banner sized for those platforms' post and header images.

- Release day graphic

  Says the book is out now, with a link. Post it on release day.

- Web page graphic

  Used on your website or Embre/H-Lit listing.

- Amazon A+ graphic

  A+ Content is the extra product-page artwork and text Amazon allows (see Section 6). This graphic is the banner for it.

- First new-character waifu card

  A character card for your new character (see the Waifu Cards box below).

Waifu Cards: what they are

- A waifu card is a collectible image card of one of your characters. You create cards for new characters and share them with readers as a reward.
- On Harem-Lit.com, the cards also feed the site's collectible card game (CCG). **Visit harem-lit.com to understand how the cards work**, including how to submit them, the image requirements, and the content rules, before you make any cards.

KDP Setup Advice: Content & Audience Fields

- **"Sexually Explicit Images or Title": leave unticked.** This question refers to your cover images and title, not the prose inside. Only tick it if your cover art or title is itself sexually explicit. A steamy story with a tasteful cover does not need it.
- **Reading Age: do not set one.** The field is optional. A specific age can misrepresent adult content and cause confusion about who the book is for. Leave it blank unless you have a concrete reason.
- Answer any other content questions about the interior truthfully, and keep your categories and keywords consistent with the book's actual content.

KDP changes its form wording and help pages from time to time. Read the current question text on the KDP content page before you submit, and check KDP's content guidelines for anything that has changed.

3. Pre-Order Window

- Schedule pre-order on Amazon with final eBook cover

  Set up the pre-order on KDP with your cover and release date. You don't need to upload the manuscript file yet: upload the final ebook 72 hours before the release date (see Section 6).

- Add / claim book on Harem-lit.com and update Embre preview into a full listing

  "Claim" means taking ownership of an existing listing for your book on H-Lit. Your Embre preview then becomes a full listing with the blurb, cover, and buy links.

- Add to New Release Calendar on H-Lit

  H-Lit's calendar of upcoming releases. Readers use it to find books coming out soon.

- Post eBook preview or full ARC on Patreon / SubscribeStar

  Give your supporters an early look: an excerpt of the ebook (preview) or a full copy (ARC) to read before everyone else.

- DATE: remove promo from Patreon / SubscribeStar

  Take the pre-order posts down on the day you set. This keeps supporter pages from showing out-of-date promotions.

4. Community & Social Promotion

Each channel gets one post at pre-order and one on release day. Check both boxes when posted. Follow each community's rules on self-promotion (many allow release posts only in a specific channel or thread).

Channel	Pre-Order	Release Day
HaremLit Discord (“Pre-Orders” / “new-release-book” channel)	✓	✓
HLit Bookclub Discord (“eBook Pre-Orders” / “eBook releases” channel)	✓	✓
Pulp Romance for Men Discord (“Promo” channel). Pick one; many servers limit self-promotion.	pick one	pick one
r/Haremfantasynovels	✓	✓
r/Haremlit	✓	✓
r/Harem	✓	✓
Facebook — Haremlit group	✓	✓
Facebook — HaremGamelit group	✓	✓
Facebook — Dukes of Harem group	✓	✓
Blog post on Harem-Lit.com. A longer write-up of the book, with a cover and buy link.	✓	✓

Discord: a chat server organized into channels. Subreddit: a topic forum on Reddit. Facebook group: a members-only community page.

5. Personal & Author Channels

Your own channels. Post once at pre-order and once at release. These are the places your existing readers already follow you.

Channel	Pre-Order	Release Day
Website update (pre-order info, then now-available info)	✓	✓
Patreon post. Early previews and announcements for supporters.	✓	✓
Newsletter post. Sent by email to your subscribers.	✓	✓
Scribble Hub post. Serial readers' forum and platform.	✓	–
TikTok / YouTube. Short videos or a trailer, if you make them.	✓	✓
H-Lit interview / update. A feature or Q&A on Harem-Lit.com. Release day only.	–	✓

6. Final Production

- Format paperback interior

  Paperbacks use a different layout from ebooks: a fixed page size, a spine, and mirrored margins (wider inside margins for the binding). KDP provides templates for this.

- Finalize paperback cover (+ title page)

  A paperback cover is one wide image covering the front, spine and back. The spine width depends on your page count, so get the exact size from KDP's cover calculator before designing. The title page is technically part of the interior, but its design usually mirrors the cover, so finalize both together.

- Hardcover edition (optional)

  A hardback version. More expensive to print and sell, so many authors skip it at first.

- Upload final ebook file to Amazon (72 hours before release)

  Upload the final ebook file 72 hours before the release date. Check the formatting in KDP's previewer before you hit publish.

- Amazon A+ content (optional)

  Extra artwork and text shown on your book's Amazon page below the description. Requires a KDP account in good standing; check KDP's requirements.

- Upload final preview to Embre

  Replace the early preview on Embre with the final version of the opening chapters.

7. Release Day

- Check KDP dashboard obsessively

  The KDP dashboard shows sales, royalties and any problems with the listing. Expect a few days of delayed numbers. Amazon's reports update on a lag.

- Release-day waifu card

  Post the release-day card to Patreon / SubscribeStar as a reward for supporters.

- Check whether your book has been Dungeoned

  Once the book is live, use Harem-Lit.com dungeon checker or Bookspry to check whether it has been Dungeoned.

  Community and personal-channel release posts are tracked in Sections 4 & 5 above.

8. Ongoing & Post-Release

- Ask about doing an AMA on the HLit Book Club Discord

  AMA stands for "Ask Me Anything." It's a live Q&A where readers ask you questions. Ask the server's mods first, and agree on a time and topics in advance.

- Amazon and Facebook ads (optional, not recommended until at least Book 3)

  Paid advertising on Amazon (Amazon Ads) or Facebook. Many authors find ads don't pay off until several books are out for readers to move on to, so wait until at least Book 3 before spending on them.

- Once profitable, look into an audiobook

  An audiobook is a narrated recording of your book. Services like ACX, Findaway Voices and Author's Republic connect authors with narrators. Royal Guard Productions is the go-to recommendation, but it's worth comparing options (price, royalty split, and narrator samples) before committing.