

**ILLUSTRATION COMMISSION AGREEMENT  
(SAMPLE CONTRACT, Independent Publisher)**

Agreement made **October 1, 2027** between  
 Illustrator : **Mea Artist, 123 Main St., Denver, CO 80201**  
 - and -  
 Writer: **Ima Author, 543 ABC Ave., Boulder, CO 80302**

Concerning images commissioned by the Writer and described below:

**Up to 34** (32 plus front and back cover) **pages of illustrations (the “Artwork”) for children's book, *Dexter the Inquisitive Primate* (the “Work”)**

**1. Commission and Grant of Rights**

The Illustrator acknowledges and agrees that the Artwork hereunder been specifically ordered and commissioned by the Writer. The Illustrator hereby sells, assigns, and transfers, and the Writer hereby purchases the sole and exclusive license to produce, publish, and/or sell in book format the Artwork for the legal term of copyright, and any and all extensions, renewals, and revivals thereof throughout the World. All original artwork will remain the property of the Illustrator. The Writer agrees not to make any substantive changes to the Work without consulting the Illustrator.

**2. Sale and Purchase of Artwork (Advance)**

The Illustrator hereby sells, assigns, and transfers, and the Writer hereby purchases the sole and exclusive license to produce, publish, sell, in book format the Artwork for the sum of \$\_\_\_\_ (usually between \$150-\$300 depending on style and illustrator’s ability/experience) per page of illustration + tax. Sum payable as follows:

**Deposit of \$----- (1/3<sup>rd</sup> total) + tax due before project commences.**

**Mid-way installment of \$---- + tax upon approval of color roughs before going to final artwork.**

**Remaining payment + tax due upon completion and delivery of final artwork.**

**If any, graphic design fees of \$(usually between \$50-\$100 depending on ability/experience)/hour (ie. for type setting, digital reformatting for e-book or app publication) are due upon completion of project.**

**Royalties commence if/when picked up by a publisher. (Section 3)**

This advance fee is a non-refundable fee, even if the Work is not published by the Writer. If the Writer wishes to sell the Artwork through a medium other than a published book, the Writer agrees to pay the Illustrator its standard royalties for those markets at the time of use, less returns.

**3. Royalties**

If and when the Work is licensed to a publisher, royalties for the sale of books (inclusive of e-book or book app) would apply. Subject to the exceptions hereinafter mentioned and so long as copyright protection subsists in the Work, the Illustrator shall be entitled to the following royalties from the sale of the published Work, less returns:

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a) Hardcover and Paperback Editions: The Writer shall pay the Illustrator, subject to the exceptions hereinafter mentioned, the following royalties from sales of the published work :

Regular Sales : **five per cent (5%)** of retail price when sold to the distributor at a discount of 65%;

Sales at High Discount : **five per cent (5%)** of the net amount received by the Writer when sold to the distributor at a discount of more than 65%.

b) Export : With respect to copies of hardcover or softcover editions of the Work sold by the Writer for resale outside of North America, a royalty equal to **five per cent (5%)** of the list price.

c) Non-Book Trade Sales: On bulk sales of a special edition bearing the imprint of a third party for promotional purposes, or for sale outside the traditional book trade, a royalty of **five per cent (5%)** of the net amount received by the Writer.

d) Free Copies / Copies at or below Cost : **No royalties** shall be payable for copies given away for promotion, or for any copies sold at cost price or below.

For editions printed in other languages, royalties will be the same as those applied to the English edition.

All royalties will be paid in U.S. dollars. When the Writer receives monies from sales made in currencies other than U.S. dollars, the royalties shall be paid in U.S. funds and the amount paid will be calculated at the conversion rate on the day the funds.

Commencing on the Writer's date of initial publication of the Work, the Writer shall provide the Illustrator with annual statements of regular sales of the Work for each 12-month period ending December 31 of each year. Statements shall be mailed or emailed out no later than 30 days after the end of each 12-month period.

A royalty check in the amount owed shall follow such statements no later than ninety-(90) days after the statement date. If the royalties due are less than \$25.00, the Writer may defer the payment of royalties until such statement indicates the sum of \$25.00 or more to be due.

#### **4. Project Schedule and Delivery Dates**

Illustrator shall deliver the Artwork, in the form of digital files to Writer not later than the following dates:

Work shall begin after final, proof-read manuscript and initial deposit is received.

- **Character Sketches: within 30 days of manuscript and deposit receipt**

- **Dummy Book Sketches: within 75 days of character sketch approval**

Note: Changes need to be made at the sketch stage. All sketches must be signed off before the illustrator goes to finish.

- **Revised Sketches: within 30 days of receiving sketch revision request**

- **Color Roughs : two weeks after revised sketches are approved**

- **Final art Due: twelve weeks after color roughs are approved**

Any changes to finished art entail a fee of (\$25-\$50)/half hour.

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### **5. Illustrator's Copies**

The Writer shall furnish the Illustrator with **ten (10) free copies** of the Work upon publication. The Writer shall send the Illustrator two free copies of any sub-licensed or foreign edition of the Work.

### **6. Copyright**

The copyright for the Artwork shall belong to the Illustrator. The copyright in the text shall belong to the Writer. The Writer agrees to print a copyright notice in each copy of the Work as required to obtain protection under the Universal Copyright Convention.

### **7. Credit**

a) The Illustrator's name shall be printed on the front cover, title page and with biography and optional photograph on the back cover. The Writer shall use their best endeavors to ensure that the Illustrator is given full acknowledgement in any edition of the Work sublicensed by the Writer to a third party.

b) The Illustrator shall ensure that any exhibition of the Artwork shall make full acknowledgement to the Work, to the Writer, and to the Publisher.

### **8. Promotion**

The Illustrator shall permit the Writer free of charge to use the Artwork to promote the Work in catalogues, advertisements and other promotional material. The Illustrator has the right to use the Artwork for self-promotional purposes. The illustrator agrees not to use the Artwork in its entirety or in book format for self-promotional purposes.

### **9. Failure to Deliver**

If the Illustrator fails to make delivery of the Artwork on the dates specified in Section 4, or if the Artwork delivered is not satisfactory to the Author, the Author may, at his/her option, at any time thereafter, without prejudice to his/her other rights and remedies, do one or more of the following:

(a) Terminate this Agreement by giving written notice, in which event the Writer agrees to pay the Illustrator a Cancellation fee (see Section 10);

(b) Request the Illustrator to work cooperatively with the Writer to make the Artwork satisfactory to the Writer within a period to be fixed by the Writer, in which event the Illustrator shall use his/her/their best efforts to do so.

If the Illustrator fails to deliver the Artwork satisfactory to the Writer in accordance with subparagraph (b), the Writer may terminate this Agreement as provided in subparagraph (a).

If the Illustrator fails to deliver or complete the Artwork at no fault of the Writer, the Illustrator agrees to give a full refund to the Writer.

### **10. Cancellation**

Should the Writer for any reason cancel publication they shall pay to the Illustrator a cancellation fee to be agreed and proportional to the degree of completion. The Writer shall have no rights in any Artwork so canceled.

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If the Illustrator fails to deliver or complete the Artwork at no fault of the Writer, the Illustrator agrees to give a full refund to the Writer.

**11. Warranty**

The Illustrator represents and warrants that:

- (a) the Illustrator has full power to make this Agreement;
- (b) the Illustrator is the sole creator of the Artwork and is the owner of the rights herein granted;
- (c) the Artwork is original and has not been previously published;
- (d) the Artwork does not contain any obscene, libelous or defamatory matter; and
- (e) the Artwork is in no way a violation or an infringement of any existing copyright or license.

**12. Competitive Works**

The Illustrator shall not, without the written permission of the Writer, publish or authorize the publication of any children's book based on material in the Work, or of a nature such that it is likely to compete with the Work.

**13. Publication**

The Writer shall publish the Work at such time, and in such manner, as may be determined by the Writer. The Writer shall revert all rights to the Artwork to the Illustrator if, for any reason in the Writer's sole discretion, the Work is not published.

**14. Assignment**

The Writer may assign this Agreement with the prior written agreement of Illustrator to a successor by reason of merger, consolidation, or sale or exchange of assets or any other reorganization as the Writer may determine. The Illustrator may assign any net sums due to the Illustrator under this Agreement, but may not assign or delegate the Illustrator's duties or obligations under this Agreement.

**15. Generative AI** Illustrator agrees not to use any AI-generation in the art-making process. This includes sketches, image editing, or creation of artwork for the book cover or interior artwork. Illustrator attests that all artwork is of their own making and human created. Writer agrees not to use artwork for AI machine learning or to modify the artwork in any way, including with generative AI tools, without prior express written permission from the artist. Additionally, both writer and illustrator will not knowingly expose the writing or artwork to generative AI machine learning, including chatbot applications such as ChatGPT.

**16. Entire Agreement**

This Agreement constitutes the entire Agreement between the Illustrator and the Writer concerning its subject matter and supersedes any and all prior agreements, arrangements or understandings (whether written or oral) relating hereto. No addition or modification of any provision of this Agreement shall be binding upon the parties unless it is in writing and signed on behalf of the Author and the Illustrator.

**17. Applicable Law**

This Agreement shall be governed and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of Colorado and the United States government.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties have duly executed this agreement the day and year first written above.

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**Ima Author, Writer**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Mea Artist, Illustrator**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

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