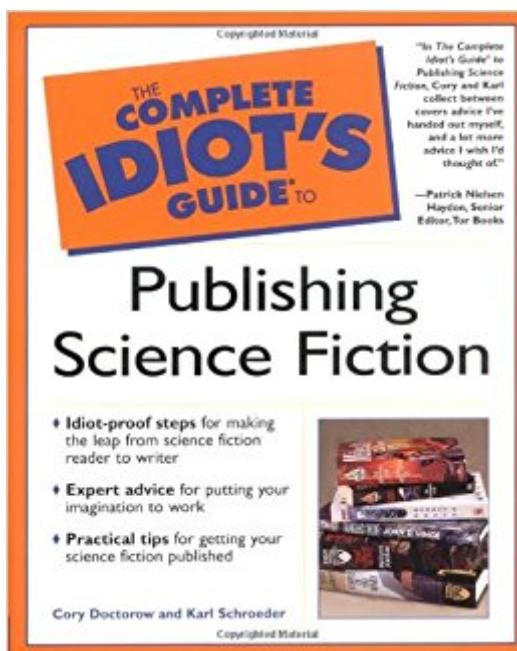


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# The Complete Idiot's Guide To Publishing Science Fiction



## **Synopsis**

If you love science fiction and would like to write some of your own, this book will give you practical advice. Describing the different types of science fiction and fantasy genres and subgenres, it explains everything from how putting your manuscript together to getting it picked up by a publisher, and suggests relevant resources to put you ahead of the pack.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

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Cory Doctorow is an award-winning science fiction short story writer with more than 15 published stories. He also writes non-fiction and real science for Wired, Sci-Fi Entertainment, SciFi Universe and other publications. Doctorow was recently nominated for the Campbell Award for Best New Science Fiction Writer. Karl Schroeder teaches writing courses in science fiction and fantasy for George Brown College in Toronto. He has published several science fiction novels and has won Canada's top SF honor, the Aurora Award.

Ok, so I'm a bit of a fanatic when it comes to "How to Write" books. I buy pretty much all of them that I run across. Some good, some not so good. This one is definitely one to get! I find that the "Complete Idiot" guides are usually written in an easy to read and entertaining format, and this one certainly didn't disappoint me. Written from two authors in the field that, admittedly, I've never heard of, but it wasn't a disappointment in the slightest. They draw from several different viewpoints, research their facts, and even poke fun at themselves through it all. Nor does this book a bit of fluff to encourage you on. They lay out the hard facts (not everyone can make a living at writing, sometimes your books don't sell, sometimes you get rejected after 8 years of waiting, etc) without sugarcoating them, and I really appreciate a book that doesn't talk down to me. If you are looking for a book that will tell you how to go from Chapter 1 to the Epilogue and hold your hand the whole way, well, keep on looking. This book does not particularly focus on HOW to write, but basically what the Sci-Fi/Fantasy world of writers is like. Hence the title is "Publishing" not "Writing" Science Fiction. Fantasy authors, don't be scared away by just Sci-Fi being listed on the cover. This is for anyone that's contemplating writing speculative fiction. This book is going to stay in my "keepers" pile! Close at hand!

My original review is below, but I have things to add. Two books made all the difference for me. Now I have an agent, and he has sold my military sci-fi adventures to Ace Book. The books that made the difference for me were "On Writing," by Stephen King, and "Complete Idiot's Guide to Publishing Science Fiction." King furnished the best advice for writing... the best advice I have gotten anywhere, in his tidy little book. My professors at school were patient and gifted mentors and I was lucky to have such generous men assisting me as I started out; but they were about literature, my desire to publish potboilers confused them and placed them in unfamiliar territory. Doctrow and Schroeder provided current (for the time) and shrewd advice for how to work in the sci-fi market. I followed their advice carefully, including going to the agents they suggested. In the end, I got one of the agents they mentioned, and my agent got me a deal with a good publisher. The following is what I had to say about "The Complete Idiot's Guide" two years ago, as I was still writing my book. I hope it is of value. I almost returned this book when it first arrived in the mail. I took a look at the back and saw that Cory Doctrow had published all of 15 short stories--no novels, no books, no anthologies... He publishes 15 short stories and off he goes to write a book about getting published. I did not return the book. Instead, I scanned the pages and found that the chapter headings seemed quite sensible, even practical. So I gave the book a try. Doctrow and Schroeder may not have all of publishing credentials of an Asimov or a Card, but they have a lot of solid practical advise to offer any fledgling

writer. They have put a lot of work into creating a solid, readable guide with good information about the benefits of agents, methods of editing, places to publish, definitions of genres, and the state of Science Fiction as a whole. I almost judged this book by its cover and it would have been a terrible mistake. Having read this reference cover-to-cover, I believe it is invaluable for the BEGINNER, the new writer or the writer who is new to SF and Fantasy.

The book provided insights for my writing efforts.

I decided to purchase this book based on a recommendation from the SFWA webpage, and I found it to be well worth its cover price. I particularly liked that it did not skimp on discussing the more mundane aspects of writing professionally, e.g. taxes, standard formatting, contracts, dealing with agents, etc. Along with this, the sections discussing the actual act of writing were also good, but I have read several works about that. This is the first book to give me a good feel for the nuts and bolts of actually submitting stories and getting paid for them. Highly recommended!

I really haven't gotten to reading much of it yet and my rating is based upon that.

The best, most comprehensive book on the subject. It even includes some financial, tax-related information that's good to know. It should still be fairly current for the e-publishing side of things. Not outdated quite yet.

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