Kindle Direct Platform

I began publishing electronically with Amazon back when they began the Amazon Shorts program. When Kindle came along, it took me a while to hop aboard that train until I discovered that my efforts to share my work electronically and exclusively through my own website weren't working quite as effectively as I would have liked. My first published work via the KDP (Kindle Direct Platform) was *Through It All*. The title was one that I'd shared free with the readers on my web group. I was looking for a broader audience and; at the time, really wasn't interested in publishing the title in print. I thought KDP might be the answer. I was right. I found the site to be quite user friendly. Uploading text and cover art was remarkably simple.

With that first successful experience, I decided to publish more work through the platform. It was then that I discovered the informative nature of the site. The community listservs proved especially helpful, providing a wealth of information and answers to questions covering everything from formatting issues to royalty concerns. Many times I don't exactly have a question needing to be answered. I may simply be having an issue and wondering whether anyone else is experiencing something similar. Knowing that others are 'in the same boat' and gaining a little direction from what they are going through has been a great help.

What I find most useful with KDP is its transparency. With little effort, I'm able to log in and locate spreadsheets detailing all monthly sales and earnings of my various titles hosted on the platform. When posting new titles, I'm able to view actual screen shots of how the text is outlaid. When adding new titles, the platform allows you to set your own pricing, at the same time allowing you to either allow your US pricing to dictate the cost of your material in other countries supported by the Kindle Direct Platform or you may manually set your own pricing in each country. Additionally, you can view what your royalty earnings will amount to per each sale. My only regret is that the platform doesn't allow for an author to make his/her work freely accessible. This, I discovered when trying to publish my Amazon Shorts title, *Soul's Desire*. The story was very brief-little over 10k words and one that I had sold through the Shorts program for .49 cents. I had hoped to sell it for free on Kindle, but the system would accept nothing less than .99 cents.

As I mentioned earlier, I especially love the reporting feature. Kindle Direct gives you three ways to view earnings information. You may select Month to Date Unit Sales- which is basically what you've sold for the current month. You may view sales for the past six weeks or you may choose to view them for the prior twelve months. Kindle makes it easy to export very detailed but easy to understand Excel spreadsheets. I love the fact that with so many new and improved features and offerings through the site, this aspect of the platform has remained unchanged.

The turnaround between uploading your work and having it available for purchase is also another awesome feature to the site. The quality control aspect is a something that I'm especially fond of. Following the publication of my novella *Layers*, I was unaware that my final edits hadn't been posted in the version that was released for sale. Typos were rampant in that version and while many of my diligent readers informed me of what they'd seen in their purchases, Kindle contacted me as well to let

me know of the problem. Being made aware of the errors, I was able to go in and upload the proper version. And that's just an overview of what I love about the Kindle Direct Platform!

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