



12—Publicly Commit to Your Book Goal

Take a deep breath and know that as uncomfortable as it may feel right now, to publicly declare that you are an author of a yet-to-be-published book, once you share this accomplishment, you will feel lighter.

Not only that, you might just find that you start to reap the benefits of being an author in advance of holding that book in your hands. If you watched the first Office Hours, you'll have heard the story that Vanessa Horn told, of how she got speaking engagements once she declared that she was in the process of writing a book on a topic that was of interest to audiences.

It is true that if your book is a memoir or in some way shares information that *might* upset people in your life, that this declaration could be more difficult for you.

One of the women I've coached through her book-writing process faced this very real concern in her novel that draws on broad themes from her own life and is titled after the name of the street she grew up on. She was concerned that her family members might *think* she was writing about them in her story.

How she dealt with it? She sent her manuscript to each of her siblings and to her mother so they could read what she'd written and decide for themselves if they needed to be worried about her book. Being able to address the minor concerns from only some of her family members gave her the comfort she needed to move forward with publishing her story.

At this stage you don't need to be specific about your book. This invitation is simply to help make your book even more real to you and to the people who will learn about it and be interested in reading it.

And finally, if this exercise seriously stresses you out, for goodness sake, figure out if that stress is based on a real concern or not. And if there's a legitimate reason to avoid going public now, don't go public! Listen to your instinct, but don't listen to fear!



Invitation 1 – Update your email signature

Update your email signature so that it includes the title of your book and your projected publication date. If you have absolutely no idea when that will be, simply give a year.

For instance:

Donna Barker
donna@writewomanwrite.com
Author of 'Girls Who Get Themselves in Trouble'
Coming in fall 2018

Invitation 2 – Add your author status to a social media profile

Update your favourite social media bio to include your author status. This could be as simple (and subtle!) as including the word “author” alongside all of your other qualifications and accomplishments. Or you could do a wholesale revision of you bio and focus it on the expertise you share in your non-fiction book or the story of your novel in a few words.

Invitation 3 – Update your “About Me” page on your website

If you have an About Me page, simply add a few more lines to include your imminent author status, title of your book, a brief description of your book and projected publication date. Easy-peasy!

Invitation 4 – Create an ‘About the Author’ page on your website

The ‘Gold Standard’ of going public! If you’re not sure what to include, check out the ‘About the Author’ pages of your favourite writers or other published authors in your genre. Draw inspiration from them.