

Before you can decide whether or not to become an indie author or follow a more traditional route, you first need information.

- Can other professionals help you improve your work?

Any suggestions you receive for improving your manuscript should be seriously considered. If you agree with the suggestions, make them. It will only improve your work. Frequently, the agents or publishers will send back suggestions that they feel will improve the books sales potential. You have to decide if their suggestions remain true to the integrity of the manuscript or change it completely. Unless you are under contract, these are only suggestions.

- Do the professionals think that your manuscript is marketable (ultimately profitable)?

A rejection from one agent or one publisher doesn't tell you much more than the manuscript is not a match for that agency or publisher. However, numerous rejections - though very rough on the ego - should help you to gain a realistic sense of the manuscript's sales appeal. Remember, agents and publishers are looking for manuscripts that can sell over 10,000 copies. Although that would be wonderful, you might be quite happy if it sells one or two thousand copies. The reaction you receive can help you set reasonable expectations.