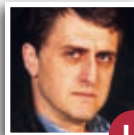


Writers' FORUM



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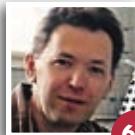
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A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

If a hugely successful author like Iain Banks is saying that there is something wrong with traditional publishing, then it is worth taking note. What has happened? Well, the price of books is no longer protected and supermarkets have led the charge to pile them high and sell them cheap. In order to survive, accountants now call the shots and publishers are concentrating their resources on buying and promoting celebrity books and surefire hits, leaving other authors to fend for themselves when it comes to editing their manuscripts prior to submission or to marketing those books that do get picked up.

In this issue, Alison Baverstock sets out the case for the defence of publishers on page 52, but last month she explained how cutting out the middle man has become a serious, mainstream option for many writers. We certainly get many letters from writers who have found this a better option. So I would like to know your views on traditional publishing versus self-publishing. If the future is all about dealing directly with readers and booksellers would you like to see more articles on being an 'independent author'?

Write soon, Carl

DON'T MISS THE NEXT ISSUE ON SALE THURSDAY 24 NOVEMBER

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