Understanding and Negotiating Book Publication Contracts

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SECTION II: THE GRANT OF RIGHTS
THE GRANT OF RIGHTS IS THE HEART AND soul of your publication contract. This provision specifies exactly which rights in your work you are giving your publisher and what it can do with these rights. The rights you give to your publisher can be broad (e.g., the right to print and sell copies of your work anywhere in the world, forever) or they can be narrow (e.g., the right to sell a limited edition in a specific market for a set period of time).

But what exactly are your rights? Chapter 4: What Rights? introduces what copyright is, how you get it, and how having co-authors can change that equation. Next, Chapter 5: The Grant of Rights Clause explains the different ways you can give your copyrights to your publisher and presents options for
limiting that grant of rights. Finally, Chapter 6: Subsidiary Rights discusses how your contract is likely to divide up your copyrights into different industry-specific “slices,” why these slices matter, and your options for retaining some control over them.