

Early Reader Confidentiality Agreement

For confidential review of an unpublished manuscript

This Early Reader Confidentiality Agreement is entered into as of the date below by and between Gathered Commons Press, acting for the author identified below, and the reader identified below. In consideration of receiving access to an unpublished manuscript, the reader agrees to the following terms.

Parties and manuscript

Manuscript title	
Author	
Reader legal name	
Reader email address	
Date provided	
Expected publication date if known	

1 Definition of confidential material

“Confidential Material” means the unpublished manuscript identified above and every portion of it, together with excerpts, notes, outlines, cover concepts, publication plans, editorial communications, and other material supplied by the author or Gathered Commons Press. Confidential Material remains the property of its respective owner. All copyright and other rights are reserved.

2 Permitted purpose and reader obligations

The reader may use the Confidential Material solely for private reading and for providing requested feedback to the author or Gathered Commons Press. The reader will not disclose, discuss publicly, post, quote, reproduce, distribute, sell, lend, record, photograph, transmit, or otherwise make any Confidential Material available to another person without prior written permission from Gathered Commons Press.

The reader will not upload, submit, scan, or transmit the manuscript or a substantial excerpt to any outside service, platform, archive, or other third party without prior written permission from Gathered Commons Press.

3 Safeguards and notice of disclosure

The reader will use reasonable care to protect the Confidential Material from loss, unauthorized access, or disclosure. If the reader becomes aware of an actual or suspected unauthorized access or disclosure, the reader will notify Gathered Commons Press promptly and cooperate in reasonable efforts to limit further disclosure.

4 Feedback and no license

Feedback is voluntary. The author and Gathered Commons Press may consider, use, revise, or decline feedback without payment or further obligation to the reader. This agreement does not assign or transfer copyright, grant publication, adaptation, or distribution rights, create an employment, partnership, or agency relationship, or promise that the reader will receive a finished edition.

5 Term, return, and deletion

The reader's confidentiality obligations continue until the manuscript is officially published or until Gathered Commons Press releases the reader in a writing, whichever occurs first. At any time upon request, the reader will promptly return or permanently delete all copies and excerpts within the reader's possession or control, including copies stored on devices or accounts, except for a copy expressly authorized in writing by Gathered Commons Press.

6 Remedies

The reader acknowledges that an unauthorized disclosure may cause harm that cannot be fully addressed by money damages. Gathered Commons Press and the author may seek appropriate injunctive or equitable relief for a threatened or actual breach, in addition to any other remedies available under applicable law.

7 Governing law and venue

This agreement is governed by the laws of the State of California, without regard to conflict-of-law principles. Any action arising from this agreement must be brought in the state courts located in Stanislaus County, California, unless applicable law requires a different court.

8 Entire agreement and severability

This agreement is the entire agreement about the reader's confidential review of the manuscript and replaces prior discussions on that subject. Any amendment or waiver must be in writing and signed by the party against whom it is enforced. If any provision is found unenforceable, the remaining provisions will remain in effect.

Signatures

By signing below, the parties confirm that they have read, understand, and agree to this Early Reader Confidentiality Agreement.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Reader legal name: _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Gathered Commons Press representative: _____