



Summary

Goodreads is one of the largest book-discovery platforms, owned by Amazon, where readers track what they read, review books, and follow authors. Claiming your Goodreads Author profile helps you control your public bio, connect your books to your name, and engage readers through updates and Q&A. This white paper walks you through the practical steps to sign up and get verified as an author.

What you need before you start

- A Goodreads account (free)
- At least one book that already has a Goodreads book page (many titles are added automatically; if yours isn't, you may need to add it first)
- Basic author assets:
 - Author name exactly as it appears on your book cover
 - Short bio (50–150 words) and longer bio (optional)
 - Author photo (clear headshot)
 - Links (website, newsletter, social profiles)

Step-by-step: create your Goodreads account

1. Go to Goodreads and select **Sign up**. (IT IS FREE)
2. Create an account using an email address and password (or another offered sign-in method).
3. Confirm your email address if prompted.
4. Fill in your reader profile basics (this can be minimal—you'll update your author profile later).

Step-by-step: claim your Goodreads Author profile

1. While logged in, search Goodreads for your book title.
2. Open the book page and click your author name to view the author page associated with that book.
3. Look for the option to **claim** the author profile (often labeled like “Is this you? Let us know” or similar).
4. Submit the Goodreads Author Program request form.
5. Provide the requested verification details. Goodreads typically verifies that you are the author (or an authorized representative) before granting access.

Verification and approval: what to expect

- **Review time:** Approval may take days to a couple of weeks depending on volume.
- **Common reasons for delays:**
 - The book isn’t linked correctly to the author's name
 - Multiple author pages exist for the same author name
 - The request lacks enough verification detail

After approval, optimize your author presence

Once you’re approved, log in and update your author profile:

- **Author photo:** Use a professional, friendly headshot.
- **Bio:** Lead with your genre and reader promise (what readers can expect from you).
- **Books:** Ensure all editions are connected to your author page.
- **Connect channels:** Add your website and social links.
- **Engagement tools:** Explore features like updates, Q&A, and giveaways (availability may vary).

Best practices (quick wins)

- Keep your author name consistent across Amazon, Ingram, your website, and Goodreads.
- Add a short “start here” line in your bio for new readers (e.g., well-known series or most popular title).
- Encourage early readers to leave honest reviews (**never incentivize reviews**).

Troubleshooting checklist

- If you can't find your book on Goodreads, confirm it's listed on major retailers and try searching by ISBN.
- If your author page is duplicated, request a merge through Goodreads support.
- If your book shows the wrong author, check edition metadata and report the issue.

Conclusion

Signing up as an author on Goodreads is a straightforward process: create a Goodreads account, locate your book, claim the author page through the Author Program request, and then optimize your profile for discoverability and reader trust. With a complete profile and consistent metadata, Goodreads can become a valuable long-term channel for reader connection and social proof.