

MARLAYNA GLYNN
GHOSTWRITER FOR HIRE FAQs

PRELIMINARY QUESTIONS FOR CLIENTS:

- Do you want to try to sell your book to a traditional publisher, or will you be self publishing?
- Do you understand the pros and cons of working with each? (I'm not a literary agent, but I can give publishing advice, such as whether to pitch to traditional publishers or choose the self-publishing route. I can't guarantee that a literary agent will agree to represent a particular client, or that a publisher will acquire a book.)
- Why are you writing a book?
- Who is your audience?
- Do you plan to sell your book, and if so, why will readers buy it?
- What is your timeline – start to finish?
- What's your budget? (Ghostwriting an entire book typically costs \$35,000+ depending on the length, scope of the project, author involvement, and other factors. If you have a manuscript or material already written that needs reworking or editing, we can discuss an appropriate fee.)
- Do you have material for me to use (beginning of a book, an outline, some chapters, articles, letters), or will I work with you to create the book from scratch?
- How will information be given to me? Video? Notes? Personal interviews?
- What's your goal for your book?
- What's your biggest fear about writing a book?
- Will I need to travel to you?
- What are comparable titles you want to emulate?

QUESTIONS FOR ME:

- How many books have you ghostwritten?
- What does your ideal process look like?
- What do you know about the subject of my book? Have you written about it before?
- How do you charge?
- How will you capture my voice?
- What do you bring to my project?
- What do you think of my vision for the book?
- What do you think my best publishing route is? Why?
- What should I know as a client before I hire a ghostwriter or collaborator?

AVERAGE FEES:

- Ghostwriters average \$70 an hour, with a per project low of \$5000, high of \$100,000, and average of \$36,000 (excluding celebrity writers and clients). The per word costs are 50 cents low, \$3 high, and average \$1.65 (per The Writer's Market).
- Average cost for a 50K to 70K book: \$36,000
- Book Proposal (query and packaging): \$12,000

GENERAL ROLE OF A GHOSTWRITER:

- Share publishing industry knowledge
- Collaborative spirit/ability
- Supreme management skills to structure and organize material
- Establish and expertly communicate project, budget and time frame parameters
- Manage information exchange: audio, video, written, edit existing work, research, interviews
- Conduct interviews
- Research
- Keep client on schedule
- Capture client's voice
- Write the book

WRITTEN AGREEMENT/CONTRACT

- Description of work to be performed
- How and when I'll be paid
- Deadline for completion
- Who owns copyright (generally the client)
- Division of labor. (Who is responsible for doing what? Will you provide me with notes, data, research or other materials, and if so, by when? Will I write chapters and then send them to you for review?)
- Indemnification provisions. (As a ghostwriter, I will be indemnified from any libelous or plagiarized material provided.)
- Cover credit. (Am I working as a ghostwriter or as a co-author? For the latter, I will ask for cover credit.)
- Termination provisions. (What happens if one of us wants to back out before the book or project is complete?)
- Expenses and how they'll be shared. (Who pays for my travel expenses? Who is responsible for other expenses?)
- A confidentiality clause. (I will provide a nondisclosure agreement.)

STEPS TO HIRING A GHOSTWRITER

1. Discussion about project
2. Establish parameters
3. Contract signed
4. Client pays deposit
5. Establish information exchange process (interview/video/written/research)
6. Create overall chapter outline
7. Research – get the story out of client's head
8. Write
9. Send each chapter for review/approval using Track Changes in Microsoft
10. Compile approved chapters into master document/final draft
11. One last review
12. Client signs off and sends last check (unless working with publisher)
13. Book is complete!