

# MOUNTAIN STATE PRESS

Exploring the Publishing Process from Manuscript to Market



**Student Name:** Alexis

Talbert

**Non-Profit Site:** Mountain State Press, Inc. (Corbly Hall, Marshall University)

**Faculty Mentor:** Cody Lumpkin

**Non-Profit Mentor:** Cathy Pleska

## Internship Overview:

The internship with Mountain State Press, Inc. provided firsthand experience in the publishing industry. I learned about manuscript evaluation, editing, and publication processes while supporting MSP's mission to promote Appalachian and West Virginian writers. This internship strengthened my editorial judgment, communication skills, and cultural understanding of Appalachian storytelling.

## Key Accomplishments:

- ✓ Compared major and minor publishing houses.
- ✓ Reviewed 8 query letters chapter evaluations
- ✓ Edited "Winter Journey" chapter for narrative structure and pacing
- ✓ Provided professional editorial feedback balancing author creativity and publisher standards
- ✓ Created materials for professional publishing portfolio

## Humanities Skills and Values

**Communication:**  
Strengthened professional writing and feedback to authors

**Critical Thinking:**  
Analyzed tone, purpose, and structure

**Cultural Awareness:**  
Preserved Appalachian authenticity for modern readers

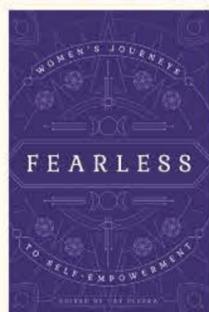
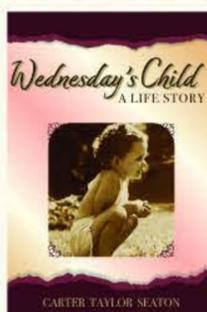
**Creativity:** Refined narrative flow through line editing and feedback

## Reflection and Impact

This internship deepened my understanding of literary publishing and Appalachian storytelling. I learned how to evaluate manuscripts with empathy and purpose, balancing creativity with professionalism. My time with MSP has strengthened the skills I will use in editing, teaching, and literary outreach – shaping my identity as both a communicator and a future leader in publishing.



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