Publish Your Own eBook

And an Insider View of How Amazon Book Sales Work

By Annette Godtland

Zumbro Lutheran Adult Forum 12/21/14

Agenda

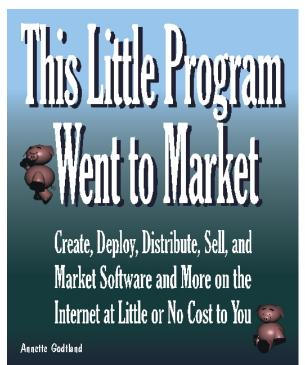
- My background in publishing
- Why eBooks?
- Writing tips
- Convert a Word document into a Kindle book and publish it on Amazon
- Sales and marketing strategies

22 Years Ago

- I sent my book idea to several publishers and got no responses.
- I gave up on that idea

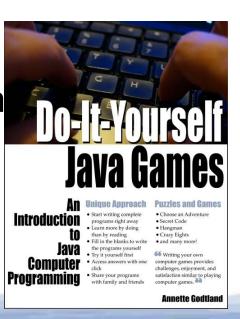
Self-Published Paper and eBook

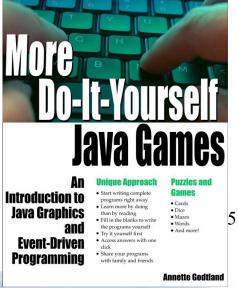
- This Little Program Went to Market (2010)
 - How to Create, Deploy, Distribute, Sell, and Market Software and More on the Internet at Little or No Cost to You
 - Print on Demand (2010)
 - Kindle (2012)
 - Nook (2012)
 - Removed in 2013



Published Kindle Only

- Do-It-Yourself Java Games (2013)
 - An Introduction to Java Game Programming
 - Kindle
- More Do-It-Yourself Java Games (2014)
 - An Introduction to Java Graphics and Event-Driven Programming
 - Kindle





Why Publish an eBook?

- Easy to self publish
- No fees involved
- On Amazon the next day
- Free marketing options
- People are buying/reading eBooks

Become a Publisher

- Sell on Amazon as an independent contractor
- Pay income taxes on book sales
- Form a business

Royalties for Publishing on Kindle

- 70% plan
 - Price your book between \$2.99 and \$9.99
 - Pays 70% of the list price minus a delivery fee (\$.15/MB)
 - My 500 page book with lots of images: \$.83 delivery fee
 - My 500 page book with much fewer images:
 \$.23 delivery fee
- 35% plan
 - Pays 35% of the list price

How Do You Read an eBook?

- Free reading apps for any device: computer, phone, tablet
- Get eReader app from amazon.com
- Link your eReader to your Amazon account
 - Only 1 Amazon account allowed on each eReader
 - Multiple eReaders allowed for each Amazon account

Get a Free Reading App



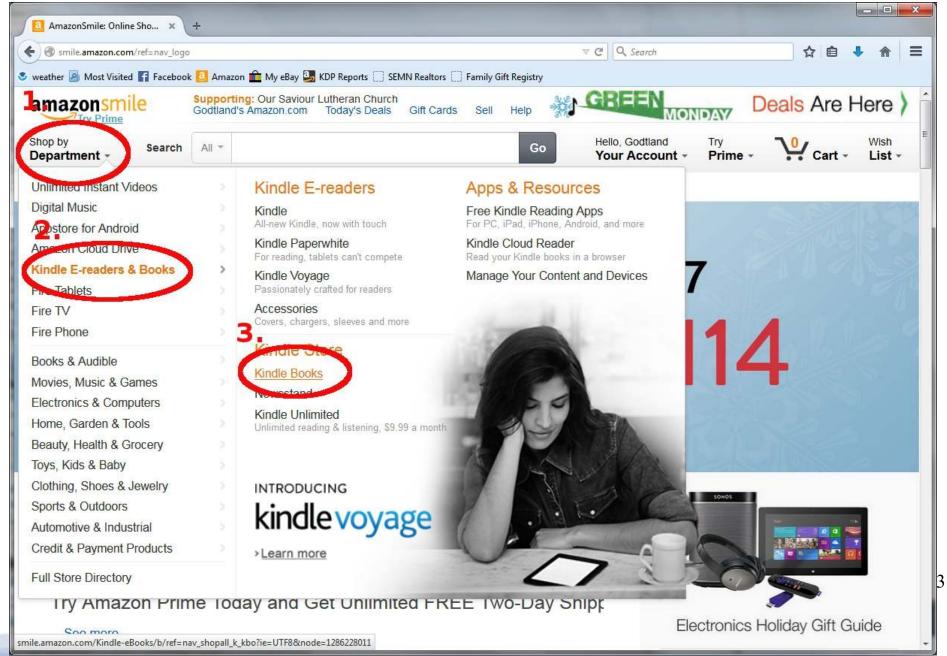
Get the Free Reading App



Why Read an eBook?

- Change the font size
- Free books!
 - Search for top free books in any category
 - List changes hourly!
- Free Samples

Go to Kindle Books



Go to Best Sellers in Kindle Books



Select Top 100 Free Books



Select Top Free Books in a Category



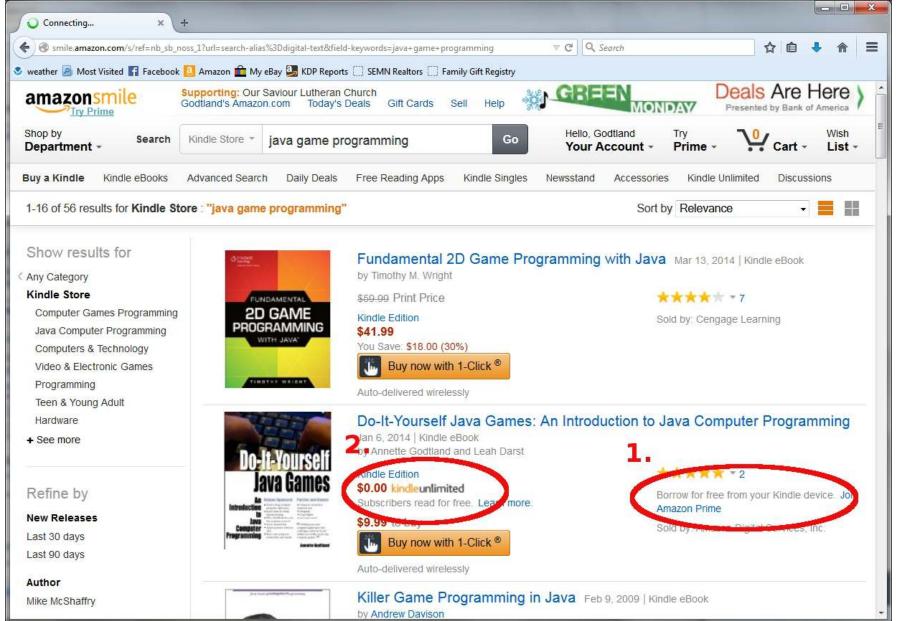
Download a Free Sample of Any Kindle Book



Paid Subscriptions to Free Books

- Kindle Prime borrow 1 free book at a time
- Kindle Unlimited borrow 10 free books at a time

Not All Books are Free with Subscription



Handling eBooks

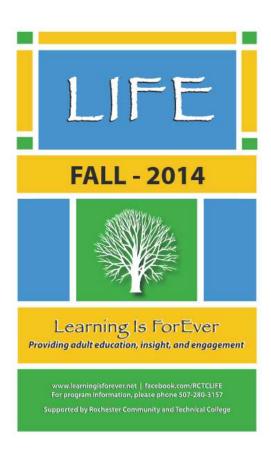
- Lend to 1 friend, 1 time, for up to 2 weeks.
- Return the book if you change your mind.

Write Something!

- Write your memoirs
- Write a how-to book of something you enjoy doing
- Write a fiction or non-fiction story you've been thinking about

LIFE Writing Classes

- "Learning is Forever"
- http://www.rctc.edu/community/seniors/life/

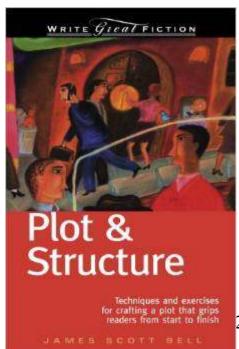


The LIFE Writing Project

- Series of 8 classes taught by Kevin Strauss
 - Getting Started
 - Rough Draft
 - Memorable Characters
 - Crisis, Conflict, or Change
 - Memorable Settings
 - Effective Writing
 - Dialog
 - Plot Tips

Books on Writing

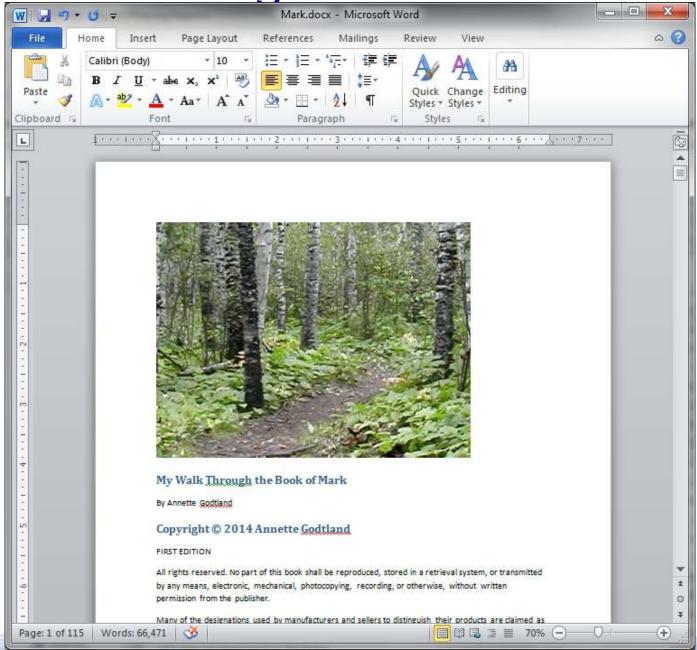
- Plot & Structure
 - Techniques and Exercises for Crafting a Plot That Grips Readers from Start to Finish
 - by James Scott Bell



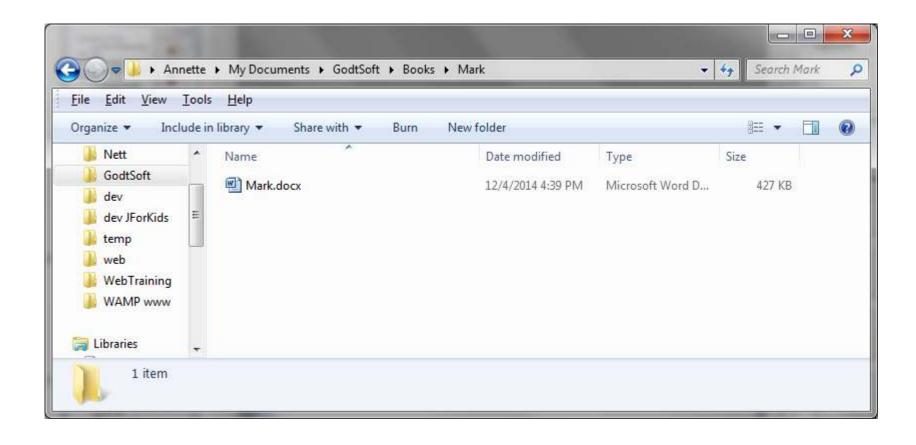
Write Your Story

- Type your story into a document
 - Microsoft Office Word
 - OpenOffice Text
 - free
 - has much of the same capability as Microsoft
 Office Word
 - download it from http://openoffice.org
 - I used OpenOffice to write all of my books

My Walk Through the Book of Mark



One File



Review

- Ask someone to edit your book
 - someone with good writing skills
 - someone willing to make all kinds of suggestions
- Rewrite
- Review
- Rewrite

•

Title Your Book

Use Search Words

 Java, Game, Programming, Computers, Kids, Introduction, Beginning, ...

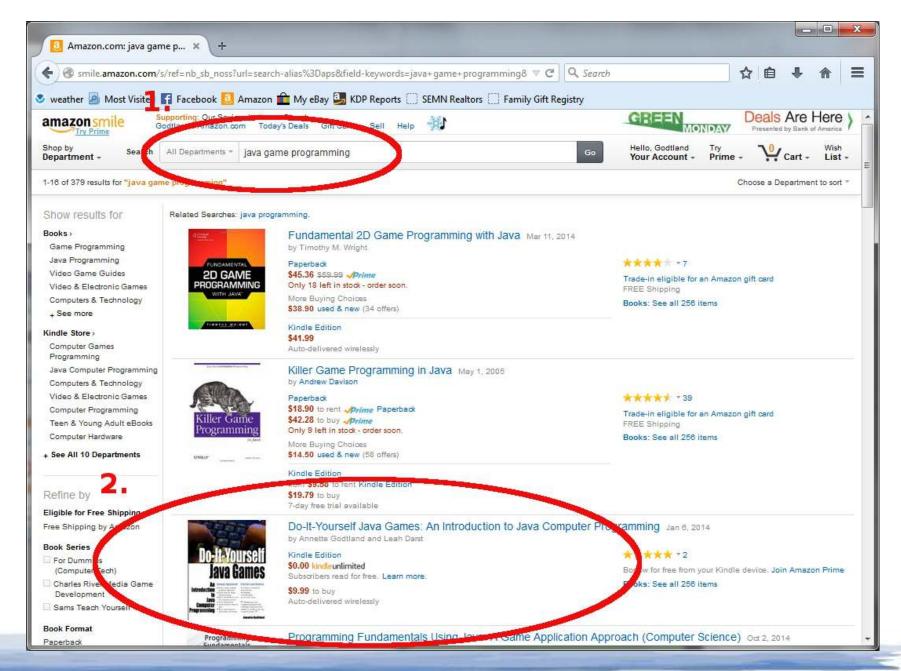
Main Title

- Easy to Remember
- "Do-It-Yourself Java Games", "This Little Program Went to Market"

Subtitle:

- More descriptive, using more search words
- "An Introduction to Java Computer Programming"

Search for Book



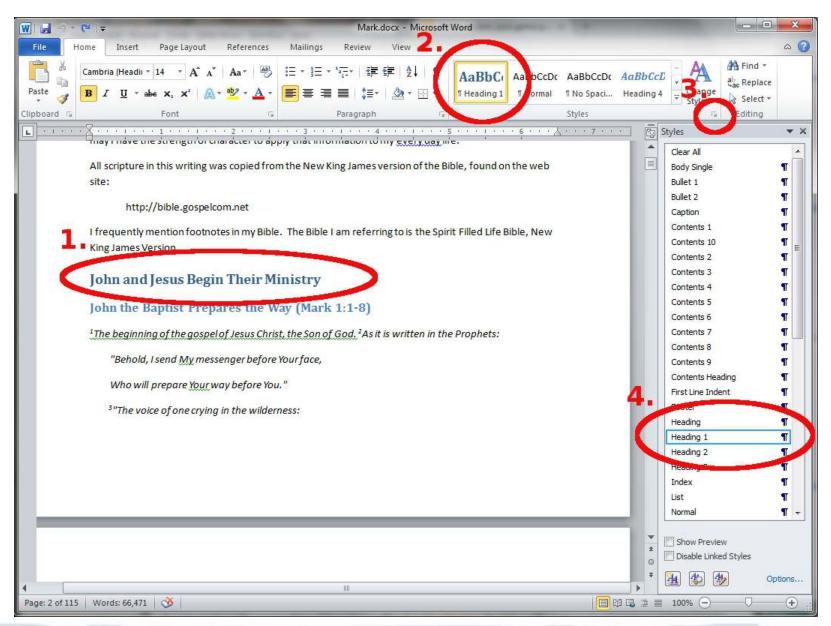
Images

- Insert images in your book
- You pay for file size
- First scale images to no more than:
 - 600 pixels wide
 - 800 pixels tall
 - 96 dpi
- Fit in the smallest Kindle

Formatting

- Use default font and font size
- Do not change font or font sizes!
- Use Heading levels for chapter titles and subchapter titles

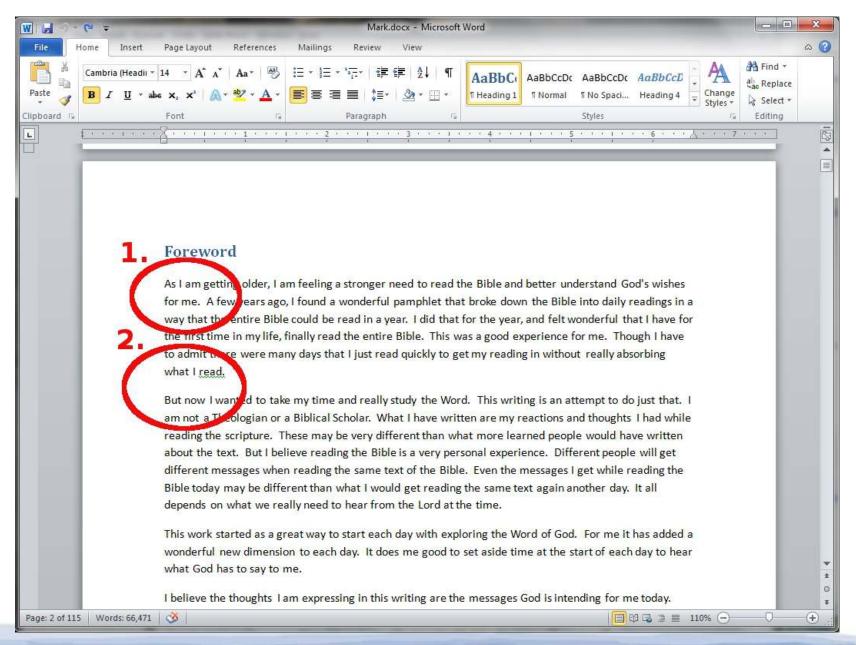
Use Heading Levels



Keep Formatting to a Minimum

- Do not indent first line of paragraphs
- Do not type a blank line between paragraphs

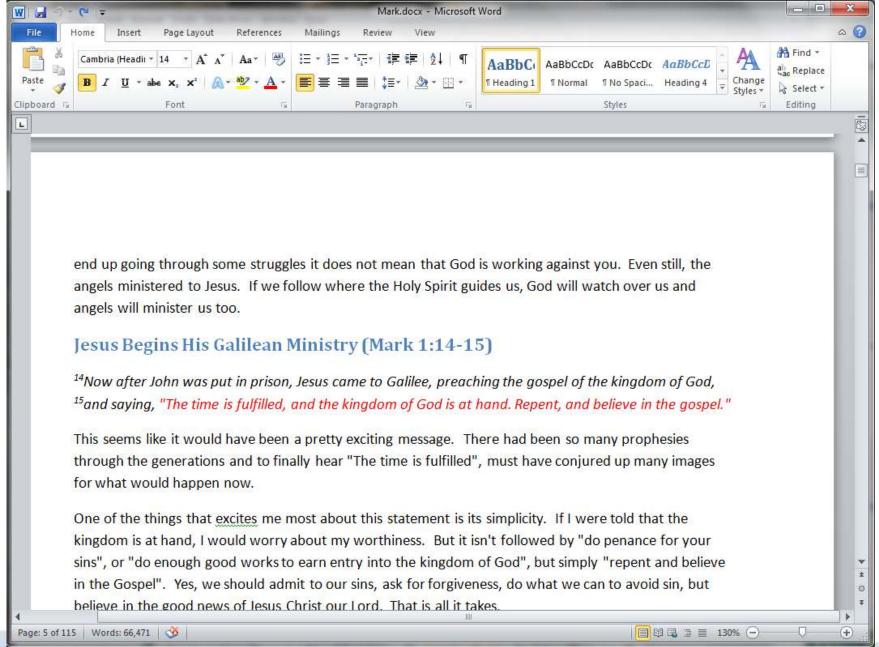
Default Paragraph Style



Keep Formatting to a Minimum

- Use italics text
- Use **bold** text
- Use colored text
- Do not use <u>underscored</u> text

Italics, Text Color, Superscript



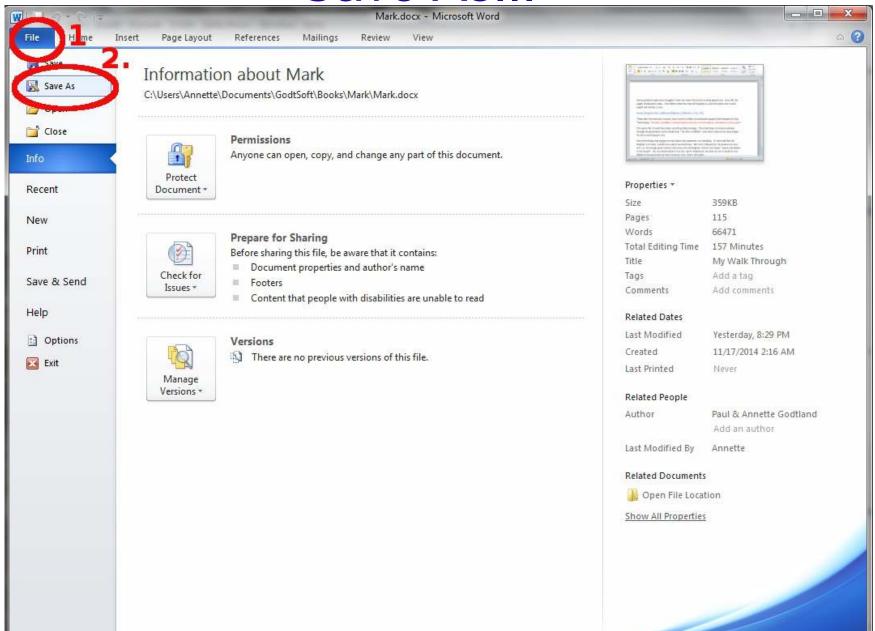
Be Aware of the First 10%

- Put good content in the first 10%
- Don't put content you don't want to give away in the first 10%

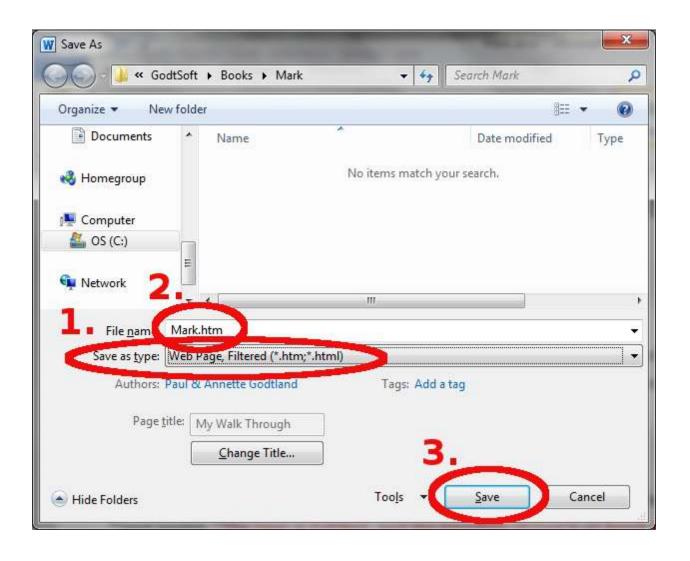
Export Your Book

- Save as an .html file
- Microsoft Office: save as Web page, filtered
- OpenOffice: save as HTML Document

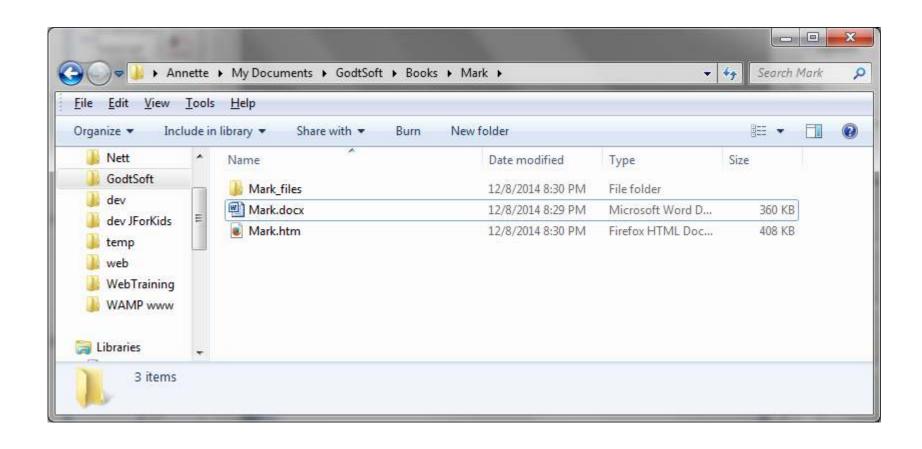
Save As...



Save as Web Page Filtered

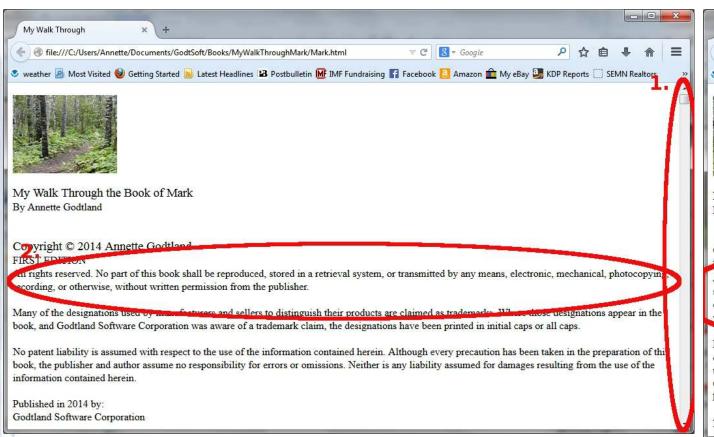


Now Have 2 files and a Folder



One Big Web Page

The book is now one giant web page.





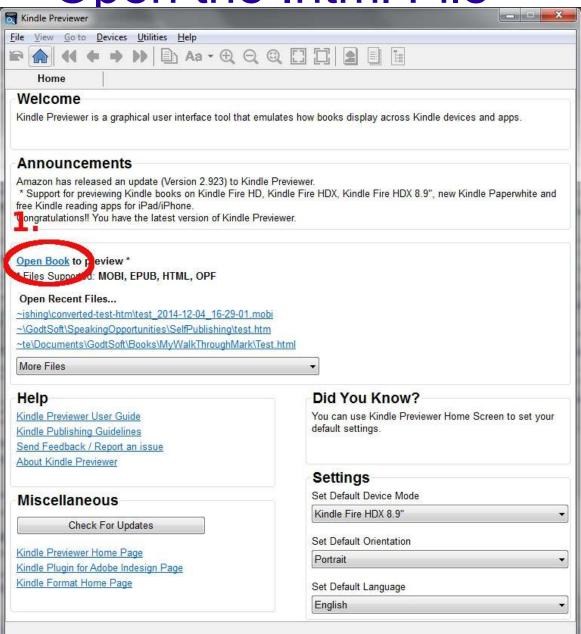
Create .mobi File

- Kindle books are .mobi files
- Next, convert the .html file to a .mobi file

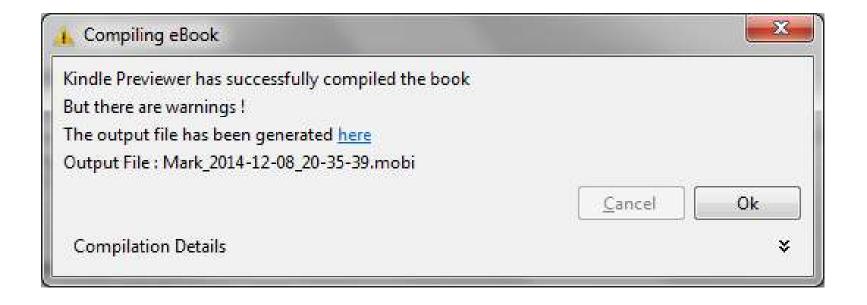
Free Kindle Generation Tool

- Many ways to generate Kindle book
- Easiest way is with Kindle Previewer
 - Created, supported, and updated by Amazon
 - Download from http://www.amazon.com/gp/feature.html? docld=1000765261

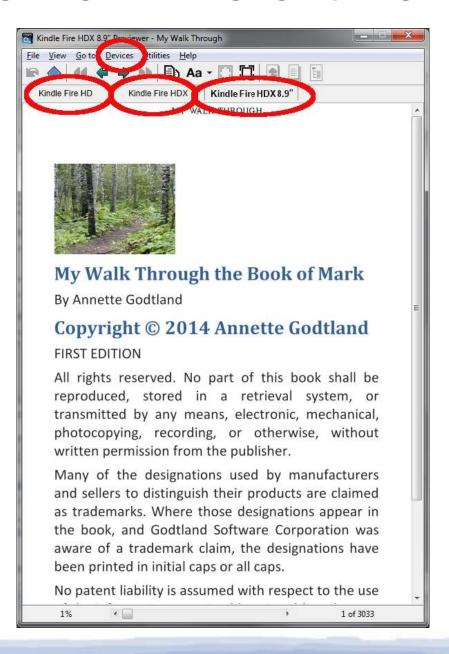
Open the .html File



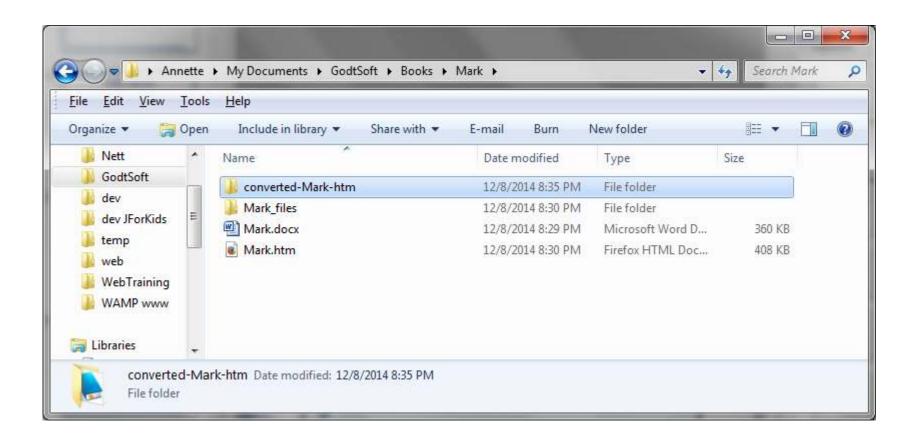
Created .mobi File OK



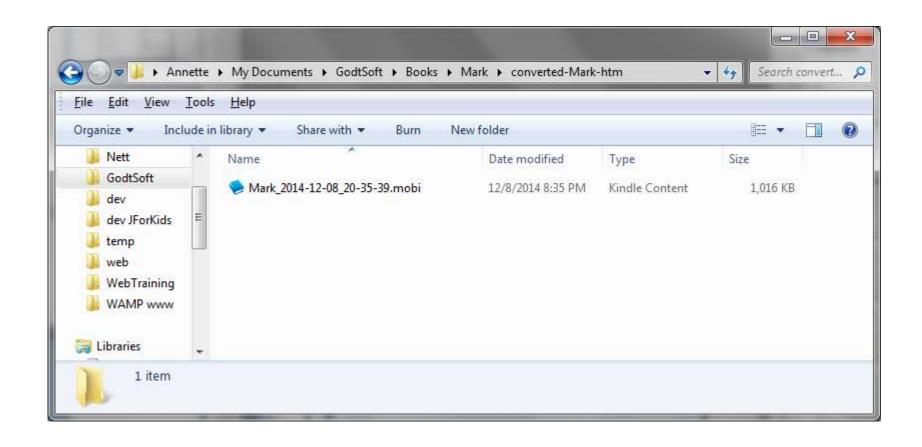
Preview on Different Devices



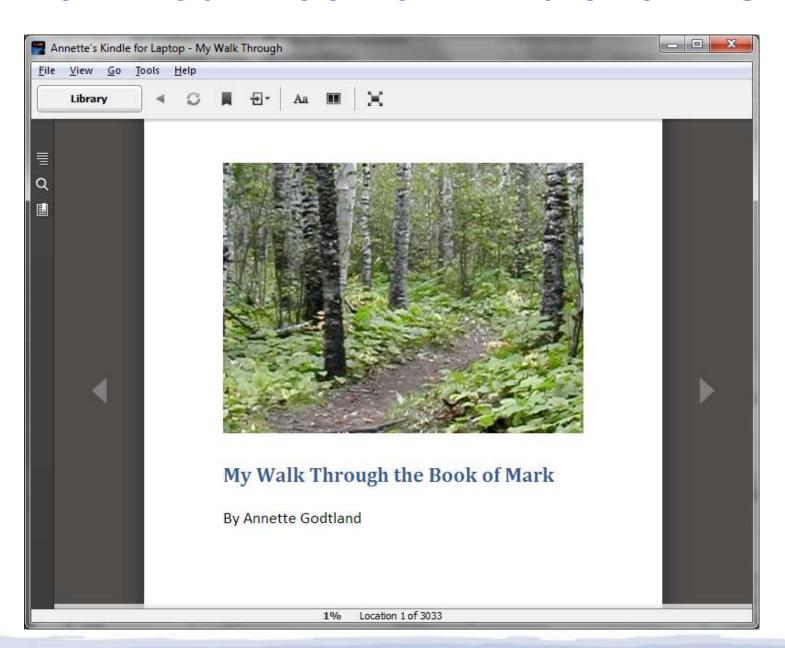
New Folder of Converted Files



New .mobi File in Converted Files Folder



View Your Book on Kindle for PC



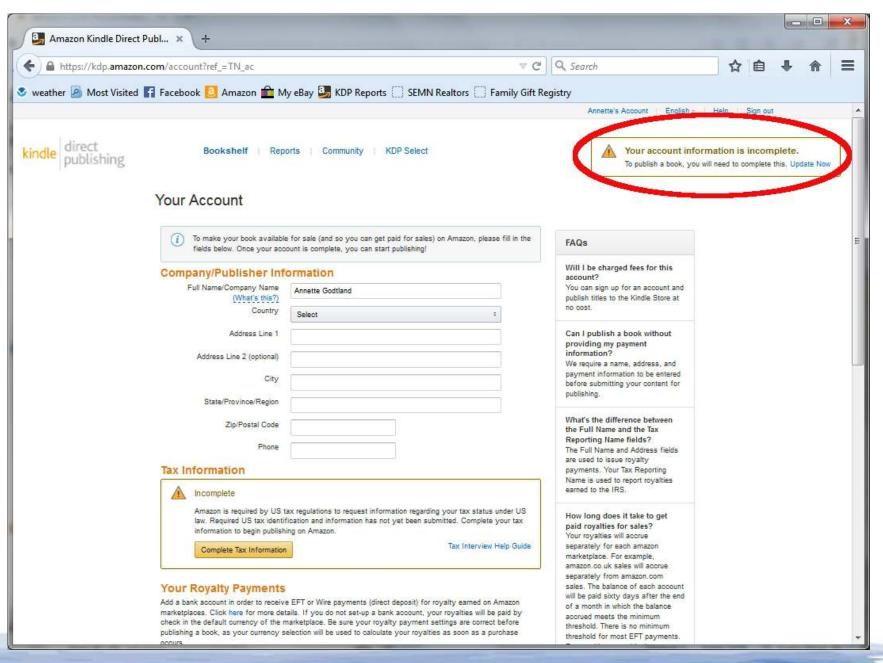
Does the Book Look Right on a Real Kindle Device?

 Copy the .mobi file to your Kindle device, phone, or other device to see how it looks on each device

KDP – Kindle Direct Publishing

Go to https//kdp.amazon.com

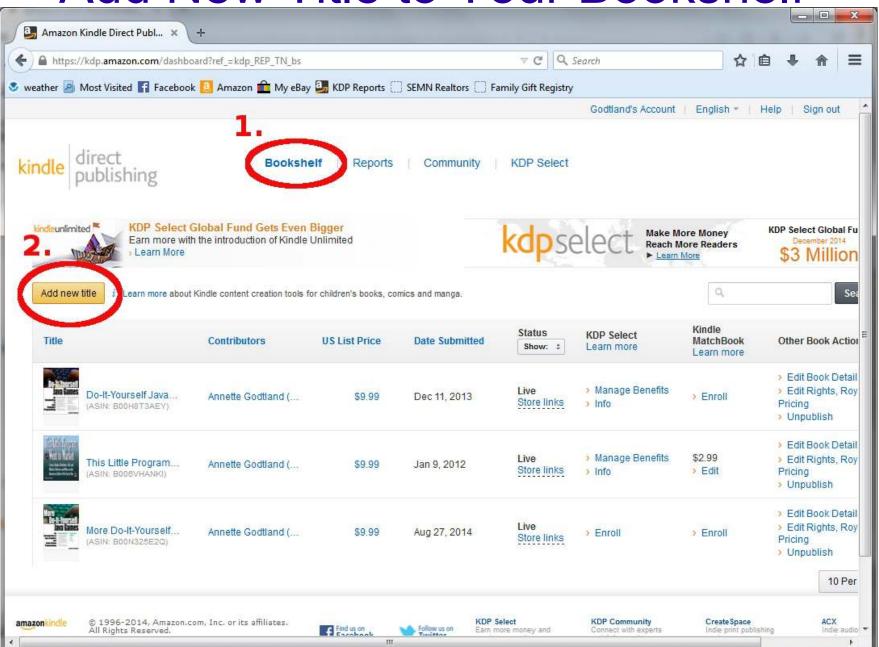
Need a KDP Account



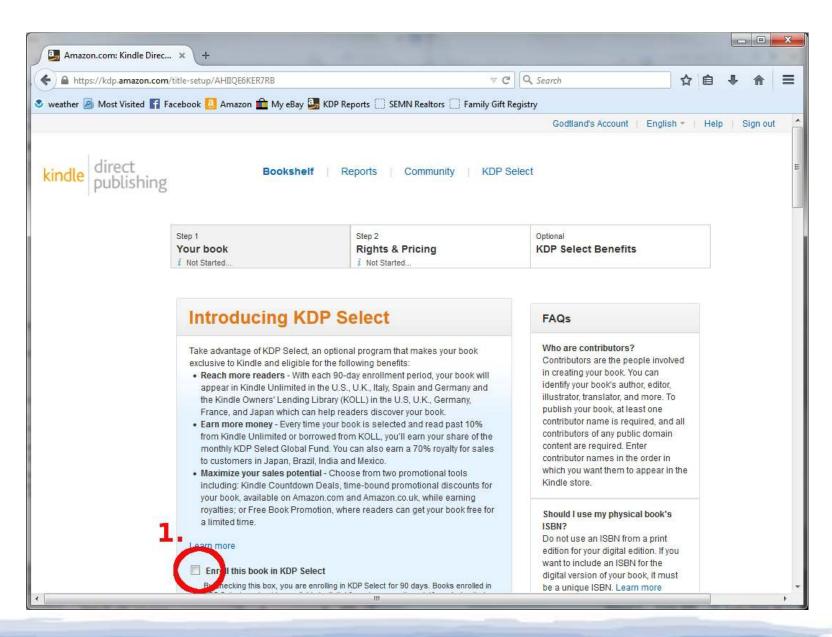
Create an Account

- Your name or your business name, address, and phone number
- Your tax ID number
- EFT to your bank account
 - Get paid each month instead of waiting until Amazon owes you \$100

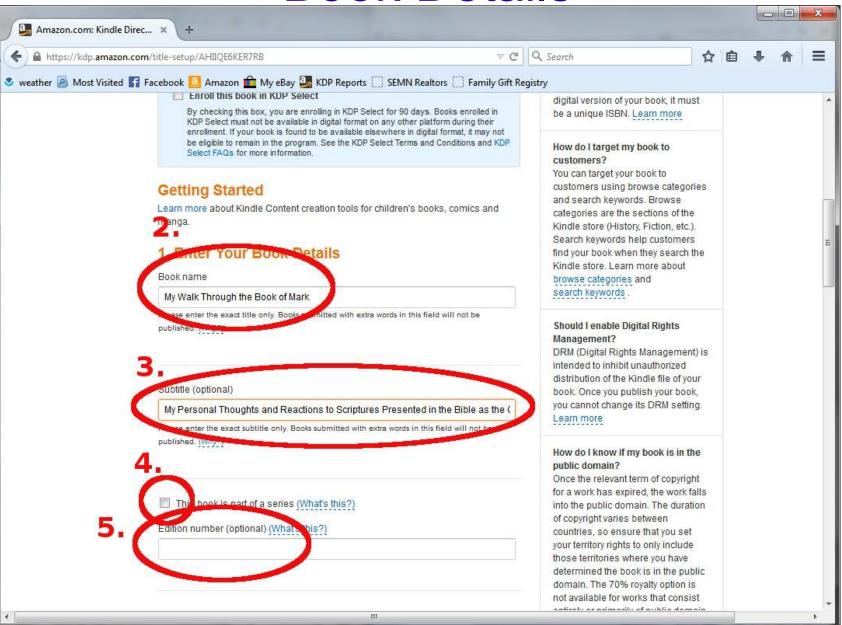
Add New Title to Your Bookshelf



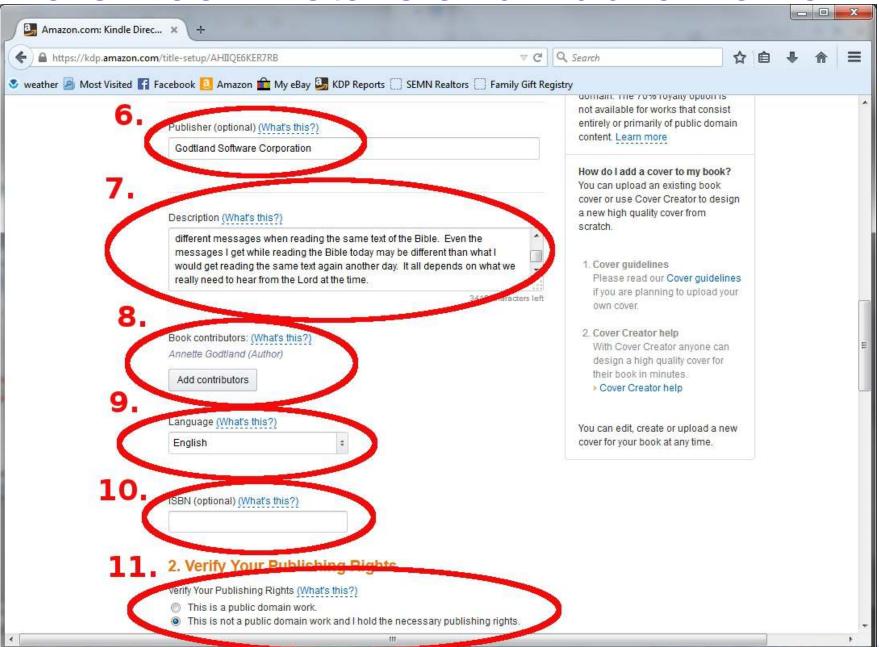
Don't Need to Enroll in KDP Select Yet



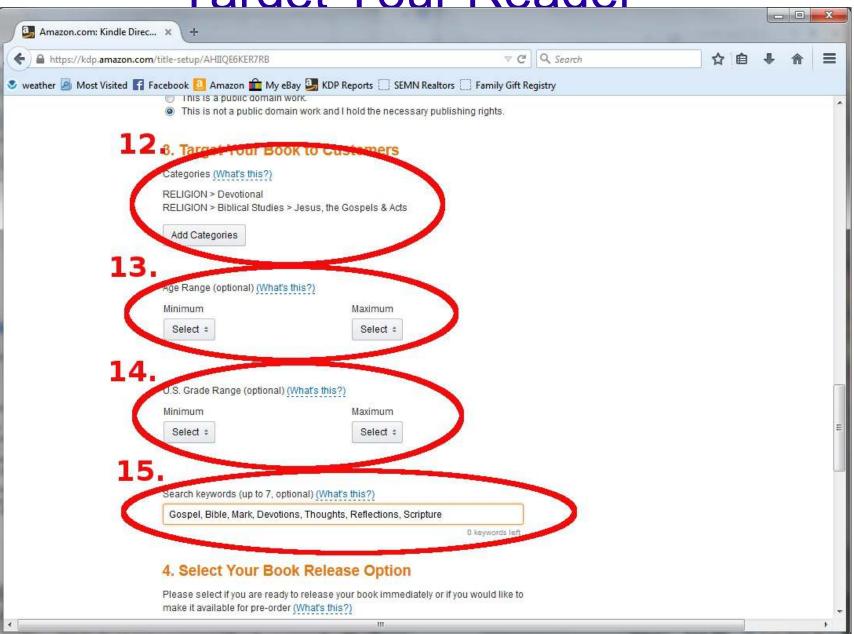
Book Details



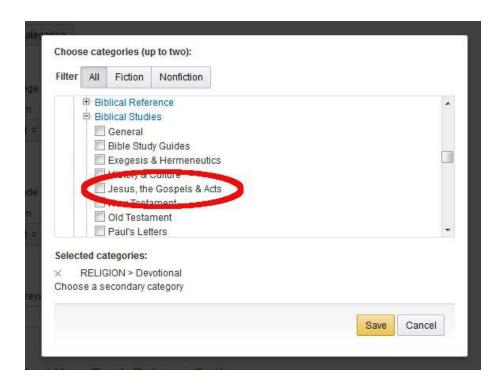
More Book Details and Public Domain



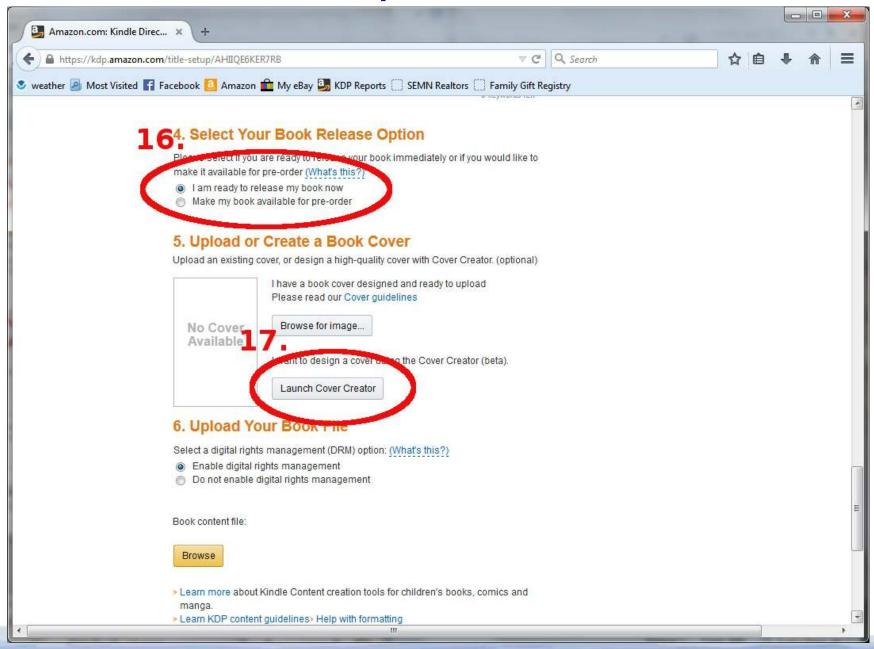
Target Your Reader



Add Categories



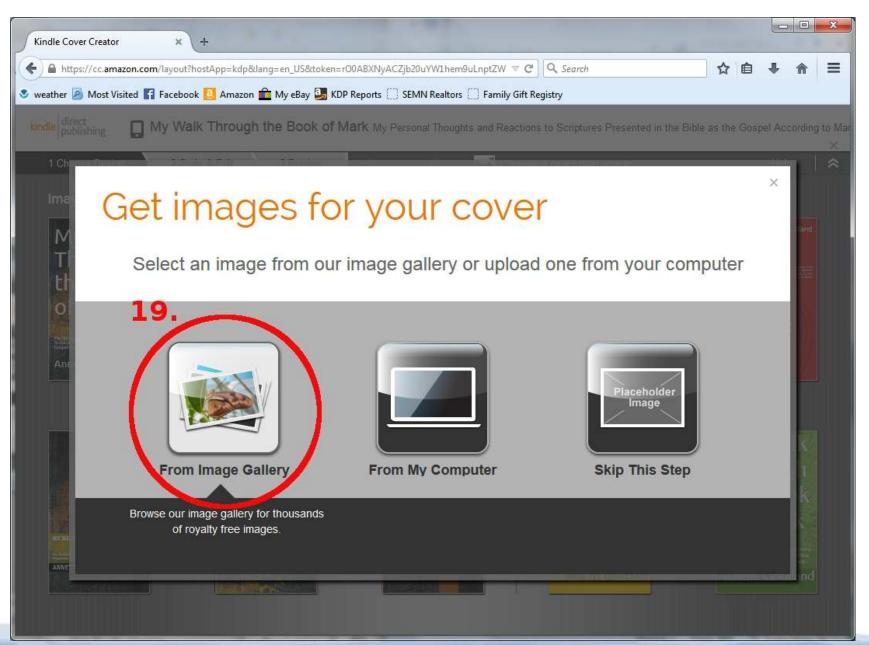
Release Option and Cover



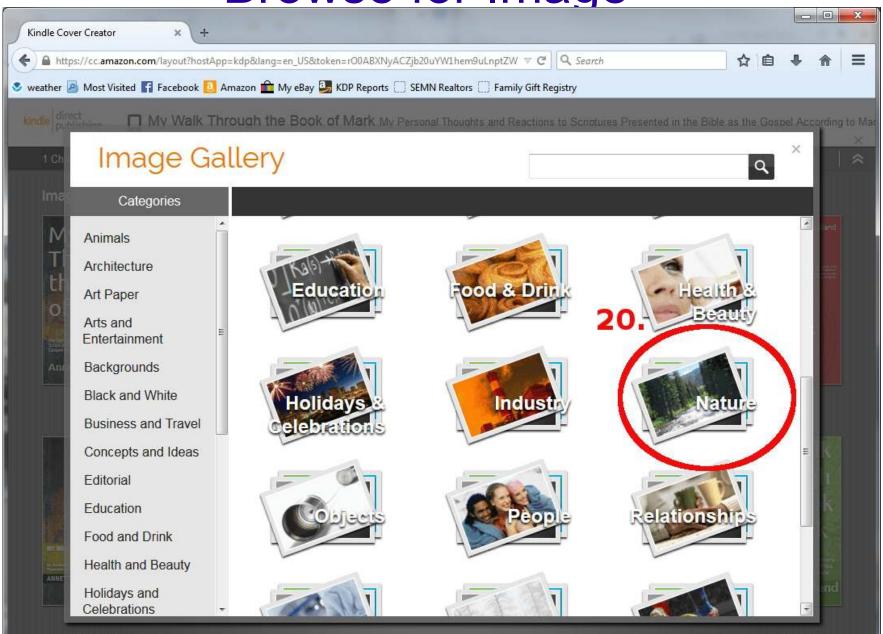
Design a Cover



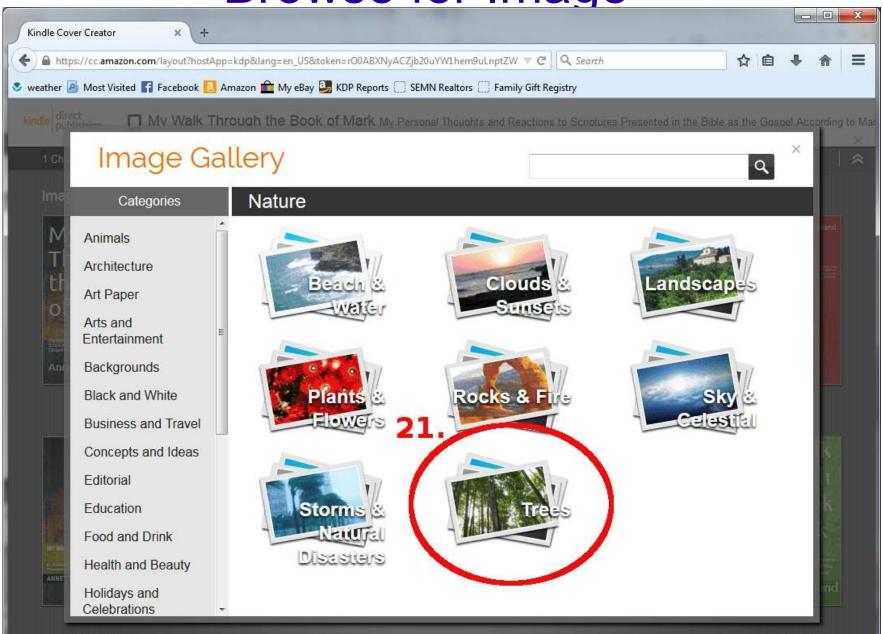
Cover Image



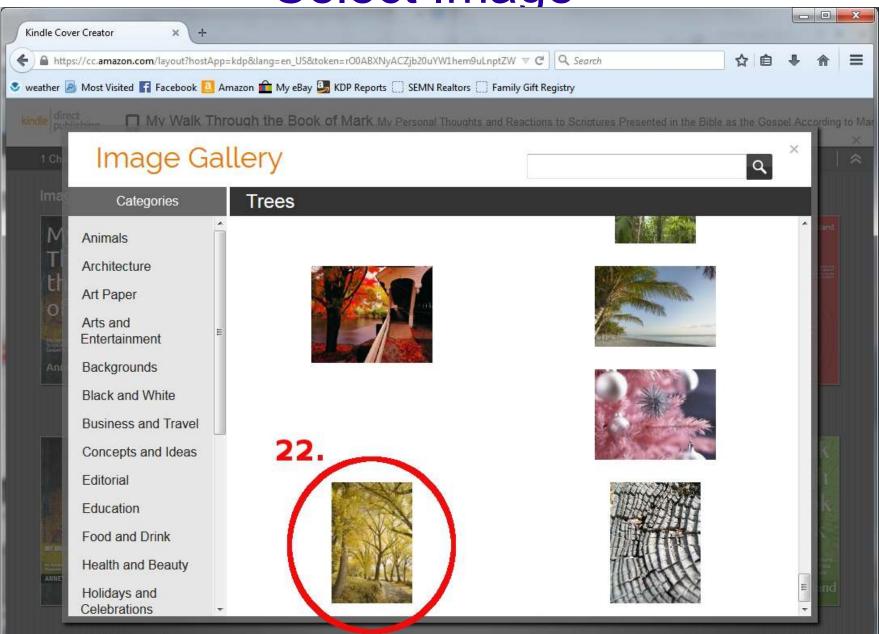
Browse for Image



Browse for Image



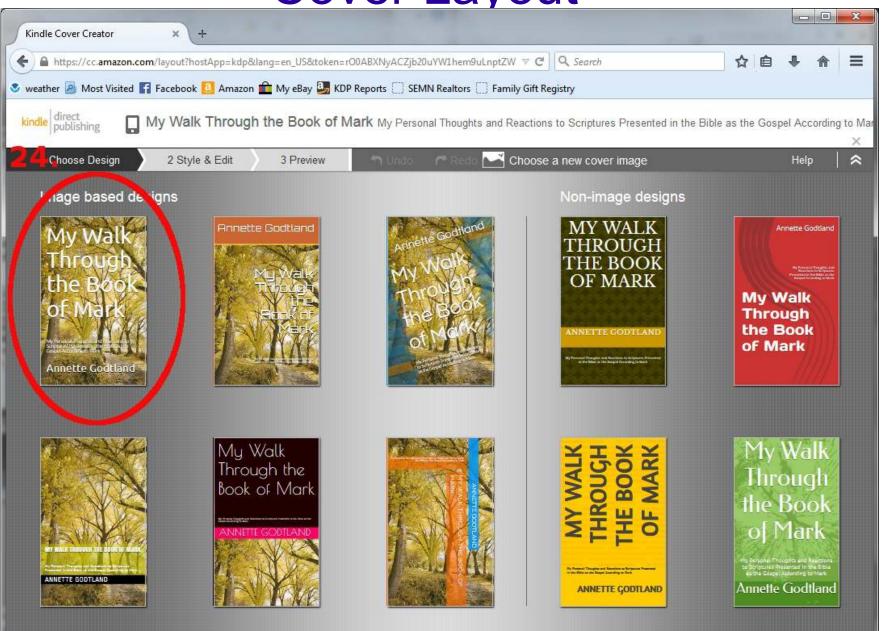
Select Image



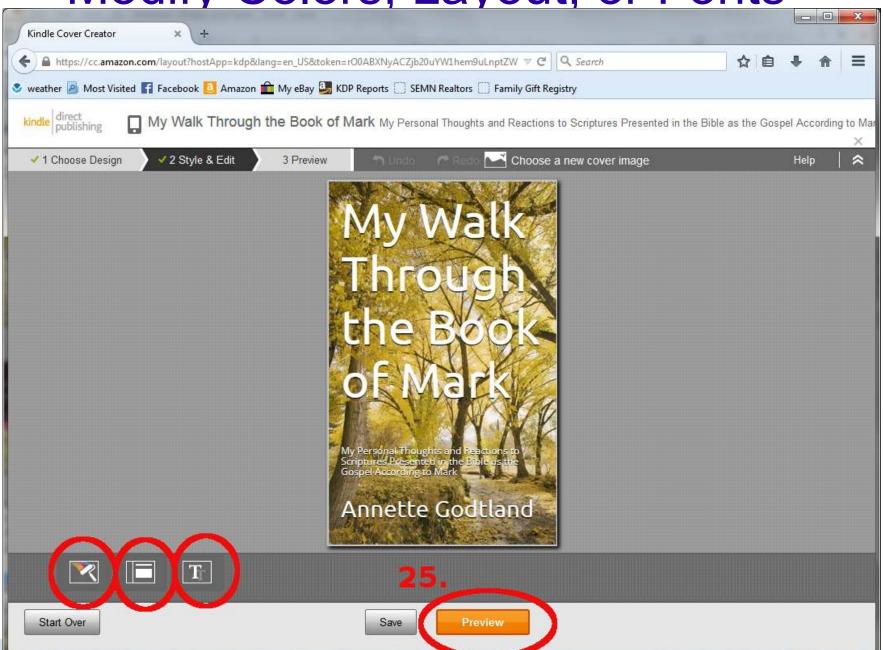
Select Image



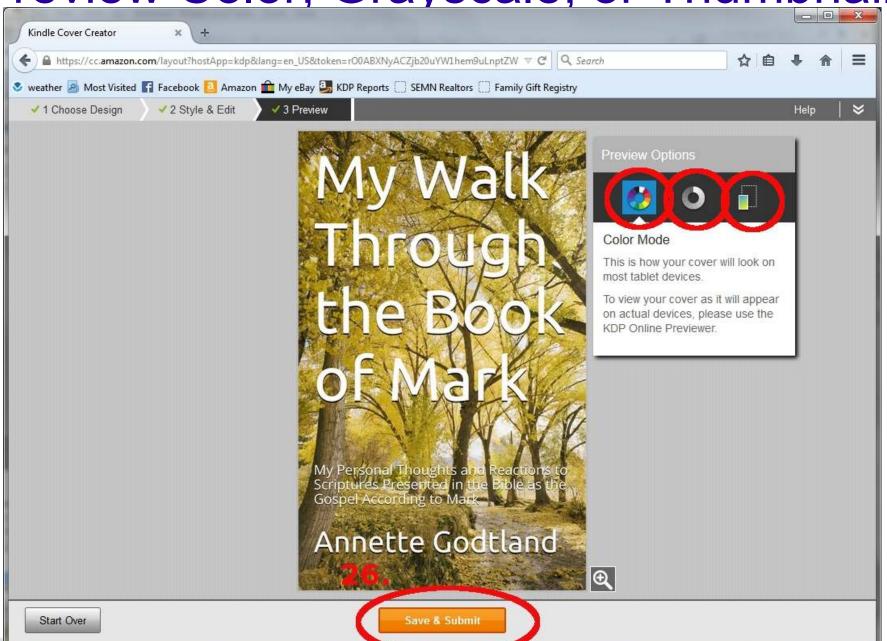
Cover Layout



Modify Colors, Layout, or Fonts



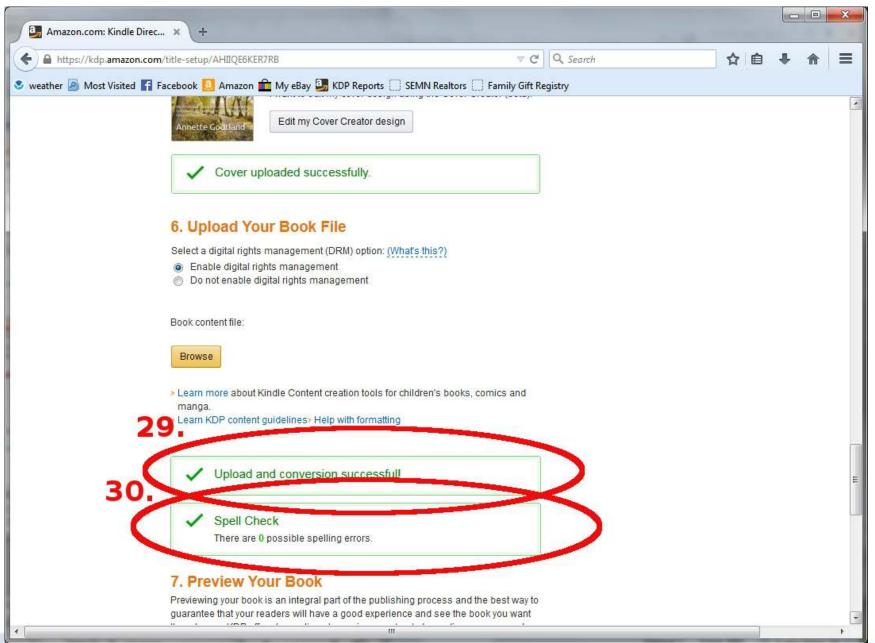
Preview Color, Grayscale, or Thumbnail



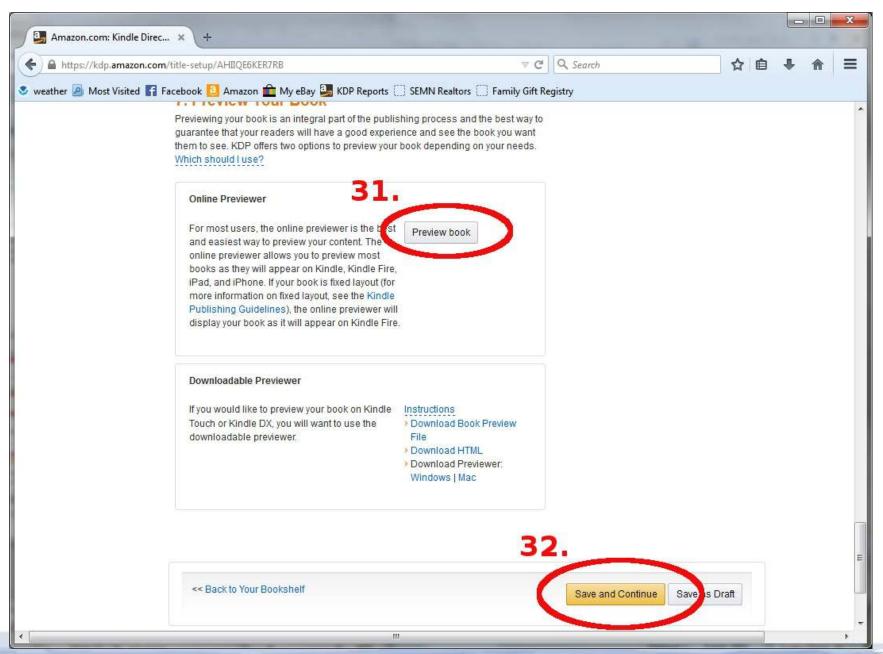
Digital Rights Management, Upload Book



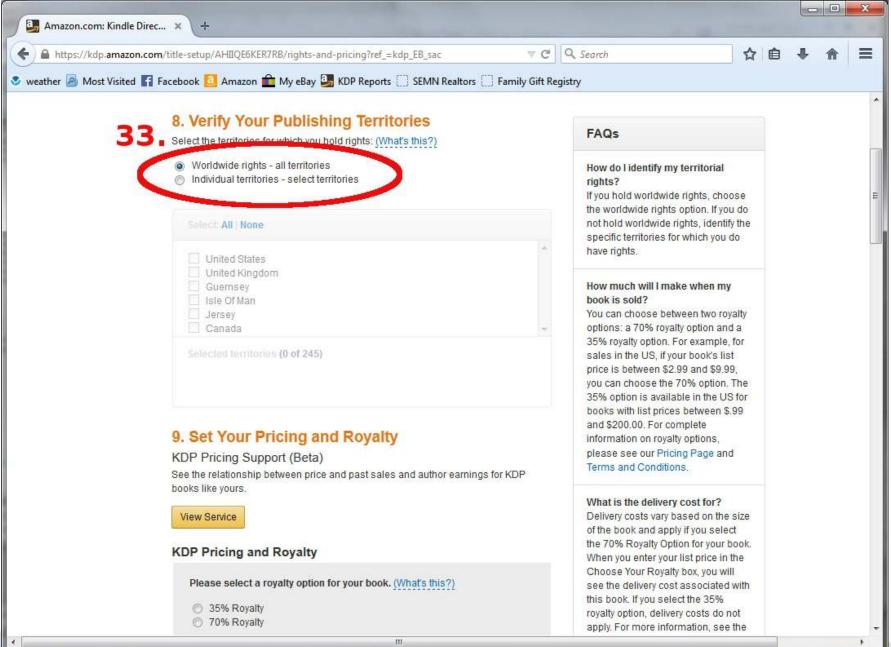
Success!



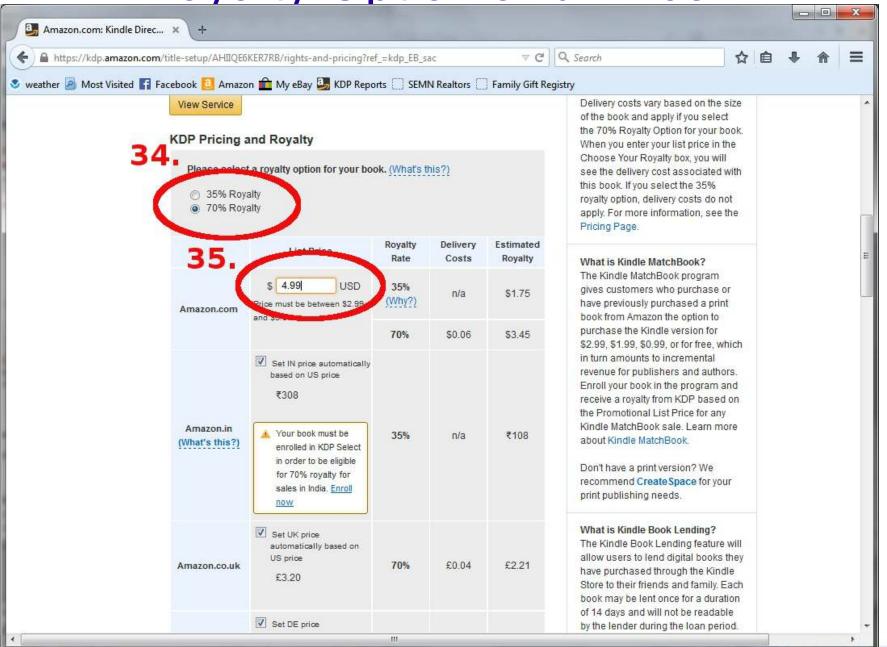
Preview Your Book



Publishing Territories



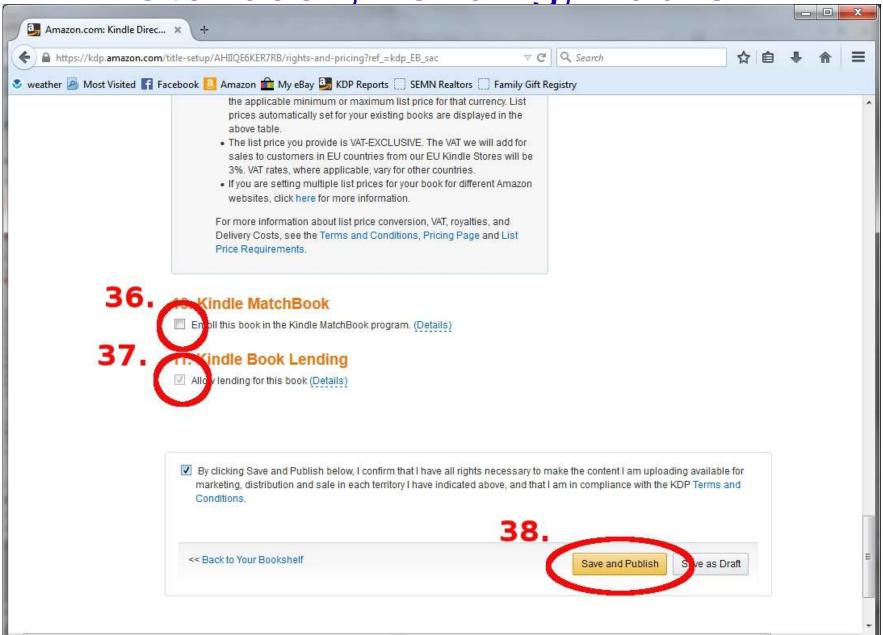
Royalty Option and Price



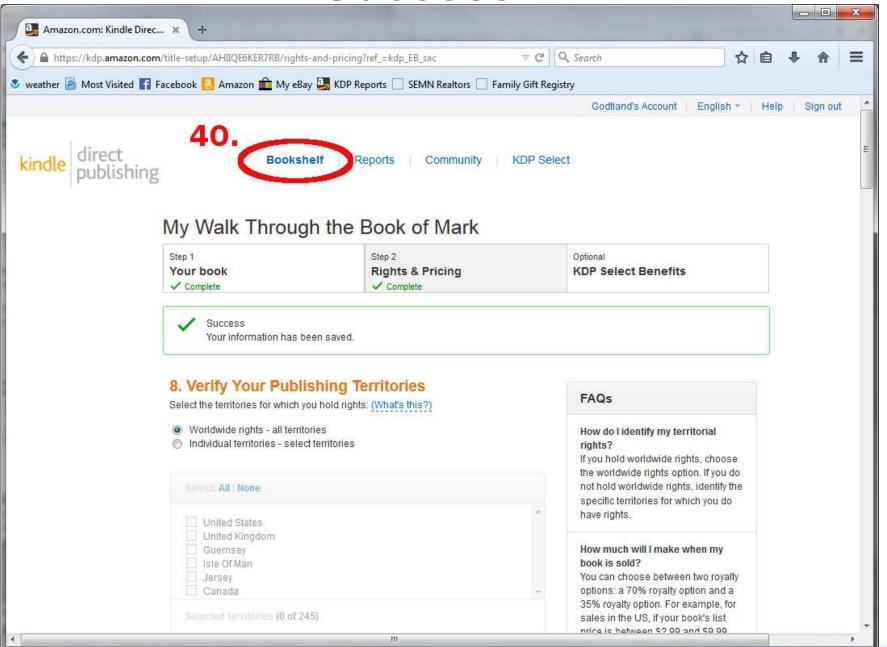
Amazon Marketplaces

- You will be paid separately for each marketplace
- Each payment will be in the currency of the respective marketplace
- You may change prices any time you want

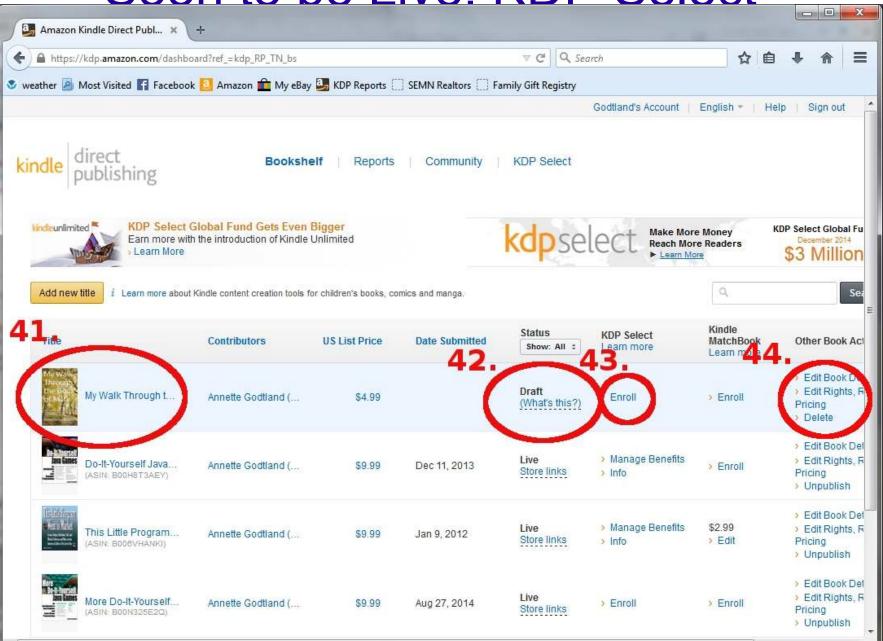
Matchbook, Lending, Publish



Success!



Soon to be Live. KDP Select



Once Published...

- It should show up for sale on Amazon within 24 hours.
- You will receive your royalty checks 2 months after the month in which the book was purchased.

Copyright it

- \$35 to copyright the book
- www.copyright.gov
- Not required, but is helpful if a lawsuit ever comes up
- They need a copy of your book
 - Save your book as a .pdf file
 - Upload the .pdf file

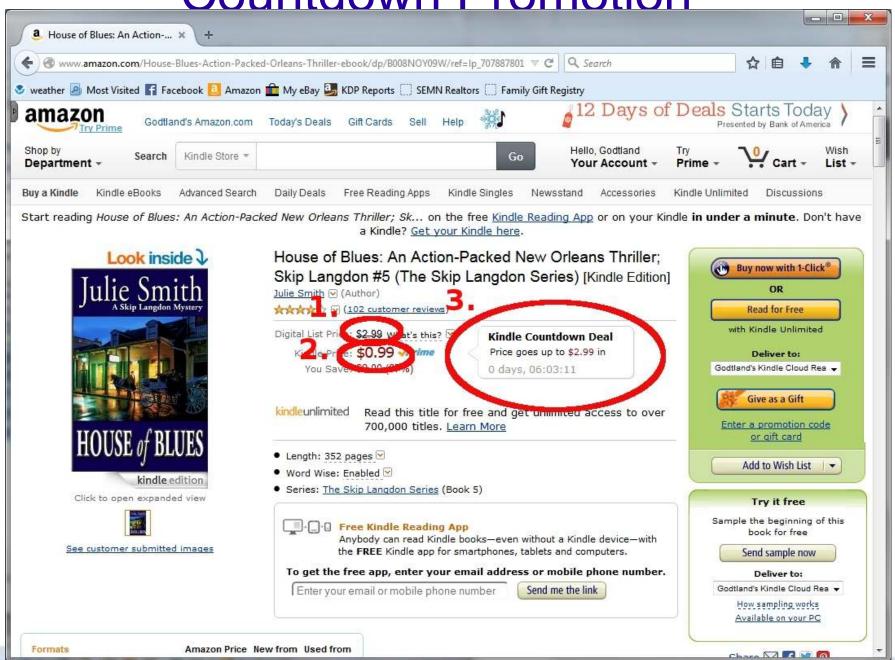
What About Those Free Books?

- Optional KDP Select Program
 - Agree to sell eBook on Amazon and nowhere else for three months
 - Enrolls your book in Kindle Prime and Kindle Unlimited programs
 - May use one Free promotion or one Countdown promotion
 - Renew every three months

Free Promotion

- Add your book to list of top free books
- May list a total of 5 days every 3 month period
 - Better if done only 1-2 days at a time
- Earn no royalties
- Goal is to get readers and reviews
 - Will typically give away hundreds of copies in just 1-2 days!
 - Reader owns the book
- Especially good if you are a new author
- Especially good if the book is the first of a series

Countdown Promotion



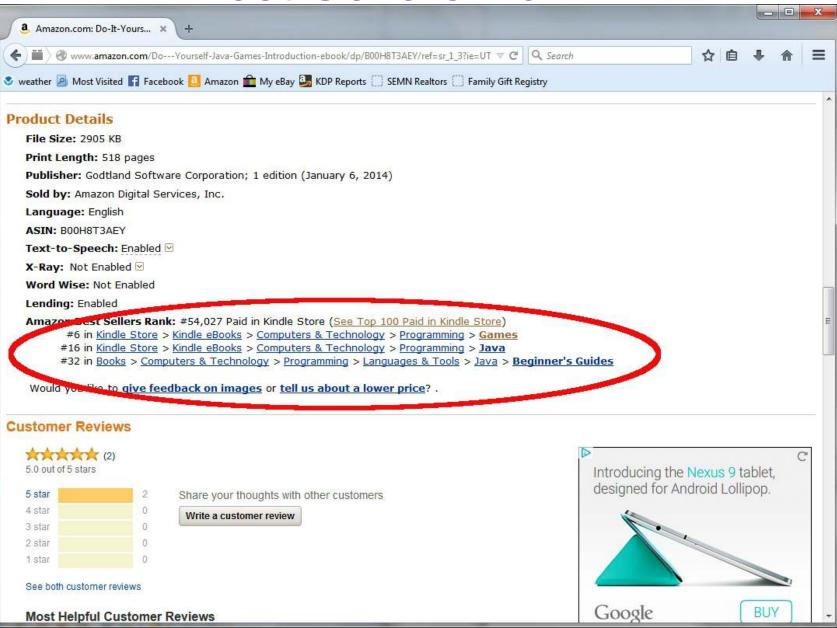
Countdown Promotion

- Reduced price for up to one week
 - Timer shows days/hours remaining until price goes up
- Often done as a series of reduced pricing
 - eg. .99 for one day, then 2.99 for one day, etc.
- May do one countdown sale every 3 month period
- Earn your normal 35% or 70% royalty, but of the sale price
- May do EITHER Free promotion or Countdown promotion, not both.

Kindle Prime And Kindle Unlimited

- Amazon puts aside a pot of money each month
- Every book borrowed through Kindle Prime and Kindle Unlimited gets an equal share of that pot of money
 - Each book downloaded through Kindle Prime
 - Each book downloaded and read through 10% of the book through Kindle Unlimited
- Amounts to about \$1.50 per book
- Additional bonuses to most downloaded books
- Reader does not own or keep the book

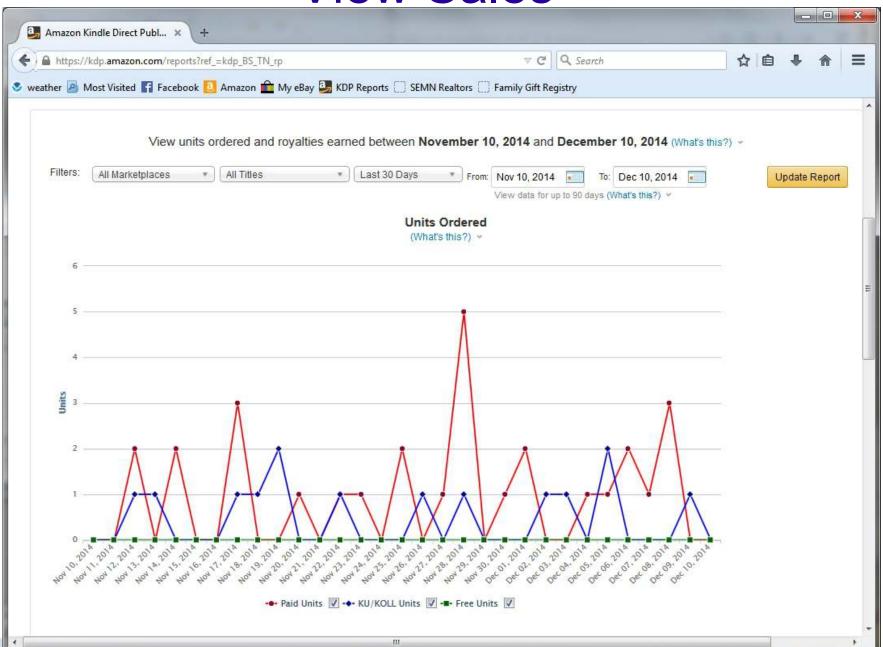
Best Sellers Rank



Sales Reports

- View sales of books
 - About 4 hour delay

View Sales



Marketing Your Book

- Use a good title and good keywords
- Get Reviews
- Share on facebook
- Create YouTube video
- Give-aways
- More books, same author
- Series of books

More Marketing

- Create a website
- Write a blog
- Contact newspapers
- Write articles
- Contact interested organizations

Publish a Paper Book

Traditional

- Print many copies at once
- Ship to retailers

Print on Demand

- Print a few, even one at a time
- Retailer orders from printer
- I used Lightning Source

Bigger Financial Investment

- proofs, printing fees, shipping, ISBN number
- 55% discount to retailers
 - so I keep 45% minus cost of printing the book

Write an eBook and Publish it Yourself!