

Your Story, Your Way:  
Why [ReadWithPride.com](https://ReadWithPride.com) is  
the Right Portal for Your  
LGBTQ+ Book

A Complete Guide for Indie Authors  
to Publish, Market, and Thrive in a  
Dedicated Queer Publishing  
Ecosystem

## A 10-Chapter Guide for Indie Authors and Small Publishers

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### Chapter 1: The Current Crisis in LGBTQ+ Publishing – Why General Platforms Are Failing Queer Authors

The dream of seeing your book in the world should be a moment of pure joy. For LGBTQ+ authors, however, that dream often collides with a harsh reality: the mainstream publishing industry was not built for you. From closed doors at traditional houses to algorithmic bias on self-publishing giants, the path is littered with obstacles that straight, cisgender authors rarely face. This chapter dissects the systemic failures that make a dedicated LGBTQ+ platform like [ReadWithPride.com](https://ReadWithPride.com) not just attractive, but necessary.

To understand why you should choose a niche portal, you must first understand the depth of the crisis. Data from recent years paints a grim picture. In 2026, a comprehensive report on LGBTQ+ children’s publishing revealed that authors are “frustrated, less confident, and feeling under attack as they struggle to publish children’s books with queer content.” This is not hyperbole; it is a direct quote from industry research. The same report noted that the number of LGBTQ+ book deal announcements has been steadily

declining, even as the demand for diverse stories from readers grows. Publishers who once clamored for “own voices” now use “coded language to hide queer representation,” a practice that forces authors to downplay their identities to get a contract.

Consider the economic reality. Established queer authors with decade-long careers have reported royalty drops of 70% and have seen their titles go out of print despite consistent sales. Why? Because large publishing conglomerates rotate their catalogs based on risk assessments, and LGBTQ+ titles are often labeled “high risk” due to potential book bans or conservative backlash. In one recent year, over 10,000 instances of book bans were documented in the United States alone, and 39% of those banned books featured LGBTQ+ people or characters. When a book is banned, it doesn’t just disappear from school libraries; it becomes harder to distribute through mainstream wholesalers, and platforms like Amazon may deprioritize it in search results to avoid controversy.

Now, let’s talk about the self-publishing alternative. Many queer authors turn to Amazon KDP, Draft2Digital, or Smashwords hoping to bypass traditional gatekeepers. But here, a different kind of gatekeeper emerges: the algorithm. Peer-reviewed research has shown that major self-publishing

platforms “perpetuate systemic racial, gender, and sexual bias against authors... through their technological, economic, social, and cultural structures.” An algorithm trained on mainstream buying patterns will recommend what is already popular, creating a feedback loop that buries LGBTQ+ books unless they are already bestsellers. Furthermore, these platforms hold immense power that “undermines the profitability of publishers... and is likely to persist because of exclusionary practices and high barriers to entry.” In plain English: Amazon’s search engine does not care if your queer romance never finds its audience. It only cares about maximizing sales per click, and safe, mainstream content always wins.

The crisis is compounded by marketing. On a general platform, you are a tiny fish in an ocean. To get noticed, you must master Amazon Ads, Facebook Ads, and SEO—all while writing your next book. And even then, your ad might be rejected because of vague policies against “adult content” that disproportionately flag LGBTQ+ themes. Authors have reported having their ads denied for using the word “gay” or “trans,” even when the book contains nothing explicit. This is not a technical glitch; it is a structural bias that forces queer authors to self-censor their own marketing.

Finally, there is the emotional toll. Writing an LGBTQ+ book is an act of vulnerability. Submitting that book to a platform that treats it as a niche product at best, or a liability at worst, is demoralizing. You deserve a place where your identity is not a risk factor, where your stories are the main event, not a seasonal afterthought. That place exists, and it is called [ReadWithPride.com](https://ReadWithPride.com). But before we celebrate the solution, we must fully mourn the problem. The crisis is real. And it is why thousands of queer authors are leaving mainstream platforms every month, searching for a home that will treat them with dignity.

The good news is that a growing number are finding that home. The rest of this guide will show you exactly how [ReadWithPride.com](https://ReadWithPride.com) addresses each of these failures point by point, starting with the fundamental philosophy of niche publishing in Chapter 2.

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## **Chapter 2: The Power of Niche – Why a Dedicated LGBTQ+ Publishing Portal Beats the Giants**

When you hear the word “niche,” you might think small, limited, or marginal. In the world of book publishing, however, niche is a superpower. A dedicated LGBTQ+ publishing portal like [ReadWithPride.com](https://ReadWithPride.com) does not compete with Amazon on breadth; it competes on depth, relevance, and community. This chapter explains why niche platforms consistently outperform generalists for specialized audiences, and why that translates directly into sales and career longevity for you as an author.

First, let’s define what a niche platform is. A niche platform focuses on a specific genre, identity, or theme. In the case of [ReadWithPride.com](https://ReadWithPride.com), the focus is explicit: “We want to publish and cultivate high-quality ... accessible, inclusive literature for an underserved audience.” That quote comes directly from the ethos of platforms like this. When you publish on a general site, your book is one of millions. When you publish on a dedicated LGBTQ+ portal, your book is one of thousands, and every single visitor to that site is actively looking for stories like yours. That is not a reduction in opportunity; it is a concentration of intent.

Consider the economics of attention. On Amazon, a reader might search for “romance” and be shown 50,000 results, most of which are straight, cisgender, and white. Your LGBTQ+ romance appears on page 27, and nobody scrolls to page 27. On [ReadWithPride.com](https://ReadWithPride.com), the same reader comes specifically to find queer romance. Your book might be one of 500. The chances of it being seen, clicked, and purchased are orders of magnitude higher. This is why conversion rates on niche platforms are often double or triple those on general marketplaces. You are not fighting for scraps; you are feeding a hungry audience.

But the power of niche goes beyond discovery. It extends to trust. Readers who seek out LGBTQ+ content have often been burned by mainstream platforms that miscategorize, misrepresent, or simply ignore queer books. They have bought books that promised representation but delivered stereotypes. They have read reviews from bigots who leave one-star ratings simply because a book has a same-sex kiss. On a dedicated portal, readers trust that the platform has vetted the content for authenticity and quality. That trust transfers to you as an author. You are not an outsider; you are part of a curated community.

Niche platforms also offer specialized support. The staff at [ReadWithPride.com](https://ReadWithPride.com) understand the unique challenges of LGBTQ+ publishing because they are

part of the community. They know that a book about a trans protagonist might face specific censorship issues on other platforms. They know that a lesbian romance might need different cover design cues to signal its genre without resorting to clichés. They can offer metadata advice that Amazon’s generic help pages cannot. This is not just customer service; it is cultural competency.

Another advantage is cross-promotion within the niche. On a general platform, there is no incentive for a bestselling fantasy author to promote a debut romance author; they are competitors for the same search real estate. On a niche portal, collaboration is baked into the model. Authors are encouraged to bundle books, run joint giveaways, and cross-link to each other’s stores. The platform FAQ explicitly mentions that collaboration is a key feature. This creates a rising tide that lifts all boats. When one LGBTQ+ book goes viral, it brings attention to the entire category. This is the opposite of the zero-sum game on mainstream sites.

Furthermore, niche platforms are more agile. They can experiment with pricing models, promotional tools, and reader engagement features without the bureaucratic inertia of a giant corporation. For example, [ReadWithPride.com](https://www.readwithpride.com) is already planning to integrate print-on-demand (POD) services, and the 1-

year free portal offer with SEO and social media sharing is something Amazon would never do because Amazon wants you to pay for ads. Niche platforms innovate because they have to; their survival depends on your success.

Finally, there is the intangible but crucial factor of pride. Publishing on a platform named [ReadWithPride.com](https://ReadWithPride.com) is a statement. It says that you are not hiding. It says that your book belongs front and center, not in a “LGBTQ+ interest” subcategory buried under six menus. That feeling of belonging has real psychological benefits for authors, reducing burnout and increasing creative output. When you are proud of where your book lives, you promote it more enthusiastically. That enthusiasm translates into sales.

So, the next time someone tells you that “niche is too small,” remember: the smallest loyal audience is worth more than the largest indifferent one. [ReadWithPride.com](https://ReadWithPride.com) gives you access to a community that is not just large enough, but exactly right. In the next chapter, we will put this philosophy to the test by comparing the specific features of [ReadWithPride.com](https://ReadWithPride.com) against the dominant giant, Amazon KDP.

### **Chapter 3: Amazon KDP vs. [ReadWithPride.com](https://www.readwithpride.com) – A Feature-by-Feature Showdown**

It is time for a head-to-head comparison. Many authors default to Amazon KDP because of its name recognition and ease of use. But “easy” and “best” are not the same thing, especially for LGBTQ+ authors. This chapter presents a detailed, feature-by-feature showdown between Amazon KDP (Kindle Direct Publishing) and [ReadWithPride.com](https://www.readwithpride.com). By the end, you will see why the latter is not just an alternative but a superior choice for queer literature.

#### **Feature 1: Discoverability and Search Algorithms**

Amazon’s search algorithm, known as A9, prioritizes sales velocity, customer reviews, and ad spend. For a new LGBTQ+ book with no sales history, the algorithm essentially hides it. You have to buy ads to get initial visibility, and even then, your ads compete against books with much larger budgets. Moreover, research has shown that Amazon’s algorithm inadvertently penalizes books with keywords like “gay,” “lesbian,” or “trans” because those terms are sometimes associated with lower click-through rates from the general population. The result is a structural disadvantage.

[ReadWithPride.com](https://www.readwithpride.com), by contrast, does not rely on a universal algorithm. Its search function is category-

based and user-intent driven. Because every visitor is there for LGBTQ+ content, the platform does not need to filter or demote your book. Furthermore, the 1-year free portal includes built-in SEO that optimizes your book's page for Google search. When someone searches for "best lesbian sci-fi books 2026," your [ReadWithPride.com](https://ReadWithPride.com) store page can appear on the first page of Google, something that rarely happens with Amazon unless you are a bestseller.

## **Feature 2: Royalties and Pricing Control**

Amazon KDP offers 70% royalties only if you price between \$2.99 and \$9.99 and if you exclude certain territories. Below or above that range, the royalty drops to 35%. In addition, Amazon charges delivery fees for ebooks based on file size, which can eat into your profits. You have some control over pricing, but Amazon's algorithms will often suggest lower prices to "stay competitive," pressuring you into a race to the bottom.

[ReadWithPride.com](https://ReadWithPride.com) has a transparent royalty structure (detailed in their FAQ, page 2). You set your own price, and you keep a significantly higher percentage of each sale because there are no hidden delivery fees or algorithmic price suppression. The platform's business model is based on a fair subscription or commission that is clearly explained

upfront. There is no “catch,” as the FAQ explicitly states. You are not forced into a narrow pricing band to earn a decent royalty.

### **Feature 3: Marketing and Promotional Tools**

Amazon offers some promotional tools like Kindle Countdown Deals and Free Book Promotions, but these are only effective if you already have visibility. Their advertising platform (Amazon Ads) is powerful but complex and expensive. Many LGBTQ+ authors report spending more on ads than they earn in royalties, especially in competitive genres.

[ReadWithPride.com](https://ReadWithPride.com), through the 1-year free portal, gives you direct access to social media sharing tools that are integrated with your store. You can push your book to Instagram, TikTok, X (Twitter), and Facebook with one click, complete with pre-populated hashtags like #LGBTQBooks #ReadWithPride. The SEO tools help you craft metadata that actually works. You can also run pre-orders, discounts, and bundle promotions without any additional fees. The platform encourages collaboration with other authors, which is a form of free marketing that Amazon does not facilitate.

### **Feature 4: Content Policies and Censorship Risk**

Amazon's content guidelines are notoriously vague and inconsistently enforced. Books with LGBTQ+ themes have been "dungeoned" (made unsearchable) or banned entirely for violating policies on "adult content," even when the content is no more explicit than straight romance. There is no effective appeals process. Your book can disappear overnight, along with your income.

[ReadWithPride.com](https://readwithpride.com) was created specifically to protect LGBTQ+ voices. Their content policy (available on the FAQ page 1) explicitly states that queer content is welcome and will never be penalized for its themes. The only prohibitions are against illegal content and hate speech. You can write with the confidence that your book will not be removed because a homophobic algorithm flagged it.

### **Feature 5: Data and Customer Ownership**

On Amazon, you do not own your customer data. You never get the email addresses of people who buy your book. You cannot build a mailing list directly from your sales. Amazon keeps that data for itself. This is a massive long-term disadvantage because an email list is the most valuable asset an indie author can have.

[ReadWithPride.com](https://readwithpride.com) gives you access to customer data (with privacy protections, as noted in their FAQ). You can see who bought your book, send follow-up

messages (through the platform's compliant messaging system), and build a direct relationship with your readers. When you combine that with your own branded store, you are not just selling a book; you are building a fan base that you control.

### **Feature 6: Community and Support**

Amazon's support for authors is infamous. It consists of chatbots, unhelpful email responses, and forums where authors help each other with little official guidance. There is no sense of community; you are a solo operator in a vast machine.

[ReadWithPride.com](https://ReadWithPride.com) has a dedicated author community, collaborative features, and a support team that actually understands LGBTQ+ publishing. The FAQ answers real questions from real e-book sellers, showing a commitment to transparency and responsiveness. You are not alone.

### **Feature 7: Cost of Entry**

Amazon KDP is free to join, but the hidden costs are high: ad spend, lost royalties to delivery fees, and the time cost of fighting the algorithm. [ReadWithPride.com](https://ReadWithPride.com) is also free to join for the first year if you take advantage of the current offer. That year includes the portal with SEO and social media sharing – tools that would cost hundreds of

dollars per month elsewhere. After the first year, the fee is clearly stated and affordable, especially given the higher royalty rates and support.

### **Conclusion of the Showdown**

Amazon KDP is a one-size-fits-all platform that does not fit LGBTQ+ authors well. [ReadWithPride.com](https://ReadWithPride.com) is custom-tailored for you. The choice is not between “big and small” but between “indifferent and invested.” Choose invested. In the next chapter, we will take a deep dive into the specific features of [ReadWithPride.com](https://ReadWithPride.com), starting with your personal branded bookstore.

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## **Chapter 4: Your Personal Branded Bookstore – Owning Your Corner of the Internet**

One of the most misunderstood advantages of [ReadWithPride.com](https://ReadWithPride.com) is the personal branded bookstore. Many authors think, “I already have an author website. Why do I need another store?” This chapter explains why a dedicated, platform-integrated store is fundamentally different and infinitely more powerful than a generic website with a PayPal button. We will explore every feature, from custom URLs to built-in trust signals, and show you how to maximize your store’s potential.

### **What Is a Personal Branded Bookstore?**

When you sign up as a publisher on [ReadWithPride.com](https://ReadWithPride.com), you do not simply list your books on a shared marketplace. Instead, you are given your own subdomain or custom domain storefront, e.g., `yourname.readwithpride.com` or `www.yourname.com` (if you connect your own domain). This store looks and feels like your own independent website, but it is powered by the portal’s backend. It includes your author bio, your photo or logo, a catalog of your books, customer reviews, and integrated checkout. Your readers never have to leave your store to complete a purchase. To them, it appears that you are running your own e-commerce site. To you, it means

you avoid the complexity of building a store from scratch.

### **Why Branding Matters for LGBTQ+ Authors**

For queer authors, branding is political. When a reader lands on your branded bookstore, they see a professional, cohesive identity. That builds trust. It signals that you are serious, that you are here to stay, and that your work is worth their time and money. In a market where LGBTQ+ books are often dismissed as “amateur” or “niche,” a branded store elevates your status instantly. Moreover, your own URL is portable. You can share it anywhere—social media, business cards, email signatures—without worrying about a platform shutting down or changing its policies. You own that address.

### **Customization Options**

Your store is fully customizable within the platform’s templates. You can choose color schemes that match your book covers, upload a header image, arrange your books in featured categories (e.g., “Romance,” “Sci-Fi,” “Memoir”), and even add a blog or news section. The portal’s FAQ (page 2) mentions that technical support is available for any customization questions. You do not need to know HTML or CSS, though advanced users can access those options if desired.

## **Integrated SEO – Your Store Gets Found**

A standalone website is useless if nobody visits it. The 1-year free portal includes powerful SEO tools that optimize your branded store for search engines. Here is how it works: you provide keywords (e.g., “transgender fantasy novel,” “lesbian cozy mystery,” “queer poetry collection”), and the portal automatically generates meta tags, alt text for images, and a sitemap. It also ensures that your store loads quickly and is mobile-friendly, both of which are Google ranking factors. Over time, your store will start appearing in Google searches for those keywords. This is organic traffic that costs you nothing but the time you spend setting it up.

## **Social Media Integration – Share with One Click**

Your branded store is connected to the social media sharing tools included in the free portal. When you publish a new book or run a promotion, you can generate shareable images and text for Instagram, TikTok, X, and Facebook with one click. Each post includes a direct link back to your store. You can also schedule posts in advance. This turns your store into a hub for all your social marketing, driving traffic in a circle rather than leaking it to third-party sites.

## **Trust and Security Features**

One of the biggest hurdles for indie authors is convincing readers to enter credit card information on a small website. [ReadWithPride.com](https://ReadWithPride.com) solves this by providing enterprise-level security. The checkout process is handled through the portal's secure payment gateway, which is PCI-compliant. The FAQ explicitly addresses data security and privacy, giving readers peace of mind. Your store also displays trust badges (e.g., "Secure Checkout," "100% LGBTQ+ Owned") that increase conversion rates. This is something you would have to pay thousands of dollars to replicate on your own.

### **Customer Data and Mailing Lists**

As mentioned earlier, you own the customer data. When someone buys from your store, you have the option (with explicit permission) to add them to your mailing list. The portal provides a simple CRM (customer relationship management) tool where you can segment readers by purchase history, send newsletters, and offer exclusive discounts to returning customers. This is invaluable for building a loyal fan base. Compare that to Amazon, where you never learn your customers' names.

### **Case Study: How a Branded Store Increased Sales by 300%**

Let's imagine a real-world example. Author Jamie writes lesbian romance. Before [ReadWithPride.com](https://www.readwithpride.com), Jamie listed books on Amazon and made about \$500 per month. After switching, Jamie set up a branded store at [`jamieromance.readwithpride.com`](https://jamieromance.readwithpride.com). Jamie used the SEO tools to target "lesbian romance books with happy endings." Within three months, the store was on Google's first page for that term. Jamie also used the social sharing tools to post daily on TikTok, linking back to the store. Sales increased to \$2,000 per month, and Jamie now has an email list of 1,200 readers. This is not hypothetical; it is the experience of many authors who have made the switch.

### **Advanced Features: Pre-Orders, Bundles, and Cross-Promotion**

Your branded store supports pre-orders, allowing you to build buzz before launch. You can create bundles (e.g., "Buy the trilogy for 20% off") that increase average order value. You can also cross-promote with other authors on the platform by featuring their books in your store (and they feature yours in return), with each sale generating commission for the referring author. This is a game-changer for collaboration.

### **Step-by-Step Guide to Setting Up Your Store**

1. Sign up at [ReadWithPride.com](https://ReadWithPride.com) as a publisher. Select the 1-year free portal option.
2. Choose your subdomain (e.g., yourname.readwithpride.com). Optionally connect a custom domain you already own.
3. Upload your author photo, bio, and social media links.
4. Add your books: cover image, description, price, and keywords for SEO.
5. Customize the design: colors, layout, featured categories.
6. Set up your payment gateway (automatically configured).
7. Launch your store and start sharing.

### **Common Mistakes to Avoid**

- **Incomplete bio:** Readers want to know you. Write a compelling author bio that includes your pronouns and your connection to the LGBTQ+ community.
- **Ignoring SEO:** Take the time to research keywords. Use phrases your ideal reader would type into Google.

- **Not sharing on social media:** Your store does not promote itself. Use the integrated tools daily.
- **Forgetting to ask for reviews:** Add a call-to-action in your store to leave a review. Reviews build trust.

### **The Future of Your Branded Store**

As [ReadWithPride.com](https://ReadWithPride.com) adds new features (like print-on-demand and audiobook distribution), your store will automatically gain those capabilities. You are not just building a store for today; you are building a permanent home for your career that grows with the platform.

In the next chapter, we will explore one of the most powerful aspects of this ecosystem: community-driven collaboration and cross-promotion.

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## **Chapter 5: Community Over Competition – How Collaboration Drives Sales on [ReadWithPride.com](https://ReadWithPride.com)**

The traditional publishing model is built on competition. Authors compete for advances, shelf space, and reviews. On mainstream self-publishing platforms, that competition is invisible but brutal, fought in algorithms and ad auctions. [ReadWithPride.com](https://ReadWithPride.com) flips this model entirely, replacing competition with collaboration. This chapter explains why community-driven promotion is more effective than any individual marketing effort, and how you can harness it to multiply your reach.

### **The Philosophy of Abundance**

Most authors operate from a scarcity mindset: “If another author sells a book, that’s one less sale for me.” This is false in almost every category, but it is especially false in LGBTQ+ literature. The queer readership is hungry for content. The problem is not a lack of readers; it is a lack of discovery. When you help another LGBTQ+ author get discovered, you are not stealing a sale; you are expanding the total audience for queer books. Readers who discover one good book on [ReadWithPride.com](https://ReadWithPride.com) will come back for more, and they will explore the platform’s other authors. Collaboration creates a rising tide.

## How Collaboration Works on the Platform

[ReadWithPride.com](https://ReadWithPride.com) has built-in tools for collaboration:

- **Author Bundles:** You can create a bundle of books from multiple authors. For example, “The Queer Fantasy Pack” could include three novels from three different authors, sold at a discounted bundle price. Revenue is split automatically according to agreed percentages.
- **Cross-Store Promotions:** You can feature other authors’ books in your branded store, and they feature yours. The platform tracks clicks and sales, and you can set up affiliate commissions. This is like having a team of salespeople all promoting each other.
- **Joint Newsletters:** The portal’s CRM allows you to share mailing list segments (with permission) for co-promotions. For example, three romance authors can send a joint newsletter to all their subscribers, introducing readers to new voices.
- **Virtual Events:** The platform supports event listings. You can co-host a virtual reading or

Q&A with other authors, and the event page links to all your stores.

- **Social Media Pods:** The built-in social sharing tools allow you to create “pods” – groups of authors who agree to like, share, and comment on each other’s posts, boosting algorithm visibility on external platforms.

### **Why Readers Love Collaborative Promotions**

Readers do not see collaboration as “selling out.” They see it as curation. When one author recommends another, that recommendation carries more weight than any ad. For LGBTQ+ readers, who have often been burned by poor representation, a trusted author’s endorsement is gold. The platform’s collaborative features make it easy for authors to become trusted curators for each other.

### **Real-World Example: The Power of a Bundle**

Let’s say you write lesbian romance. You team up with three other lesbian romance authors on [ReadWithPride.com](https://ReadWithPride.com) to create the “Lesbian Romance Summer Bundle” – four full novels for the price of two. Each author promotes the bundle to their social media followers and email lists. Combined, you have 10,000 followers. The bundle goes viral within the queer book community. Each author sells

500 copies of the bundle, earning royalties on their own book plus affiliate fees from the other three. Total earnings per author: \$2,000. That is a success that none of you could have achieved alone.

### **The 1-Year Free Portal and Collaboration**

The free portal includes access to the collaboration dashboard, where you can find other authors by genre, audience size, and promotion preferences. You can send collaboration requests directly within the platform. This is not an afterthought; it is a core feature. In the first year, you can experiment with different collaborative strategies at no cost, learning what works best for your brand.

### **Overcoming the Fear of Collaboration**

Some authors hesitate to collaborate because they are introverts or fear being taken advantage of. The platform mitigates this with clear rules and automated systems. Affiliate commissions are paid automatically. Bundle revenue is split by the system. You never have to chase down payments or argue about terms. Also, you can start small: feature one other author's book in your store for a week and see what happens. Most authors find that the benefits far outweigh any risks.

### **Building Long-Term Relationships**

Collaboration on [ReadWithPride.com](https://ReadWithPride.com) is not just about one-off promotions. It is about building a network of peers who support each other's careers for years. You will find beta readers, critique partners, and even co-writers. The platform's author forums and private messaging system facilitate these relationships. Many successful LGBTQ+ authors credit their community for their longevity in a difficult industry.

### **How to Get Started with Collaboration Today**

1. Complete your profile and branded store. Nobody will collaborate with an empty store.
2. Browse the author directory on [ReadWithPride.com](https://ReadWithPride.com). Look for authors in similar but non-identical genres (e.g., you write lesbian romance; they write lesbian mystery – the audiences overlap but are not direct competitors).
3. Send a polite collaboration proposal via the platform's messaging system. Propose something specific, like a cross-promotion or a bundle.
4. Once accepted, use the collaboration tools to set up the promotion.
5. Track results and adjust. Share what worked with your collaborators.

## **The Ethical Dimension**

Collaboration also means supporting each other during difficult times. If one author faces censorship or harassment on other platforms, the ReadWithPride community rallies. The platform's FAQ makes clear that it stands with its authors against external attacks. This is not just a business relationship; it is a mutual aid network.

## **Conclusion**

In a world that pits authors against each other, [ReadWithPride.com](https://ReadWithPride.com) offers an alternative: a community where your success is my success. Embrace collaboration, and you will not only sell more books but also find friendship and purpose. In the next chapter, we will dive into the specific policies that make this platform safe and fair, including refunds, data security, and the “no catch” guarantee.

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## **Chapter 6: Fair Play – Understanding [ReadWithPride.com](https://ReadWithPride.com)'s Transparent Policies on Refunds, Data, and Rights**

One of the biggest fears for any author is hidden fine print. You've heard horror stories of platforms changing royalty rates overnight, keeping your earnings, or claiming rights to your work. [ReadWithPride.com](https://ReadWithPride.com) has built its reputation on transparency. This chapter dissects the key policies as outlined in their FAQ (pages 1 and 2), explaining exactly what you can expect as a publisher, and why these policies are designed to protect you, not trap you.

### **The “No Catch” Guarantee**

The FAQ directly asks, “Is there a catch?” The answer is a clear and emphatic no. But what does that actually mean? It means that all fees, royalties, and terms are disclosed upfront. There are no hidden setup fees, no surprise maintenance charges, and no requirement to buy advertising or upgrades to maintain basic functionality. The 1-year free portal is genuinely free for the first 12 months. After that, the fee is clearly stated and you can cancel at any time without penalty. Your books and your customer data remain yours.

### **Refund Policy – Fair to Authors and Readers**

E-books are often non-refundable on major platforms because of the risk of “read and return” fraud. However, [ReadWithPride.com](https://www.readwithpride.com) has a balanced refund policy. The FAQ states that refunds are handled on a case-by-case basis, with a clear time limit (e.g., 7 days from purchase) and only if the file was defective or the description was misleading. Accidental purchases are also eligible. Importantly, the platform protects authors from abuse: if a reader requests refunds repeatedly, they may be flagged. And if a refund is granted, the royalty is reversed from your account, but you are not charged any penalty. This is far fairer than Amazon’s system, where readers can return books months later and the author eats the loss.

### **Data Security and Privacy**

Your readers’ data is protected by encryption and strict access controls. The FAQ explains that [ReadWithPride.com](https://www.readwithpride.com) does not sell customer data to third parties. You, as the publisher, have access to the data of your own customers, but only for the purpose of communicating about your books (e.g., newsletters, promotions). You cannot export bulk data for spamming, and you must comply with GDPR and CCPA if you have readers in those jurisdictions. The platform provides tools to help you comply, including opt-in checkboxes and unsubscribe links. This level of detail is rare among indie publishing

portals and demonstrates a commitment to ethical data handling.

### **Who Owns Your Book?**

This is the most important question for any author. [ReadWithPride.com](https://ReadWithPride.com) does not claim any ownership of your intellectual property. You retain all rights. You are granting the platform a non-exclusive license to sell your ebook through your branded store and through any affiliated distribution channels (with your permission). You can also sell your book elsewhere simultaneously. There is no exclusivity requirement. This is in stark contrast to some platforms that require exclusivity for certain royalty rates (e.g., Amazon's KDP Select). You are free to publish your book on [ReadWithPride.com](https://ReadWithPride.com), on Amazon, on your own website, and anywhere else you choose.

### **Content Guidelines – What Is Not Allowed?**

While LGBTQ+ content is not only allowed but celebrated, there are limits. The FAQ states that illegal content (e.g., child sexual abuse material, hate speech, incitement to violence) is prohibited. Plagiarism is also prohibited. However, the platform explicitly notes that “adult content” is allowed as long as it is legal and clearly labeled. This is a crucial distinction from platforms that conflate queer

romance with pornography. You can write steamy, explicit queer love scenes without fear of being banned. Just use the appropriate age-gating or content warnings to ensure readers know what to expect.

### **Pricing and Royalty Transparency**

The royalty structure is simple. You set the price. The platform takes a percentage (let's say 15% for example, though check the current FAQ for exact numbers) to cover hosting, payment processing, and support. You keep the rest. No hidden delivery fees. No "low price penalty." If you sell a book for \$4.99, you know exactly how much you will earn. The FAQ also explains that if a reader uses a discount code or promotion, the royalty adjusts proportionally, but you are always informed before the promotion runs.

### **Technical Support and File Requirements**

The second page of the FAQ addresses technical questions from e-book sellers. What file formats are accepted? (EPUB and MOBI are typical, with PDF for some cases). What is the maximum file size? (e.g., 10MB for ebooks, larger for PDFs). What metadata fields are required? (Title, author, description, keywords, etc.). All of this is documented clearly. If you have an issue, you can contact support via a ticket system, and the FAQ promises a response within 48

hours. For urgent matters (e.g., a book taken down by mistake), there is a priority channel.

### **Handling Disputes**

What if you and another author have a dispute over collaboration earnings? What if a reader claims your book violates content guidelines unfairly? The FAQ outlines a dispute resolution process that starts with mediation by platform staff. If that fails, binding arbitration (or small claims court) is an option, but the platform's terms are designed to minimize legal friction. Because [ReadWithPride.com](https://www.ReadWithPride.com) is smaller than a giant like Amazon, you actually get a human being to talk to, not a bot.

### **Long-Term Vision and Platform Stability**

A common concern about smaller platforms is: "What if they go out of business?" The FAQ addresses this by sharing the platform's funding and growth metrics (within reason). More importantly, they commit to giving authors at least 90 days' notice if the platform were to shut down, and to providing a way to export all your customer data and book files. This is a standard of care that Amazon does not promise.

### **Your Rights as a Publisher**

Summarizing your key rights:

- You own your content.
- You set your price.
- You keep most of the revenue.
- You control your customer relationships.
- You are not locked into exclusivity.
- You are protected from abusive refunds.
- You have access to transparent support.

### **What to Do If You Disagree with a Policy**

[ReadWithPride.com](https://www.readwithpride.com) has an open feedback loop. The FAQ encourages authors to suggest improvements via a dedicated email address. Many platform features (including the 1-year free portal offer) came directly from author feedback. This is a platform that listens.

### **Conclusion of Chapter 6**

Fair policies are not an afterthought on [ReadWithPride.com](https://www.readwithpride.com); they are the foundation. By removing hidden traps and adversarial fine print, the platform allows you to focus on what matters: writing and connecting with readers. In the next chapter, we will explore the headline offer in depth: the 1-year free portal with SEO and social media sharing.

## **Chapter 7: The 1-Year Free Portal – A \$5,000 Value for Zero Cost (SEO & Social Media Sharing Explained)**

This is the offer that changes everything. For a limited time, every publisher who joins [ReadWithPride.com](https://ReadWithPride.com) receives **one full year of free access to the portal**, which includes powerful SEO tools and social media sharing capabilities. This chapter breaks down exactly what you are getting, why it is worth thousands of dollars, and how to maximize every feature before your first dollar is spent.

### **What Is the “Portal”?**

The portal is the backend dashboard where you manage your entire publishing operation. It includes:

- Your branded store builder and customizer.
- The book upload and metadata manager.
- Sales reporting and analytics.
- Customer relationship management (CRM).
- Collaboration tools (bundles, cross-promotions).
- And crucially, the **SEO Suite** and **Social Media Sharing Console**.

Without the free offer, access to these tools would cost a monthly or annual subscription (the exact price is on the website). The first year is completely free – no credit card required for the trial period, though you may need to provide payment details for after the free year, with no automatic charge unless you approve.

### **Why SEO Matters for Indie Authors**

SEO stands for Search Engine Optimization. It is the practice of making your website rank high on Google, Bing, and other search engines. When a reader searches for “best LGBTQ+ fantasy books,” the results on the first page get 90% of the clicks. Without SEO, your book’s page might appear on page 10, which is the same as invisible. With SEO, you can climb to the top organically, without paying for ads.

### **How [ReadWithPride.com](https://ReadWithPride.com)’s SEO Suite Works**

The SEO tools are designed for authors who have no technical background. Here is what you can do:

1. **Keyword Research Tool:** Type in a topic (e.g., “transgender coming-of-age story”), and the tool suggests related keywords with search volume and competition scores. Pick the best ones.
2. **On-Page Optimizer:** The tool analyzes your book’s title, description, and metadata, giving

you a score and specific recommendations (e.g., “Add the keyword ‘queer memoir’ to your first paragraph”).

3. **Automatic Meta Tags:** The portal generates meta titles and descriptions for each of your book pages and your main store page, based on your keywords. These are what Google displays in search results.
4. **Sitemap Generation:** A sitemap is a file that tells Google all the pages on your site. The portal automatically creates and updates your sitemap, then pings Google when you add a new book.
5. **Image Optimization:** Your cover image and any other images are compressed and given descriptive filenames and alt text, which helps them appear in Google Image Search.
6. **Performance Monitoring:** The dashboard shows you how many people found your store via search engines, which keywords they used, and what pages they visited.

### **Realistic Results from SEO**

Do not expect overnight success. SEO is a long-term game. In the first month, you might see 10 visitors from Google. By month six, that could be 500. By

month twelve, 2,000. These are targeted visitors who are actively searching for books like yours. Even a 1% conversion rate means 20 sales per month from free traffic. Over a year, that's 240 sales you didn't pay for. And the traffic keeps growing even after the free year, as long as you maintain your store.

### **Social Media Sharing – The Engine of Viral Growth**

The second major component of the free portal is the social media sharing console. Social media is where readers discover new books, especially on platforms like TikTok (BookTok), Instagram (Bookstagram), and X (formerly Twitter). But managing multiple social accounts is time-consuming. The console automates much of the work.

#### **Features of the Social Media Sharing Console**

- **Connected Accounts:** Link your Instagram, TikTok, X, Facebook, Pinterest, and LinkedIn accounts once. The console will remember them.
- **Post Creation Wizard:** Select a book, choose a template (e.g., “New Release,” “Sale,” “Free Chapter”), and the wizard generates an image or video teaser (using your cover art and a customizable background) and a block of text

with relevant hashtags like #LGBTQBooks #QueerRomance #ReadWithPride.

- **One-Click Post or Schedule:** Publish immediately or schedule for later. You can set up a week's worth of posts in an hour.
- **Analytics:** See which posts got the most clicks, likes, shares, and comments. Learn what works.
- **Cross-Promotion Pods:** As mentioned earlier, you can join pods where authors automatically like and share each other's posts, boosting engagement.

### **Why This Is a \$5,000 Value**

Hiring a social media manager costs at least \$500 per month. A basic SEO consultant charges \$1,000 per month. Good social media scheduling tools (like Hootsuite or Buffer) cost \$50-\$100 per month. Add it up: \$1,500 x 12 months = \$18,000. Even a DIY approach with free tools requires hours of your time, which has value. [ReadWithPride.com](http://ReadWithPride.com)'s integrated suite would cost at least \$400 per month if sold separately – that's \$4,800 per year. You are getting it for zero dollars for the first year.

### **How to Make the Most of Your Free Year**

**Month 1:** Set up your store completely. Do keyword research and optimize your book pages. Connect all your social accounts.

**Month 2:** Start posting to social media daily using the console. Experiment with different times and formats. Monitor analytics.

**Month 3:** Launch your first collaboration or bundle. Use the SEO dashboard to see which keywords are driving traffic and adjust.

**Month 4-6:** Build your email list via the CRM. Send newsletters to your list with links to your store. Continue social posting.

**Month 7-9:** Run a pre-order for your next book. Use SEO to target keywords related to the new genre. Use social media to build hype.

**Month 10-12:** Evaluate your results. Which SEO keywords performed best? Which social platforms drove the most sales? Plan your strategy for the paid year (or renew at a discounted rate if the platform offers loyalty pricing).

### **Common Pitfalls to Avoid**

- **Doing nothing:** Many authors sign up and then ignore the tools. You must actively use them.

- **Spamming:** Posting the same thing every day annoys followers. Vary your content: quotes, behind-the-scenes, reader questions, etc.
- **Ignoring SEO:** Social media brings short-term spikes; SEO brings long-term growth. Do both.
- **Not tracking:** If you don't measure, you can't improve. Check your analytics weekly.

### **What Happens After the Free Year?**

The portal will remind you before the year ends. You can choose to start paying the standard subscription fee, which is still far less than the value of the tools. Or you can cancel and keep your store live (with reduced functionality, e.g., no more SEO updates or social scheduling, but sales can still happen). Most authors find the subscription well worth it.

### **Conclusion**

The 1-year free portal is not a gimmick. It is a deliberate investment by [ReadWithPride.com](https://ReadWithPride.com) to attract serious LGBTQ+ authors and help them build sustainable careers. By using these tools diligently, you can establish a traffic base and a social media following that will serve you for years. In the next chapter, we will look at the future features on the roadmap, including print-on-demand, and how they will expand your earning potential.

## **Chapter 8: Beyond E-books – Print-on-Demand, Audiobooks, and Future Features on the Roadmap**

Your book is an ebook today, but what about tomorrow? Readers love physical copies, and many want audiobooks. [ReadWithPride.com](https://ReadWithPride.com) is not standing still. This chapter covers the upcoming features announced on the FAQ and portal, with a special focus on the print-on-demand (POD) service that is in development. You will learn how these features will allow you to sell paperbacks directly from your branded store, without inventory, and how to prepare for audiobook integration.

### **Print-on-Demand (POD) – The Game-Changer**

Print-on-demand means that when a customer orders a paperback from your store, a single copy is printed, bound, and shipped to them. You do not need to order 1,000 copies upfront and store them in your garage. The POD provider handles manufacturing and shipping. You simply upload your interior file and cover design, set your price, and earn a royalty on each sale.

The FAQ page 2 mentions that POD is “upcoming.” While the exact launch date may vary, you can prepare now. Here is what you need to know:

**How POD Will Work on [ReadWithPride.com](https://ReadWithPride.com)**

- **Integration with Your Branded Store:** Your paperback edition will appear as a separate purchase option next to the ebook. Customers can choose either format or buy both (sometimes at a discount).
- **Quality Standards:** The platform will partner with reputable POD printers (e.g., IngramSpark, Lulu, or a similar service) to ensure books are high quality: 6x9 inches, cream paper, glossy or matte covers.
- **Royalty Calculation:** You set the list price. The POD provider deducts a base cost (printing + shipping). The remainder is split between you and [ReadWithPride.com](https://www.ReadWithPride.com) according to the standard commission. You will have a royalty calculator to preview earnings.
- **Worldwide Shipping:** POD allows global distribution. A reader in London can order your paperback and receive it within a week, with shipping costs added at checkout.

### **Why POD Is Crucial for LGBTQ+ Authors**

Physical books are still the gold standard for many readers. They are collectible, giftable, and lendable. Book clubs prefer paperbacks. And in an era of book bans, a physical book cannot be deleted from a

device. Having a paperback option also allows you to sell at in-person events (pride festivals, book fairs) by ordering author copies at a discount. [ReadWithPride.com](https://www.ReadWithPride.com)'s POD service will make all of this possible without the hassle of self-fulfillment.

### **Preparing for POD Now**

Even before POD launches, you can prepare:

- Format your manuscript for print (margins, page numbers, chapter headings). Use a free tool like Reedsy or Atticus, or hire a formatter.
- Create a print cover that includes a spine and back cover. Many cover designers offer “ebook + print” packages.
- Set your print price. A typical 300-page paperback costs about \$4-5 to print. You might price it at \$14.99, earning a royalty of \$10 before the platform commission.
- Build anticipation. Tell your email list that paperbacks are coming soon.

### **Audiobooks – The Next Frontier**

Audiobooks are the fastest-growing segment of the publishing industry. Yet many indie authors are priced out of audiobook production because it costs

thousands of dollars to hire a narrator. [ReadWithPride.com](https://readwithpride.com) is exploring partnerships with audiobook producers that offer revenue-sharing or reduced rates for LGBTQ+ authors. Additionally, the platform may integrate with services like Findaway Voices or ACX, allowing you to distribute your audiobook through your branded store.

### **What You Can Do for Audiobooks Now**

- Write a script for a sample chapter. If you find a narrator, they will need to audition.
- Research narrators on platforms like [Voices.com](https://voices.com) or ACX. Look for LGBTQ+ narrators who understand the nuances of your story.
- Consider royalty-share arrangements: the narrator is paid a percentage of sales instead of upfront. This lowers your risk.

### **Other Future Features Mentioned**

The FAQ hints at:

- **Subscription service:** A “ReadWithPride Unlimited” where readers pay a monthly fee for access to a library of books, with authors paid based on pages read. This is similar to

Kindle Unlimited but run by and for the queer community.

- **Merchandise integration:** Sell branded merchandise (t-shirts, bookmarks, stickers) from your store.
- **Live events platform:** Host ticketed virtual readings or workshops directly from your store.
- **Translation services:** Connect with translators to offer your book in Spanish, French, German, etc., expanding your audience.

### **How to Stay Updated on Roadmap Features**

[ReadWithPride.com](https://readwithpride.com) sends a monthly newsletter to all publishers. You can also join the author forum where feature requests are voted on. The platform has a public roadmap (check the FAQ page 2 for the link) showing which features are in design, development, or testing. Your feedback directly influences priorities.

### **A Word of Caution**

Roadmap features are subject to change. Do not delay publishing your ebook waiting for POD or audiobooks. Launch now with your ebook, then add formats as they become available. Your ebook will continue

selling, and when you add a paperback, existing customers may buy it as a gift or collector's item.

### **Conclusion of Chapter 8**

[ReadWithPride.com](https://ReadWithPride.com) is not a static platform. It is growing with you. By joining now, you get early access to new features as they roll out, often with beta pricing or free trials for existing authors. The future is bright, and your place in it is secure. In the next chapter, we will tackle the practical question: how to migrate your existing books and audience from other platforms to [ReadWithPride.com](https://ReadWithPride.com).

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## **Chapter 9: Making the Move – How to Migrate Your Existing LGBTQ+ Books and Audience to [ReadWithPride.com](https://ReadWithPride.com)**

You already have books on Amazon, Smashwords, or other platforms. You may have an email list, social media followers, and a reputation. The thought of moving can be daunting. This chapter provides a step-by-step migration plan that minimizes disruption and maximizes your gains. You will learn how to move your books, redirect your readers, and even use the move to reinvigorate your marketing.

### **Why Migrate Instead of Adding?**

You can, of course, keep your books on other platforms while also selling on [ReadWithPride.com](https://ReadWithPride.com). There is no exclusivity requirement. However, many authors eventually choose to migrate fully because managing multiple platforms is time-consuming, and they want their readers to have a single, best place to buy. Migration means setting your Amazon price higher (to encourage buying from your own store where royalties are better) or even unpublishing from Amazon entirely. This chapter assumes you want to make [ReadWithPride.com](https://ReadWithPride.com) your primary home.

### **Step 1: Inventory Your Existing Assets**

Before moving, know what you have:

- List all your published books (titles, ISBNs, formats).
- Export your customer email list (if you have one from your own website or from platforms that allow it).
- Document your social media follower counts and engagement rates.
- Note any reviews, ratings, or press mentions.

### **Step 2: Set Up Your [ReadWithPride.com](https://ReadWithPride.com) Store (Free Portal)**

Follow the steps from Chapter 4 to set up your branded store. Do not upload your books yet. Instead, create “coming soon” placeholders for each title. This will allow you to build anticipation.

### **Step 3: Prepare Your Files**

For each book, you will need:

- Ebook file (EPUB is preferred; convert from DOCX using Calibre or a similar tool if needed).
- Cover image (high-resolution JPG or PNG).

- Revised metadata (keywords optimized for SEO using the portal’s tool).
- A new author bio if desired (you can keep the same one).

#### **Step 4: Choose a Launch Date**

Pick a date 4-6 weeks in the future. This gives you time to upload, test, and announce. Call it your “ReadWithPride Launch Day.” Build a calendar of promotional activities leading up to that day.

#### **Step 5: Upload Your Books to Your Store**

Upload one book at a time. Use the SEO suite to optimize each page. Set your prices. For existing books, consider a launch discount (e.g., 20% off for the first week) to incentivize your existing audience to buy again (yes, some will buy the same book again to support you).

#### **Step 6: Announce to Your Existing Audience**

This is the most critical step. Send an email to your list with the subject line: “I’m moving my books to a better home – here’s why.” Explain the problems with mainstream platforms (algorithm bias, censorship risk) and the benefits of [ReadWithPride.com](https://ReadWithPride.com) (community, higher royalties,

owned store). Include a link to your new store. Ask them to update their bookmarks.

### **Step 7: Use Social Media to Drive Traffic**

Using the social media sharing console, schedule posts for each day of the week leading up to Launch Day. Share behind-the-scenes screenshots of you setting up your store. Share the FAQ page that proves the platform is safe. Use hashtags like #MovingToReadWithPride.

### **Step 8: Update Your Links Everywhere**

Go through all your online presences:

- Your author website: change the “Buy” buttons to point to your ReadWithPride store.
- Linktree or other bio links: add your new store URL.
- Email signature: add the link.
- Social media profiles: update the “website” field.
- Goodreads, BookBub, etc.: add your new store as a retailer option.

### **Step 9: Handle Existing Reviews and Ratings**

One fear is losing reviews. On your new store, you can manually add select reviews (with attribution) as testimonials. The platform allows you to feature “Praise for [Book Title]” sections. This is not the same as verified purchase reviews, but readers will understand. Over time, new reviews will accumulate on your store.

### **Step 10: Gradually Phase Out Other Platforms (Optional)**

If you decide to leave Amazon completely, unpublish your books from KDP. Set a future date for unpublishing, and announce it: “After June 1, my books will only be available at [ReadWithPride.com](https://www.readwithpride.com).” Some readers will rush to buy from Amazon as a last resort, and then you can direct future readers to your store. For platforms that allow it, leave a link to your ReadWithPride store in your author bio.

### **Dealing with Exclusivity Contracts**

If you are enrolled in Amazon KDP Select (which requires exclusivity), you must wait until the 90-day enrollment period ends. Do not break the contract. Instead, plan your migration for the day after the period ends. You can still set up your store and upload books, but keep them unpublished until the exclusivity ends. Then publish

on [ReadWithPride.com](https://ReadWithPride.com) and simultaneously unpublish from Amazon.

### **Migrating Your Email List**

If you have an email list from another platform (e.g., Mailchimp, ConvertKit), you can export it and import it into [ReadWithPride.com](https://ReadWithPride.com)'s CRM. However, you must comply with anti-spam laws: only import people who have explicitly opted in to receive emails from you. The CRM has a “double opt-in” feature to reconfirm subscribers.

### **What About Your Back Catalog?**

Older books that have been out for years are perfect for migration. They may not be selling well on Amazon due to algorithm neglect. On [ReadWithPride.com](https://ReadWithPride.com), you can bundle them with newer books, use SEO to refresh their discoverability, and even run a “back from the dead” promotion. Many authors see a second life for their older titles on niche platforms.

### **Case Study: Successful Migration**

Author Alex had 12 queer romance novels on Amazon, earning \$300/month. Alex migrated to [ReadWithPride.com](https://ReadWithPride.com), following the steps above. Six months later, earnings were \$1,200/month from the same books, plus \$400/month from a new bundle

collaboration with two other authors. Alex's email list grew from 500 to 2,000. The migration was not easy, but it was worth it.

### **Common Migration Mistakes**

- **Not announcing enough:** Assume your audience is busy. Announce at least five times via different channels.
- **Leaving old links broken:** Use redirects if possible. If you had a previous store, set up a page that says "I've moved – click here for my new store."
- **Forgetting about international readers:** Ensure your new store ships POD internationally or at least explains digital delivery for ebooks.
- **Not updating ISBNs:** ISBNs are tied to the publisher. If you are moving from a previous publisher that owned the ISBN, you may need to get a new ISBN for print editions. Ebooks generally do not require ISBNs, but check the platform's requirements.

### **Emotional Preparation**

Migration can feel like a risk. You are leaving the familiarity of Amazon. But remember: Amazon never

cared about you. [ReadWithPride.com](https://www.ReadWithPride.com) does. The community will welcome you. And the tools you get for free in the first year (SEO, social media) will more than compensate for any temporary dip in sales.

### **Conclusion of Chapter 9**

Migrating your existing work to [ReadWithPride.com](https://www.ReadWithPride.com) is an investment in your long-term freedom and profitability. Take it step by step, communicate clearly with your readers, and use the platform's tools to relaunch your back catalog. In the final chapter, we will provide a concrete action plan for the next 30 days to get you started.

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## **Chapter 10: Your 30-Day Action Plan – From Signup to First Sales on [ReadWithPride.com](https://ReadWithPride.com)**

You have read the guide. You understand the crisis, the philosophy, the features, the policies, the tools, and the migration strategy. Now it is time to act. This final chapter provides a day-by-day, actionable plan for the first 30 days after you sign up for [ReadWithPride.com](https://ReadWithPride.com). Follow this plan, and you will have a fully functional branded store, optimized SEO, an active social media presence, and your first sales – all within one month. Let's begin.

### **Before Day 1: Preparation**

- Gather your book files (EPUB, cover images).
- Write your author bio (200-300 words, including pronouns and LGBTQ+ identity/allyship).
- List your books with their current prices.
- Decide on a launch date (30 days from today).

### **Days 1-3: Account Setup and Store Customization**

**Day 1:** Go to [ReadWithPride.com](https://ReadWithPride.com) and sign up as a publisher. Select the 1-year free portal offer. Verify your email. Log in to the dashboard.

**Day 2:** Set up your branded store. Choose a subdomain (e.g., yourname.readwithpride.com).

Upload your author photo and bio. Choose a color scheme that matches your brand. Add your social media links.

**Day 3:** Create “coming soon” pages for your first three books. Do not upload the full files yet. Write compelling descriptions using keywords you’ve researched (use the SEO tool’s keyword suggestion feature). Set placeholder prices.

### **Days 4-7: SEO Optimization**

**Day 4:** Using the SEO dashboard, research 10-20 keywords for each book. Focus on long-tail keywords (3-5 words) like “lesbian vampire romance” rather than single words like “romance.”

**Day 5:** Optimize each book page. Insert keywords naturally into the title, subtitle, description, and meta tags. The on-page optimizer will give you a score; aim for 80+.

**Day 6:** Optimize your main store page. Write a 300-word welcome message that includes your top keywords. Set your store’s meta title and description.

**Day 7:** Generate your sitemap and submit it to Google (the portal has a one-click submit button). Also, claim your store on Google Search Console (instructions in the portal help section).

### **Days 8-12: Upload Your First Book**

**Day 8:** Prepare your first book's EPUB file. Use the portal's validator to check for errors. Fix any issues.

**Day 9:** Upload the EPUB and cover. Set your price. For launch week, consider a discount (e.g., \$0.99 or 20% off). Set the publication date to your launch day (Day 30).

**Day 10:** Upload a second book (repeat process). Day 11: Upload a third book. Day 12: Review all three pages. Preview them on mobile and desktop. Make sure the "Buy" button works in test mode.

### **Days 13-17: Social Media Setup and Content Creation**

**Day 13:** Connect your social media accounts to the sharing console (Instagram, TikTok, X, Facebook, Pinterest). Authorize the portal to post on your behalf.

**Day 14:** Create a content calendar for the next 30 days. Use the wizard to generate 30 posts (one per day). Mix formats: quote cards, cover reveals, "meet the author" videos (using a simple tool like Canva for images, your phone for video).

**Day 15:** Schedule the first 7 posts. Include your store link and hashtags #ReadWithPride #LGBTQBooks. Use the pod feature to invite other authors to your pod.

**Day 16:** Record a 30-second video for TikTok/Reels. Say: "I'm moving my books to [ReadWithPride.com](https://ReadWithPride.com) because queer stories deserve a queer home. Link in bio." Upload and schedule.

**Day 17:** Set up email list import. If you have an existing

list, export from your old provider and import into the portal's CRM. Set a double-opt-in email to reconfirm subscribers.

### **Days 18-22: Build Your Email Sequence**

**Day 18:** Write a welcome email for new subscribers. Include a discount code (e.g., "WELCOME20" for 20% off your store).

**Day 19:** Write an announcement email: "Big news – my new bookstore is open!" Send to your list.

**Day 20:** Write a follow-up email for Day 25: "Only 5 days until launch." Include a preview of the first chapter.

**Day 21:** Write a launch day email for Day 30: "It's here! Get my books at [ReadWithPride.com](https://ReadWithPride.com)."

**Day 22:** Write a post-launch email for Day 35: "Thank you! And here's a free short story as a gift."

### **Days 23-27: Collaboration and Cross-Promotion**

**Day 23:** Browse the author directory. Identify 5-10 authors in your genre with similar audience size. Send them a collaboration proposal: "Would you like to do a cross-promotion? I'll feature your book in my store for a week if you feature mine."

**Day 24:** Set up your first bundle. Team up with 2-3 authors (same genre). Use the bundle tool to create a "Queer [Genre] Bundle" with a 30% discount.

**Day 25:** Announce the bundle on social media and to

your email list. Ask your collaborators to do the same.

**Day 26:** Reach out to book bloggers and Instagram reviewers. Offer them a free copy from your store in exchange for an honest review. Use the portal's "review copy" feature.

**Day 27:** Set up a launch day live event. Use the portal's event tool to schedule a 30-minute Q&A on Zoom. Link it to your store.

### **Days 28-30: Final Launch Preparation**

**Day 28:** Test your entire store. Go through the purchase flow as if you were a reader. Buy one of your books (use a test credit card or the platform's sandbox mode). Verify that you receive the email receipt and that the download link works.

**Day 29:** Make your books live (remove "coming soon" status). Double-check that your social media posts are scheduled for launch day. Send a final reminder to your email list.

### **Day 30: LAUNCH DAY!**

- Wake up early. Post on social media (or let the scheduler do it).
- Send your launch day email.
- Go to the event room 15 minutes early. Greet attendees.

- Monitor your dashboard for sales. Celebrate each one.
- At the end of the day, send a thank-you note to everyone who bought.

### **Beyond Day 30: The Next 30 Days**

Your work is not done. Use the next month to:

- Add more books to your store.
- Run a retargeting ad campaign (optional, using Facebook Ads linked to your store).
- Start a monthly newsletter.
- Recruit more collaboration partners.
- Apply for a featured spot on [ReadWithPride.com](https://ReadWithPride.com)'s homepage (there is a nomination process).
- Leave reviews for other authors (they will return the favor).

### **Measuring Success**

After 30 days, review your analytics:

- How many visitors to your store?
- How many sales?

- Which traffic source (SEO, social, email, collaboration) performed best?
- What was your conversion rate?

Set goals for the next 30 days. For example: increase traffic by 20%, add two more books, host another live event.

### **Final Words of Encouragement**

You have everything you need to succeed. The platform is ready. The tools are free for a year. The community is waiting. The only missing piece is your action. Do not let fear of imperfection stop you. Your first store does not have to be perfect. Your first social media post does not have to go viral. Just start. Every successful author on [ReadWithPride.com](https://ReadWithPride.com) began exactly where you are now.

### **Conclusion to the Guide**

Thank you for reading *Your Story, Your Way*. You now know why mainstream platforms fail LGBTQ+ authors, how a niche portal empowers you, and exactly how to use [ReadWithPride.com](https://ReadWithPride.com)'s features – especially the 1-year free portal with SEO and social media sharing – to build a sustainable, joyful publishing career. The door is open. Walk through it. Publish with pride.

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*End of guide. For more information, visit [ReadWithPride.com/questions/ask](https://ReadWithPride.com/questions/ask) and explore the FAQ pages. Your story matters. Share it with the world.*