

Going Pro With Your Mad Reading Skillz

Information on obtaining ARCs and Galleys

[Blog Post: How to get on media lists](#)

[Requesting ARCS](#)

[Edelweiss Plus](#)–request ARCs

[NetGalley](#)–request ARCs

Big 5 Publisher ARC requests

[Simon & Schuster Publicity Contacts](#) These are the people to reach out to if you know *exactly* what you're looking for and why.

[HarperCollins Publicity Contacts](#) Same as above

[Hatchette Press & Publicity](#)

[Macmillan](#)

[Penguin Random House Influencer Program](#)

Independent Presses/Small Presses

Best of according to [Reedsy](#) including the hit titles.

Blogging Platforms

Blogger

Wordpress

Wix

Squarespace

Substack

Places to Read Book Reviews–please go forth and continue to enjoy your current go-tos as well

The New Yorker

Harpers

The New York Review of Books

Bust Magazine (Good opportunity for newbie reviewers!)

Bitch: Feminist Response to Pop Culture (Also good opportunity for newbie reviewers.)

Most literary magazines–check their guidelines

[Electric Literature](#) I'm partial to their reading lists, but those aren't the only reviews on there.

Starting Your Book Blog

[A Wix article on just that.](#) Yes, Wix shamelessly self-promotes here, but this is still a good starting point.

Tips to Stay Abreast of the Industry

Yes, I wrote “abreast.” Feel free to giggle. At least I didn’t use moist. Oh damn, I just did. Whoops.

[NPR.org](#) has a terrific and *free* list of anticipated releases. [This](#) is for Fall 2024.

Admittedly, if you are looking for brand new books to review, this is okay, but you will be late to the party if you need more lead time. It’s still a helpful guide to know what books people are talking about and why.

Subscribe to the blogs of your favorite authors, agents, and editors. Engage with them. They will hook you up if they know you like their work.

[Goodreads](#)–Toxic for authors. Great for finding lists of new releases.

[Library Journal’s Book News](#)

[Publisher’s Weekly](#)–Not only does this include information about upcoming titles, you can also get a window into who is winning prizes and who is selling their books for the big bucks.

Reader aka “Slushie” aka Screener Opportunities

- Of course you can judge writing contests at uh hem RMFW, for example.
- Be a Selector or Judge for The Colorado Book Awards (lots of free books!)
- Submittable–search for “reader” or “volunteer”
- Visit the website of a literary magazine or even another magazine you like. If they don’t have information posted prominently, ask! Most of them are nice people.
- Journals that often use screeners/readers: *Ploughshares*, *The Masters Review*, *Electric Literature*, and *Story Magazine*. All of them are great. Also, they aren’t the only ones.
- Be sure to prepare the following items:
 - A resume that is geared toward your writing career including any volunteer activities for writing organizations, conferences attended, writing classes you have completed, etc.

- A (preferably 5,000 word or less) writing sample that you are proud of because they will ask for one.
- References
- Expect a reader test. No joke. Even though these are volunteer positions, they will probably ask you to read sample submissions, rate, and comment on them. A lot of publications are concerned about DEI right now, so expect to share your views on that in publishing. (Hint: if you want to be onboard, diversity is wonderful and enhances everyone's experience. No complaining about anyone being cancelled.)
- Time commitment: usually journals ask you to stick with them for at least six months—some might be longer. The typical amount of reading is usually around four hours per week.