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Photo: George Kopp - www.georgekopp.com

## Welcome to the second issue of 'The Monthly Scribble'

In this issue you'll find the second of a five part series dealing with what can so easily go wrong when you self-publish a book.

If you missed the first issue, email me and I'll send you a *free copy*.

This time I talk about proofreading. I would like to think I wouldn't have to recommend it, but having read some self-published books that underachieved in this area, I feel it does no harm to state the obvious.

I hope to hear your thoughts about this and other publishing topics. Send an email anytime to [info@scribbulations.com](mailto:info@scribbulations.com)

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## Self Publishing Basics – Five Great Ways to Sabotage your Book! Number Two: Poor Proofreading

You've got your manuscript back from the editor.  
You've made most of the changes they recommended.  
You're feeling pretty good about things.  
So, with your manuscript cleaned and dressed and ready for the critical public, you're ready to publish, right?  
Not yet.

There are a couple of steps to go.

Traditionally-published books will go through these steps somewhere in the corporate machinery out of the sight of the author. There is usually a long time between handing over the final manuscript and the appearance of the proof copy of the book. Self-publishing authors get to discover for themselves what happens during this period.

When you accepted the editor's changes did you find any other things you needed to change? Did you cut things out? Add anything? Are the changes so extensive that you need the editor to go through the whole work again?

Either way, you'll need to check through one last time for typographical problems, inconsistencies, problems introduced between versions. It's called proofreading. Every time you go into your manuscript you are potentially introducing typographical errors. Be especially careful when you hear yourself saying, "All I need to do is..." Things are never that simple.

You should do the proofreading as late in the process as possible. You don't want to do it twice. I'll say that again. Don't pay someone to proofread your book and then decide on a whole new range of changes, creating the need for another round of proofreading. Do it once, but make sure it's done.

You should choose someone you trust to be objective and detail oriented, is recommended to you as having those qualities, or someone who does it for a living. Now, no one is suggesting that self-publishing companies are

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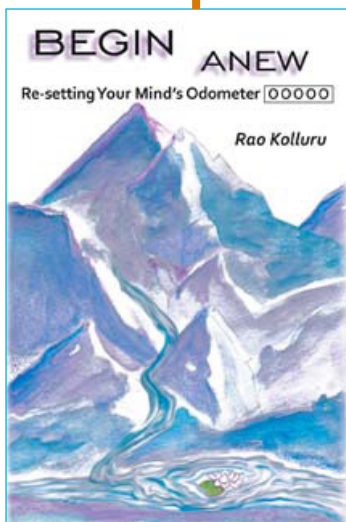
Look out for the third great way to sabotage your book next month!

## New at scribbulations.com!

The latest book from Rao Kolluru has arrived!

Peggy McColl, New York Times Best-Selling Author of *Your Destiny Switch* says

“Begin Anew is an inspiring journey designed to open up your consciousness and recreate your life anew.”



Paperback  
136 pages  
\$13.42

[www.scribbulations.com](http://www.scribbulations.com)

## E-Books

Do you read books on your computer?

I attended Lunacon, a sci-fi convention, last weekend (more on that next month!) and heard a lot of talk about e-publishing.

One of the speakers at an e-publishing panel had her Kindle on display. I was impressed at the technology, but I still don't know if I'd actually spend a lot of time reading on such a device.

Do you own a Kindle or another kind of reader? Have you downloaded a novel to your computer? Have the different formats available caused you any problems?

Let me know your experiences and I'll share them here in a future issue.

Share your thoughts - email me at  
[info@scribbulations.com](mailto:info@scribbulations.com)

### Proofing fun

- Is it 'Scotsmen, who are tight with money, are good at business'? or 'Scotsmen who are tight with money are good at business'?
- "Its good to here you're advise."
- Do you mean 'I baby-sit six-year-old children' or 'I baby-sit six year-old children'?
- Simon says, "this is the end".

### Remember

Don't be shy about passing this newsletter on to a friend, or colleague. They say everyone has at least one good book in them—I'm here to help them let it out!

## Self Publishing Basics – Five Great Ways to Sabotage your Book! Number Two: Poor Proofreading continued...

so unscrupulous as to employ high-school interns or people whose first language is not English to do your prooreading, but if your customer service rep. can't or won't tell you who is doing it, how can you be sure?

Remember you are protecting your own work here. A book with errors does a disservice to you and the hard work you've put into it, and also to your readers who have paid good money for it. When a reader comments to a friend, "The ideas in the book are good, but there are a lot of mistakes..." you've just lost a sale.

Because:

**Poor proofreading sabotages the book.**

## Is writing really a lonely occupation?

I'm not given to sporting analogies but...

Do you think writing is like a track sport? One athlete, one prize, and the rest lose? Or is it a team activity where everyone involved gets to share the glory?

"There's only me here at my computer," I hear you say.

But you know you'll be working with an editor. You maybe already use a family member or friend as a sounding-board for ideas. Maybe you're in a Writers' Group? There'll be someone working with you on publishing your work, designing your book, helping you reach your future readers.

And of course there are the silent voices on your bookshelf who have, over the years, steered you to this point.

So how lonely can it be?

Call me at 973-325-1648  
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