

Oneworld Submission Form: Non-fiction Manuscripts

In order to ensure that your submission has the highest chance of success, you are advised to answer all parts of this form as fully as possible.

About you

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Your Proposal

Proposed Book Title
Like The Sun: Sing to the World
Approximate Length (word count)
80,000
Estimated Completion Date
March 2023
Briefly describe your background and what makes you qualified to write this book
I spent most of my life working in the music industry and in promotions, but since 2020 I have concentrated exclusively on writing. I have achieved some renown as a poet, but my true passion is in the delivery of this remarkable memoir.

The subject of this book, Karl Peter Schilling, has been a friend for more than 40 years, and over the past three years I have conducted in excess of 100 hours of interviews with him regarding his extraordinary life. In addition, I have interviewed others who have encountered Karl in his adventures for alternative perspectives, and have relentlessly researched and fact checked each element of his account. During this period of research and writing I have been in almost daily contact with Karl, in order to bring the ongoing story completely up to date.

I had originally offered to ghost write his memoir, but Karl opined that I now know more about his life and travels than he does himself, so he has specifically requested that I deliver his story.

Please give details of any previous publications, including the name of the publisher and the date of publication

Poetry anthologies:

They Want All Their Teeth To Be Theirs (Culture Matters, UK - 3 December 2021)

Songs of Peace (Author's Press, India - 19 March 2022)

Wuxing Lyrical (Gloomy Seahorse Press, UK - 26 April 2022)

Literary Journals:

Red Door Magazine #24 (Red Press, Denmark - 2020)

The Journal of Expressive Writing (USA – 28 March 2022)

Briefly describe your proposed book, including a short chapter-by-chapter synopsis of the project's planned contents – a table of contents is also useful

The subject, Karl Peter Schilling, is a musician, who for the last twenty-five years has circumnavigated the globe several times, supported only by his ability to improvise original songs in the street. He has no savings, no property, no additional income of any kind, and no plan. He owns only his guitar, a passport, two sets of clothes and a smartphone (and occasionally a bicycle).

I am proposing a memoir of a remarkable life, written from my 'third-person' perspective. The book is informal, humorous, and conversational in tone. It is creative non-fiction, and the story unfolds in the order I was able to establish facts rather than chronologically (since that is funnier). I reproduce Karl's authentic voice and philosophy faithfully, using extensive direct quotes.

Karl has no safety net. He lives completely in the moment, relying entirely on his musical talent and the kindness of strangers to survive one day at a time. He has successfully survived in this manner, despite setbacks, disasters, romantic entanglements, a pandemic, a religious cult, police harassment, and all manner of obstacles since the 1990s, and he continues to do so. Over that time, he has travelled across every continent of the world, bar South America and

Antarctica, and there is every chance he will conquer South America before this sees the press (honestly, at this point, Antarctica doesn't seem completely out of the question).

Introduction:

Who and what is Karl Schilling

Background:

How I met Karl, and why I wrote this book

Chapter One: The Whys and Wherefores

Karl attempts (and fails) to explain what he is doing, and how he survives. It emerges there is no plan, only sheer faith, luck, and effort.

Chapter Two: Follow The Sun

Poverty and the promise of greener grass. Why he keeps on moving.

Chapter Three: Amsterdam Nights

How to buy a 'Round the World' plane ticket using nothing but a bicycle.

Chapter Four: Pandemic Purgatory

COVID means busking or travelling is almost impossible for a while. Karl finds himself trapped in Amsterdam, unable to move on.

Chapter Five: Wilful Naivety

Avoiding the dangers of the road by remaining steadfastly oblivious. If you have nothing, you have nothing to lose.

Chapter Six: Love and Food

Dealing with relationships, family, and loneliness when your greatest concern is breakfast.

Chapter Seven: Suicide Blonde

The Glam Rock years. Playing in bands, dumpster diving, trying to be a family man. What could go wrong?

Chapter Eight: Rave On

The Rave years. Ecstasy, dance, and the party that can never end.

Chapter Nine: The Platform and the Beats

The legacy of the Beat Writers and obscure Spanish cinema, as a lifestyle.

Chapter Ten: A Friend In Jesus

Karl accidentally joins a cult, lured in by cake; how this instigated his journey, and why he forgot to mention it.

Chapter Eleven: Losing My Religion

The kindness of strangers in strange lands. How an encounter in Morocco undid three years of cult indoctrination in a single dinner.

Chapter Twelve: Breakfast In America

Karl fulfils his lifelong dream of living in New York City, gets the job he saw in the welcome video on the plane; gets an apartment; settles down to his dream life...

Chapter Thirteen: If You're Going to San Francisco

Today I went to San Francisco to become a top chef.

Chapter Fourteen: Barber's Shop Boogie

Busking the streets of San Francisco in a Barber's Shop quartet

Chapter Fifteen: Mexico Vs. Super Mario

Plans to get to Mexico include working as a plumber, based on a demonstrable skill in Super Mario, but fall through when the ticket money is spent on a whim.

Chapter Sixteen: Big In Japan

Why Japan is his spiritual home, and how it is the only place he doesn't smoke cannabis (followed by a story about smoking cannabis in Japan).

Chapter Seventeen: Himalayas and Happy Idiots

Travels through India, and how to live in the Himalayas as an English busker.

Chapter Eighteen: Girls, Girls, Girls

Love and sex. Crossing the Atlantic for love, and why Karl is single.

Chapter Nineteen: The Hitch-Hiker's Guide

International hitch-hiking strategies, anecdotes, and adventures.

Chapter Twenty: A Land Down Under

How not to hitch-hike across Australia, and why travelling is a solitary pursuit.

Chapter Twenty-One: 50 Shades of Shit

Why Karl doesn't drink alcohol anymore, a series of scatological horror stories.

Chapter Twenty-Two: The Legend of the Lost Guitar

What happens when your only means of income is seized by the Spanish police.

Chapter Twenty-Three: The Sacred Weed

How cannabis inspires and motivates Karl to keep going.

Chapter Twenty-Four: I'm Like The Sun

An unlikely tale of a busker discovered on the street by a record producer, and what comes next.

Please describe the readership at which your proposed book is aimed and where you envisage it being shelved in a bookshop – e.g. popular science, history or politics

The primary target audience are people who like to explore alternative lifestyles and human interest stories. It would probably sit well in 'memoirs and biographies'. Ideally, I'd like to see it on bookstands in airports.

Do you anticipate any secondary markets for your book, such as special interest groups, professional associations, students?

I think this story might appeal to people interested in music, travelogues, or the traveller lifestyle. Its gentle humour might also place it as a 'holiday' book to read on a plane or beach.

List at least three competing titles currently on the market, giving details of publisher, price and date of publication. These might not be direct competitors, but simply what your primary readership is buying at the moment.

James Bowen, *A Street Cat Named Bob: How One Man and his Cat Found Hope on the Streets*, (Hodder Paperbacks, 13 Sept. 2012) - £9.99

Mark Boyle, *The Moneyless Man: A Year of Freeeconomic Living*, (Oneworld Publications, 4 April 2019) - £9.99

Jen Benson, *The Wild Year: a Story of Homelessness, Perseverance and Hope*, (Aurum, 3 May 2022) - £16.99

Esther Freud, *Hideous Kinky*, (Penguin, 25 Feb. 1993) - £8.99

Bill Bryson, *A Walk In The Woods: The World's Funniest Travel Writer Takes a Hike*, (Black Swan, 1 July 1998) - £8.99

List at least three key features that make your book unique. Why should readers choose your book over the ones listed above?

The titles above are either tales of redemption where the protagonist escapes an unpleasant lifestyle, or temporary 'experiments' undertaken by the author for a set period of time. *Like the Sun* is remarkable for the demonstrable sustainability of the lifestyle, as well as the ongoing unfaltering daily decision to continue.

Like the Sun does not propose an alternative lifestyle that might be desirable for the reader, or a philosophy that could change the world. Rather, it is a glimpse into an entirely alien reality tunnel, as lived by one remarkable and unusual character, a demonstration of pure faith in the very best of human nature.

The narration is observational, and frequently at the mercy of an incredibly unreliable and unpredictable protagonist, leading to a great deal of humour as the author (and reader) grapple with the uncompromising extremes and consequences of his chosen lifestyle.

Do you have any other comments?

This is a book I desperately wanted to read, to find answers to questions of social and existential import, posed by Karl Schilling's very existence in the modern world.

Since nobody had written the book, and Karl has no intention of doing so, it fell to me to write it before I could read it.

If possible, I would like to include photographs.

Submission

Please email this form (in Word or PDF formats) to:

submissions@oneworld-publications.com