

# SEPTEMBER 2016 BEHIND THE CURTAIN JOURNAL ENTRY

## THE MESSY PROCESS OF CREATING A CRAFT BOOK, PART 1

BY CHILDREN'S AUTHOR JENNIFER PHILLIPS

Capstone Press just released my new book, *Picture Perfect!: Glam Scarves, Belts, Hats, and Other Fashion Accessories for All Occasions*. This is my third craft book with Capstone. **Here's** how these projects typically unfold.

I get a specifications sheet explaining the series being developed, reading levels, number of projects needed, word counts, deadlines and such.

I do some back and forth with the editor to make sure I am on the same page.

I put together a *really* long list of project ideas, many more than needed.

I start experimenting with prototypes to figure out **what's** going to work within the **book's** specifications, especially for the targeted age group.

I send a description of proposed projects, including rough pictures, to the editor. This usually involves some collaboration before the list is approved.

I refine the approved projects and write the manuscript. This is very intense, usually on an aggressive deadline and a combination of fun + stressful.

I submit a manuscript and prototype pictures by the deadline. It usually takes a few weeks before I hear back with revisions. There *always* are revisions, with a new deadline!

I revise, revise, revise, tapping my editor for guidance as needed. Sometimes this includes reworking projects significantly, or even finding new projects. It gets messy and **I'm** usually pretty tired at this stage.

I persist with revisions until the editor accepts the manuscript.

The editor reappears many weeks later with a PDF book galley. The beautiful photography and finished projects put my rough prototypes and pictures to shame. **It's** exciting to see my hard work laid out in a near-final version. My job is to be another set of proofing eyes for accuracy of project descriptions and instructions.

Next month, **I'll** share more about what **I've** learned in tackling these types of craft book projects. Let me know if you have any questions!

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