

Rich's Publishing Experiences

In the case of *Jaspa's Journey: The Great Migration*, the process went something like this...

Writing – This involved a whole load of things. A story had to be conceived and developed. The locations, animals, and a hundred other things all had to be researched. Numerous rough drafts were produced. Until finally there existed a finished manuscript, which Rich nervously gave to other people to read.

Revision – Taking the comments made by the initial readers, Rich went back to his keyboard (several times) and improved all aspects of the manuscript, from grammar, to content, and even the relative importance of the different characters.

The writing and revision stages took about 1½ years to complete in the case of *The Great Migration*.

Submission – When the manuscript was as polished as Rich felt possible, he began sending it off to publishers in Canada. Each submission had to be specifically tailored to that particular publisher. After many letters essentially saying, “*Thanks, but no thanks*”, DreamCatcher Publishing agreed to publish *Jaspa's Journey: The Great Migration*.

Over two years had passed since Rich had first started contacting publishers.

Editing – DreamCatcher's editor read and commented on *The Great Migration*. Rich took these comments onboard and produced the final draft of the book.

Publication – A cover was designed, maps were drawn and the book was typeset. Finally, almost five years after the idea of *Jaspa's Journey* was first conceived, Rich had a published copy of *The Great Migration* in his hand. It was a special day, but the process wasn't over...

Promotion – Rich soon discovered that, far from being the end of the road, in many ways the publication of your first novel is just the beginning. Nobody has heard of you or your book, and getting it into bookstores, let alone the hands of readers, requires a great deal of work and patience. Rich spent as much time as possible doing book signings, talking to schools, reading at literary festivals, and so on. It was slow going, but the hard work began to bear fruit.

Then sadly, the owner of DreamCatcher passed away and the company closed its doors. As a result, despite *The Great Migration* being an *Award Winning Finalist in USA Book News' Best Books Award 2009* and selling out its first two editions, Rich found himself back at the *Submissions* stage of the process once again.