

The Al Search Revolution

Optimizing your books for the future of search





I'm Ricardo Fayet, Founder at reedsy.com ricardo@reedsy.com

Here's what we'll cover:

Search is changing (fast)

- Google goes all-in with Al Mode
- New players rise to challenge: ChatGPT, Claude, Perplexity
- Amazon introduces Rufus

II. How does AI search work?

- Longer, conversational searches
- Query fan-out & vector embeddings
- Creepy personalization

III. How can I maximize my books' visibility in an AI world?

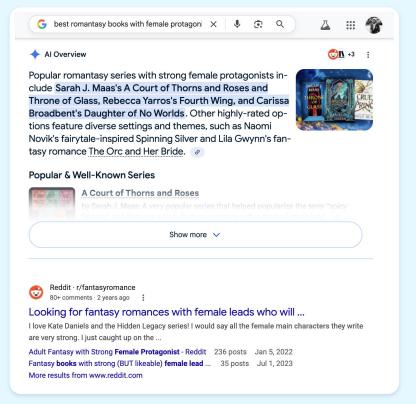
Secret findings from analyzing 300 ChatGPT recommendations

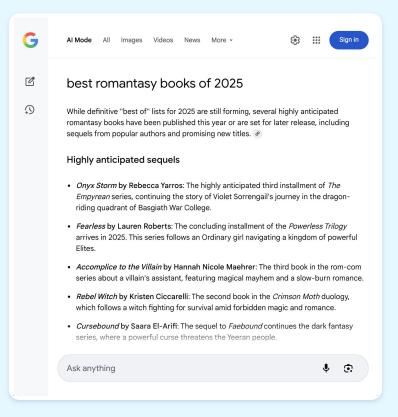


Search is changing (fast)

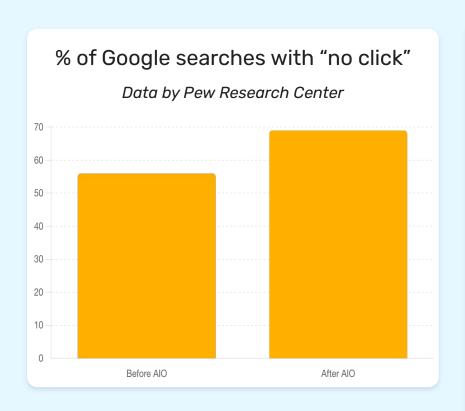


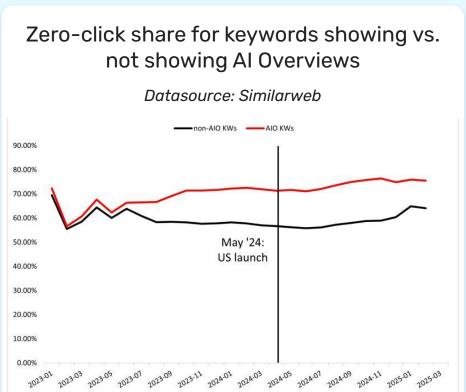
Google: Al Overviews and Al Mode



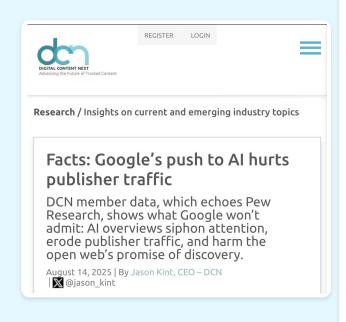


A significant rise in "zero-click" searches





Already a massive impact on publishers







• This article is more than 1 month old

AI summaries cause 'devastating' drop in audiences, online news media told

Exclusive: Study claims sites previously ranked first can lose 79% of traffic if results appear below Google Overview

Meanwhile, other search engines emerge



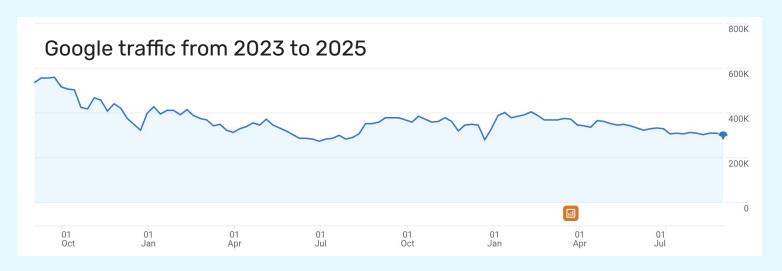


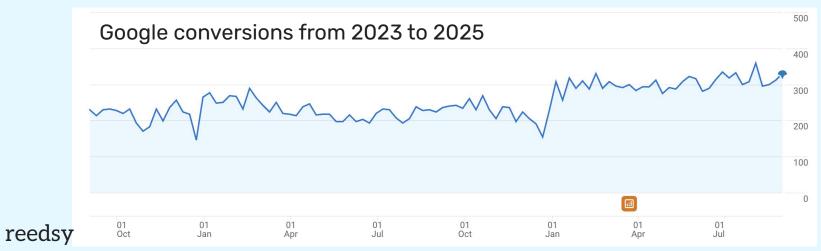


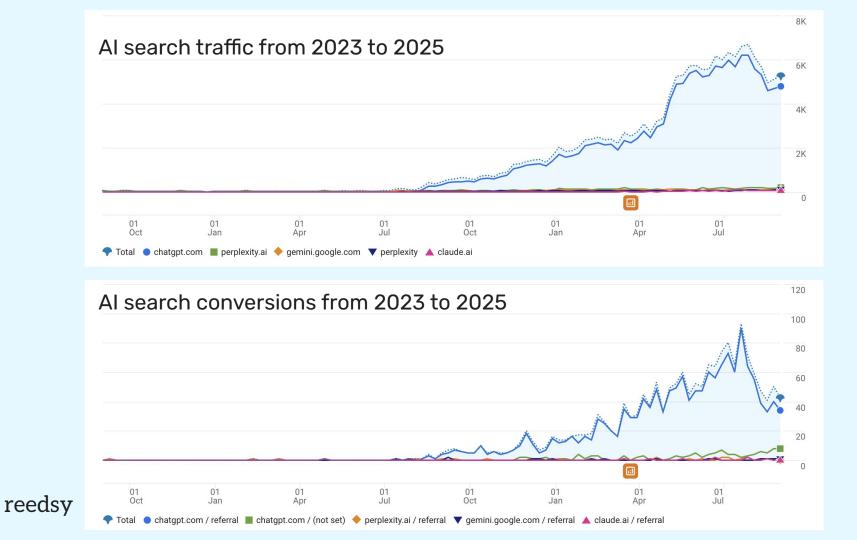




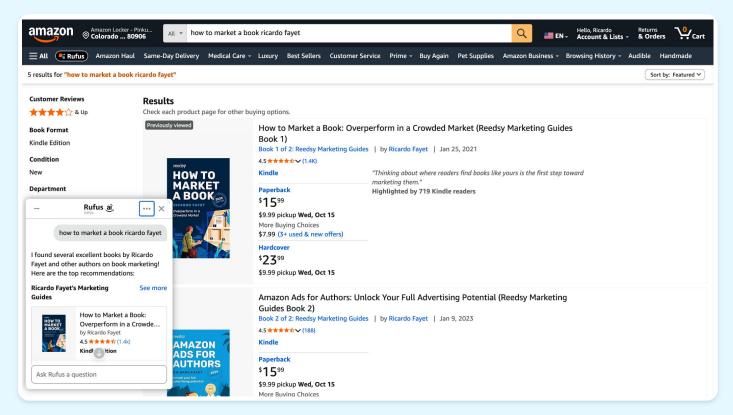
This not only affects big publishers. It affects all of us.



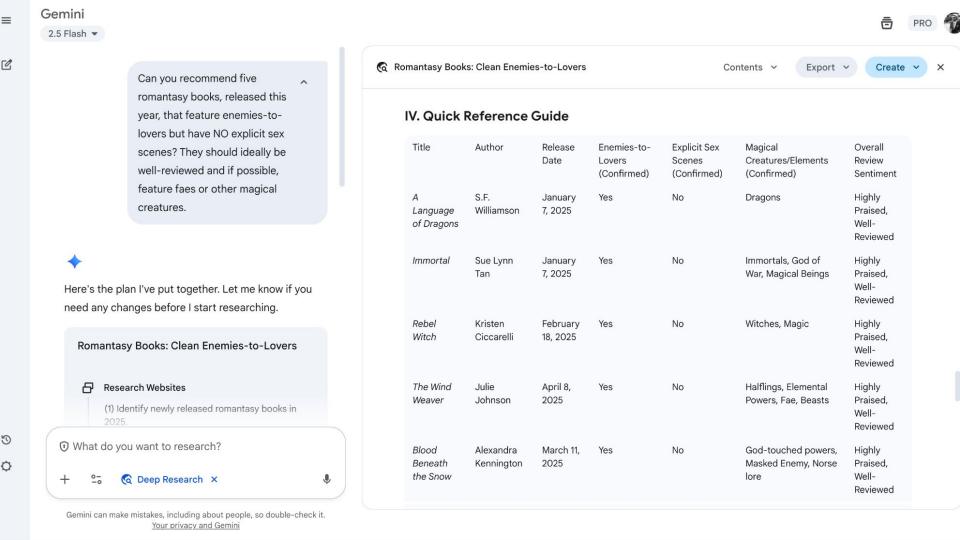




Al search is coming everywhere... including Amazon



Online search is about to become a completely different experience



How do we ensure our books remain visible in this new search era?



The main principles of Al search



The five main principles of AI search

I. Longer, conversational searches

Search volume is about to become obsolete

II. Query fan-out

One search triggers many searches

III. Vector relevance

The age of "keyword matches" is over

IV. Personalization

One search, many different answers

I. Longer, conversational searches

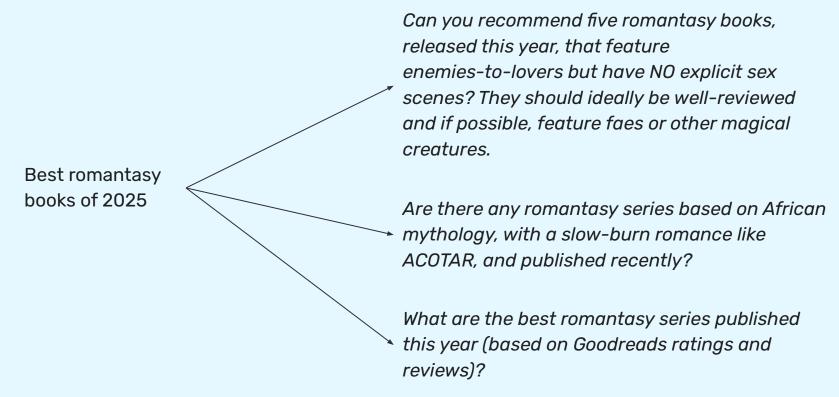
"According to our recent study on AI Overviews, queries showing an AIO with 8+ words have grown 7x since AIOs launched in May 2024."

BrightEdge

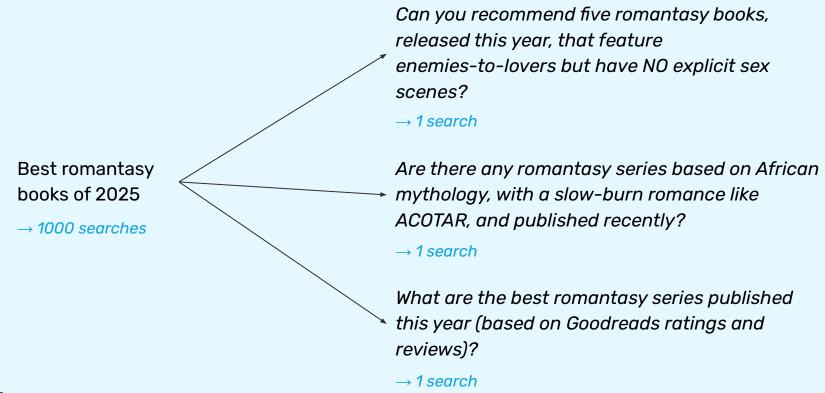
"We launched AI Overviews last year at I/O, and since then there's been a profound shift in how people are using Google Search. People are coming to Google to ask more of their questions, including more complex, longer and multimodal questions."

Google Blog

I. Longer, conversational searches



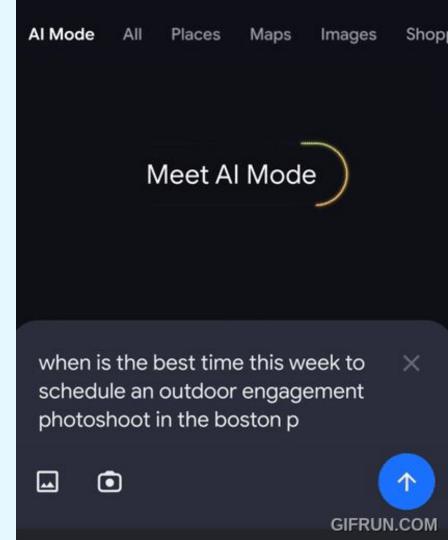
I. The implications on search volume



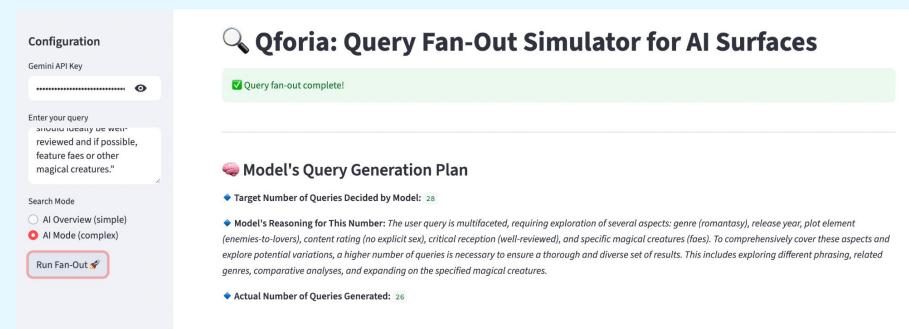
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II. Query fan-out

The AI search engine takes your search, analyzes it, and launches dozens of different traditional searches related to it to build a corpus of relevant documents.



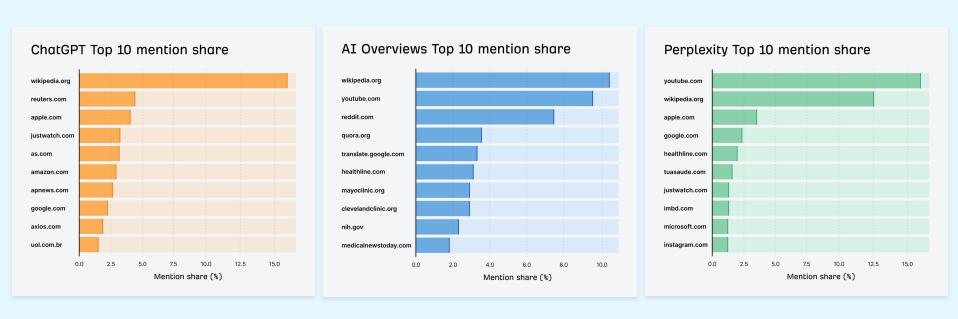
II. Query fan-out



II. Query fan-out

Query	Туре	User intent
Top 3 romantasy novels with enemies-to-lovers trope, published in 2024, rated 4 stars or higher, and no explicit sex scenes.	reformulation	To find high-quality romantasy books fitting the criteria.
Best-reviewed 2024 romantasy books featuring enemies-to-lovers, suitable for mature young adults (clean romance).	reformulation	To filter out overly explicit content.
Romantasy novels with fae characters and enemies-to-lovers plot, released 2024: Goodreads reviews.	related_query	To leverage a specific review platform.
Compare and contrast 2024 romantasy books with enemies-to-lovers: fae vs. other magical creatures.	comparative_query	To compare different subgenres within romantasy.
2024 romantasy books: enemies-to-lovers without explicit content – recommendations from fantasy book bloggers.	related_query	To find recommendations from trusted sources.
Are there any 2024 romantasy novels with a slow-burn enemies-to-lovers plot and no explicit sex scenes, featuring selkies?	entity_expansion	To explore alternatives to fae.
Recommendations for clean romantasy novels released in 2024, featuring witches and an enemies-to-lovers dynamic.	entity_expansion	Explore alternative magical creatures.
I prefer heartwarming stories: suggest three well-reviewed 2024 romantasy books with enemies-to-lovers and no explicit sex.	personalized_query	To personalize the recommendations based on preference.

II. Where do AI engines pull their information from?

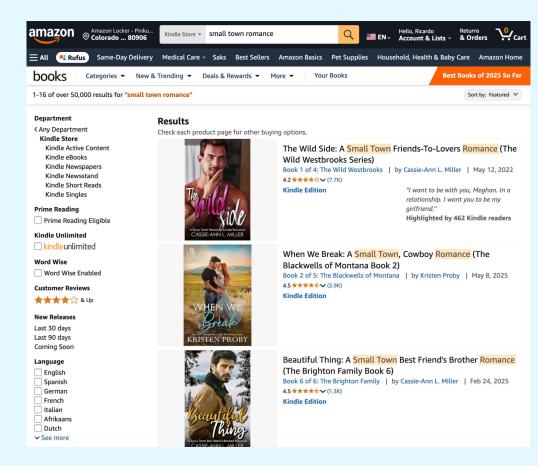


Top 10 websites by mentions for each AI assistant. Source: Ahrefs.

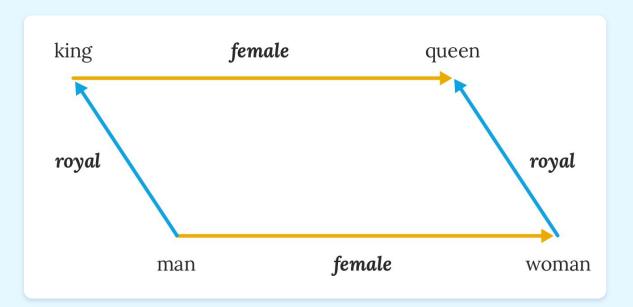
III. Vector relevance vs keyword matches

Currently, the search algorithms of all retailers (including Amazon) rely on *keyword matches* in metadata.

This is terribly inefficient and will inevitably change.

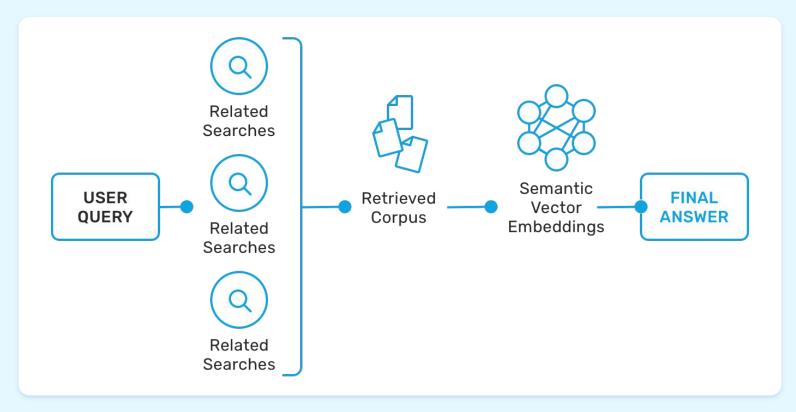


III. What the heck are "vectors"?



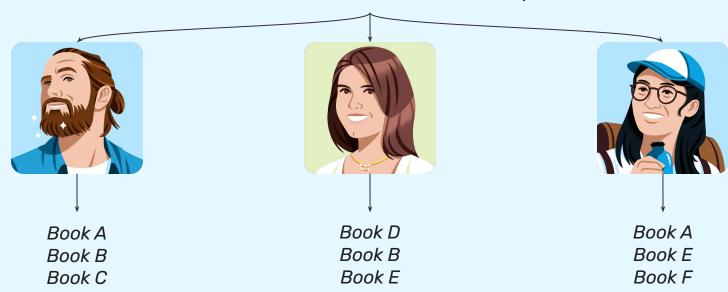
Vectors are numerical representations of data (typically words, phrases, or sentences) which capture semantic meaning and relationships.

III. Understanding vector relevance



IV. Personalization

"Can you recommend three Cold-War-era historical thrillers set in Berlin, released within the last three years?"



IV. Personalization: what do your results depend on?

- Your search (obviously)
- Your previous searches
- Your previous browsing history
- Your previous purchasing history
- Your social media history
- Etc.

These are all converted into user information embeddings and fed into the relevance scoring engine.

Personalized search results have a massive implication on SEO: ranking for a search doesn't mean anything anymore.



A practical case study of 300 Al book suggestions



Sneak peek: 300 Al book recommendations

The methodology:

- 100 prompts in ChatGPT 5.
- Each prompt asks for 3 book recommendations.
- Varied prompts across all commercial and literary fiction genres.

The result: a list of 300 Al-recommended books. Let's analyze them!



Sneak peek: 300 Al book recommendations

Published by	Percentage
Big Five	63%
Independent publisher	29.66%
Self-published	7.33%

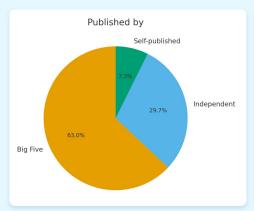
Published in	% (recency bias)	% (no bias)
2024-2025	63.39%	6.84%
2020-2023	31.15%	17.95%
Before 2020	5.46%	75.21%

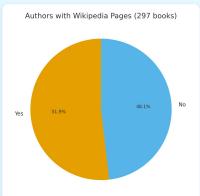
Goodreads data	
Average # review	35,493
Average rating	3.9
% books with rating < 3.5	10%

Google Books Library	Percentage
Available	99%
Not available	1%

Wikipedia page?	Percentage
Yes	51.85%
No	48.15%

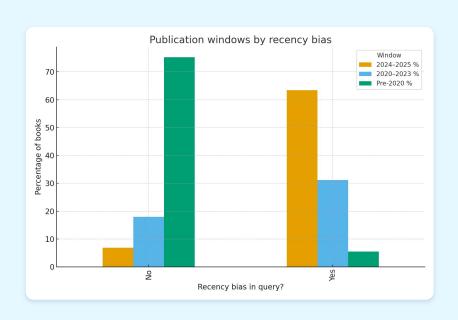
Sneak peek: 300 Al book recommendations











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Tips to stand out in an Al search world



Tip #1: Keep consistent, descriptive metadata



Read sample

Audible sample

Follow the author



Follow

Wooing the Witch Queen:

Maleficent meets romantasy in the start of a hilarious new trilogy

(Queens of Villainy Book 1) Kindle

Edition

by Stephanie Burgis (Author) Format: Kindle Edition

4.2 ★★★★☆ (518)

3.8 on Goodreads 4,052 ratings Book 1 of 2: Queens of Villainy See all formats and editions

Wooing the Witch Queen by Stephanie Burgis is the start of a delightful, funny and seductive romantasy trilogy, set in a gaslamp-lit world where hags and ogres lurk in thick pine forests and genteel court intrigues can turn deadly...

'This is a warm and lovely story with a big heart' – Sangu Mandanna, bestselling author of *The Very Secret Society of* Irregular Witches

Queen Saskia is the wicked sorceress everyone fears. After successfully wrestling the throne from her evil uncle, she only wants one thing: to keep her people safe from the empire next door. For that, she needs to spend more time in her laboratory experimenting with her spells. She definitely doesn't have time to bring order to her chaotic library of magic.

Make sure your book has the exact same title, subtitle, and series title everywhere on the internet.

Add a section to your book descriptions that clearly specify what your book is (or isn't): genre, tropes, themes, etc.

Tip #1: Keep consistent, descriptive metadata



Read sample

Audible sample

Follow the author •



achel Ilig Follow

The Knight and the Moth (The Stonewater



Kingdom, 1) Hardcover – May 20, 2025

by Rachel Gillig (Author)

4.5 ★★★★★ **(13,132)**

4.3 on Goodreads 106,679 ratings Book 1 of 1: The Stonewater Kingdom

Editors' pick Best Science Fiction & Fantasy

See all formats and editions

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INSTANT #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER!

"Prepare to meet your next obsession." — Rebecca Ross, author of Divine Rivals

From New York Times bestselling author Rachel Gillig comes the next big romantasy sensation, a gothic, mist-cloaked tale of a young prophetess forced on an impossible quest with the one knight whose future is beyond her sight. Perfect for fans of Jennifer L. Armentrout and Leigh Bardugo.

Sybil Delling has spent nine years dreaming of having no dreams at all. Like the other foundling girls who traded a decade of service for a home in the great cathedral, Sybil is a Diviner. In her dreams she receives visions from six unearthly figures known as Omens. From them, she can predict terrible things before they occur, and lords and common folk alike travel across the kingdom of Traum's windswept moors to learn their futures by her dreams.

Just as she and her sister Diviners near the end of their service, a mysterious knight arrives at the cathedral. Rude, heretical, and devilishly handsome, the knight





Audible sample

Follow the author •



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Heartless Hunter: The Crimson Moth: Book (1) 1 (The Crimson Moth, 1) Hardcover – February 20,

2024

by Kristen Ciccarelli (Author)

4.4 **** (55,854)

4.2 on Goodreads 327,355 ratings Book 1 of 2: The Crimson Moth

#1 Best Seller in Teen & Young Adult Dark Fantasy

See all formats and editions

AN INSTANT NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER!

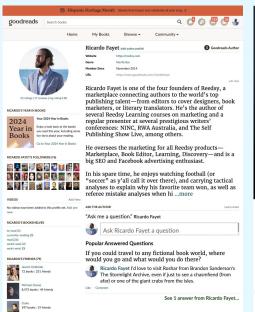
"A steamy game of cat and mouse between witch and witch-hunter, played out against a backdrop of opulence, secrets, and bloody history. I couldn't look away." - Kendare Blake, #1 New York Times bestselling author of Champion of Fate

Enemies-to-lovers doesn't get more high stakes than a witch and a witch hunter falling in love in bestselling author Kristen Ciccarelli's latest romantic fantasy.

On the night Rune's life changed forever, blood ran in the streets. Now, in the aftermath of a devastating revolution, witches have been diminished from powerful rulers to outcasts ruthlessly hunted due to their waning magic, and Rune must hide what she is.

Spending her days pretending to be nothing more than a vapid young socialite.

Tip #2: Claim all your author profiles and book pages









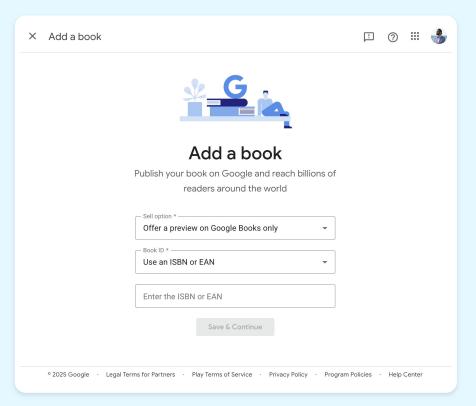
goodreads

reedsydiscovery

BookBub



Tip #3: Make sure your book exists on Google Books



Search for your book on <u>books.google.com</u>.

If it doesn't show up, fix it ASAP!

- 1. Sign up to Google Books Partner Center
- Add a book (either publish it on Google Play, or just offer a preview)

Important: you can do this even if the book is in Kindle Unlimited!

Tip #4: Get an exact match domain for your website

- Have an author website (BookBub, Tertulia, or self-built).
- Host it on a domain you own that exactly matches your author name (or potentially book/series title).

Pro tip: if you know nothing about this, just ask your favorite AI assistant for a step-by-step.



About me

Ricardo Fayet is one of the co-founders and the Chief Marketing officer of Reedsy. On top of overseeing the marketing for all Reedsy products, he has helped hundreds of authors with their own launches and marketing campaigns, landing several of their books on the Sunday Times or Wall Street Journal bestseller lists.

He's the author of two books on marketing for authors: <u>How to Market a Book: Overperform in a Crowded Market</u>, and <u>Amazon Ads for Authors: Unlock Your Full Advertising Potential</u>, and a regular presenter at prestigious writers' conferences: NINC, AuthorNation, Pikes Peak Writers Conference, InkersCon, and The Self Publishing Show Live, among others.

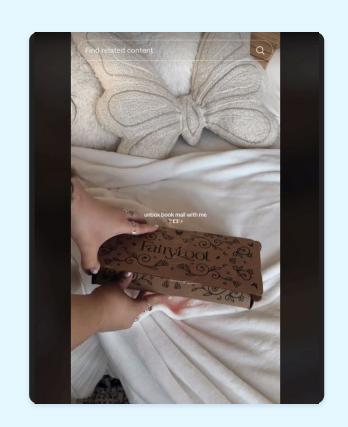
He lives between Madrid and Ibiza, with his partner Sara (founder of <u>BooksFlyer</u>), and their dog Lenny.

ricardofayet.com

Tip #5: Foster online reviews

Online reviews and discussion of your book are more important than ever. Consider shifting your marketing time/spend towards:

- Paid reviews: NetGalley co-op, Reedsy
 Discovery, BookSprout, Edelweiss, etc.
- Influencer marketing: send physical ARCs and boxes (act like a Big Five).



Tip #6: Leverage your existing readership

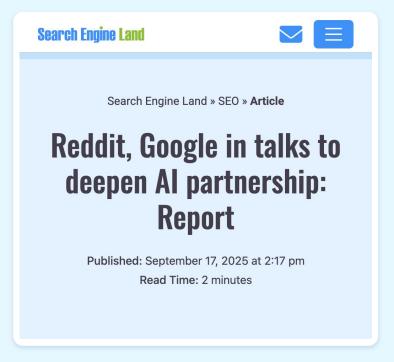


Consider asking your readers for reviews, mentions, posts, or videos on Reddit, Quora, YouTube, Instagram, TikTok, Facebook, etc.

- Get more out of your ARC team, but at the same time...
- Offer them extra cool rewards (hello, special editions!)
- Ask for honest reviews only (don't alienate your readers)e

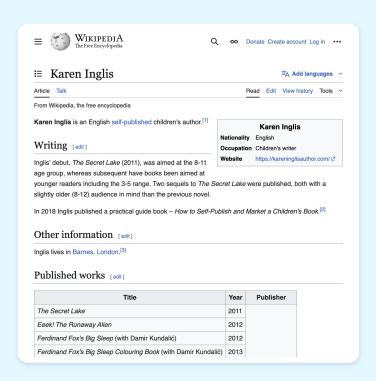
Tip #7: Boost your visibility on Reddit

- Be active in relevant genre/niche subreddits
- Offer to do an AMA in a relevant subreddit
- Look into Reddit Advertising
- If notable enough, create your own subreddit
- Ask your favorite AI assistant for more ideas!



Tip #8: If you can, get a Wikipedia page

- Meet notability standards: Multiple published books + significant independent coverage
- Show recognition: Awards, bestseller lists, or other evidence of influence/impact
- Gather reliable sources: Collect 3-5+ substantial press
 references avoid self-published or promotional sources.
- Draft neutrally: Write in an encyclopedic tone, cite every claim, and submit via Wikipedia's Articles for Creation (AfC).
- Don't rush it: If you don't yet qualify, focus on building your profile and media coverage first.



Tip #9: Get (or generate) mentions on listicle posts



just discovered that Forbes has listed my amateur, unfinished, self-published book series as one of its "best post-apocalyptic book series", alongside some of the most talented and prolific authors of the past five decades a

+ Follow

i'm sure this has everything to do with my immense literary talents and NOTHING to do with all the Al-generated "best post-apocalyptic books" listicles i published on a personal website as an experiment

anyway, thanks for the DR94 link:)

(and if you see this and want a good read, please, for everyone's sake, choose Kim Stanley Robinson over me)

20 Gripping Post-Apocalyptic Books To Read

What Are Good Post-Apocalyptic Book Series?

Good post-apocalyptic book series begin with a gripping premise and play it out over multiple editions, keeping readers on the edges of their seats. Three popular options are:

The Three Californias Trilogy (1984) by Kim Stanley Robinson, which looks at three possible post-apocalypse fates for Orange County, California.

The Walking Dead (1977) by Robert Kirkman, while famously depicts survivors in a zombie-infested world.

The Green Priest (2019) by Ryan Law, about a mystical order called to action when a secret threatens to escape in a society where it has rained for centuries.

ASH TALES



ASH TALES

ASH TALES

The 128 Best Post Apocalyptic Books

BEGINNER'S GUIDE AUG 19 | WRITTEN BY RYAN LAW

ICHTMPS stories of the apocalypse

The 128 Best Post **Apocalyptic Books**

From nuclear armageddon to bio-engineered super plague, humanity has a timeless fascination with the end of the world.

Since the golden age of post apocalyptic fiction in the 1950's, the literary landscape has grown darker and more bleak by the year; and fans of all things post apocalyptic now have an incredible selection of plagues, explosions and invasions to choose from

The 11 Best Post Apocalyptic Book Series

AUG 19 | WRITTEN BY RYAN LAW



The 11 Best Post **Apocalyptic Book**

Best Post Apocalyptic Books → The 11 Best Post **Apocalyptic Book Series**

You're totally immersed in an end-of-the-world story you can virtually smell the decay and hear the shuffling of zombie footsteps - and then you turn the page to discover... the end. The book has finished, the journey is over, and you're left feeling a sense of loss.

Here's my solution; ditch the standalone stories and pick

The 11 Best Young Adult Post-**Apocalyptic Books**

ISHING stories of the apocalypse

BEST BOOKS ABOUT... AUG 19 | WRITTEN BY RYAN LAW



The 11 Best Young Adult Post-**Apocalyptic Books**

Best Post Apocalyptic Books → The 11 Best Young Adult Post-Apocalyptic Books

The world is a scary place - so it's no wonder that so many people are drawn to post-apocalyptic stories. These tales offer a glimpse into a world where everything has gone wrong, and often focus on the human spirit as it strives to survive. They're dark, intense, and often full of mystery and suspense. Not to

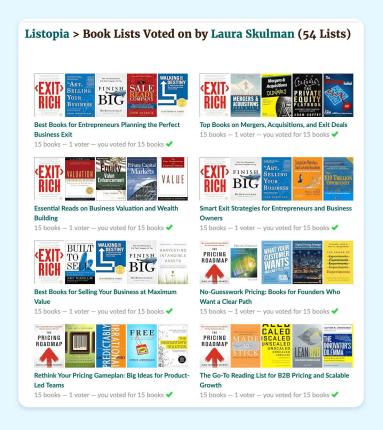
Tip #9: Get (or generate) mentions on listicle posts

"We've been hard at work curating custom book lists on Goodreads by genre. We're using our team's internal Goodreads accounts to place our authors' books next to big-name bestsellers.

Why?

Because platforms like ChatGPT, Google, and other Al engines are increasingly scraping Goodreads to inform their recommendations. If your book is consistently showing up alongside top titles in your niche, you're future-proofing your visibility."

Alex Strahdee, Before the Bestseller newsletter



Why do LLMs seem to favor traditionally published books?

The advantages of the big publishers

- Traditional review outlets and influencers also tend to favor trad pubbed books
- All big publishers have high-authority websites where they list all their books
- Deals get a lot of press/mentions (Publishers Marketplace, Query Tracker, PW, etc.)

All this creates high-authority *traces* of the books on multiple places online, which is exactly what the LLMs want to see.



My free book & marketing newsletter

Grab your complimentary copy of the book here:

blog.reedsy.com/books/ How-to-market-a-book

Newsletter:

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FREE

Paperback

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Thank you!

ricardo@reedsy.com

