



## What Not to do to become an Author

For the past years of me writing and reviewing, I have come to recognize these blunders in my own work and others.

Yes, I shamefully will admit- I did all of these. And that's why I want to tell you not to. Because they won't work to get you to be an author.

Regret aside, I do feel like I learned a lot in my journey (still on a journey in fact, not there yet) and I wanna help others out.

When you know what not to do, then its easier to know what to do:

1. Don't Expect to get rich. I know you hear this all the time, but writers make close to nothing. (Exceptions like JK Rowling are rare). Write if you have the passion for writing.
2. Don't stop at first drafts! Even great writers start with bad first drafts, and then mold them into something over time.(and one thousand edits later, no joke)
3. Don't just show writing to friends and family. They love you and they will be nice. Show it to an editor. Enlist the help of a professional, please! They can point out what you can't always see in your own work.
4. Don't think it's easy. Even picture books take hundreds of hours of work and may take years to write!
5. Don't rush to submit to agents/editors/publishers. Don't submit your work when you feel its ready. Seriously. STOP IMMEDIATELY. Put it aside for a few days, and then get back to it. You might see something you didn't see before.
6. Don't write without reading first. Read the top sellers in the genre you are writing in.
7. Don't scoff at courses. A children's book course was amazing for me. After taking a course, I realized I just didn't know what I was doing when I wrote, and that's why I was getting nowhere. Take a course. Learn. Apply it.
8. Don't be discouraged. Talented writers are made over time. Yes, some are born, but most write for years before they make it. So be patient.
9. Don't ignore criticism. Critics are advice-givers in disguise. Look at what they are saying-can it make your work better?

Most IMPORTANTLY, always center your niyyah to make everything be for the sake of Allah!

I'm not where I want to be yet. But, I am enjoying my journey, Alhamdulillah!

Hope you do too!

