

Decision Worksheet: Goodreads or Lovelybooks?

This decision worksheet helps you figure out **whether and which reading platform** makes sense for you as an author: **Goodreads, LovelyBooks, both – or neither**. It is not a test and not an obligation. The goal is to gain clarity and make a **conscious, realistic decision** that fits your book, your audience, and your available resources.

1. My Target Audience

1. Which language do I primarily write in?
 - A English or international
 - B German
 - C Multilingual
 - D I haven't decided yet
2. Where are my ideal readers mainly located?
 - A International
 - B German-speaking countries
 - C Both national and international
 - D I'm not sure yet
3. How important is direct interaction with readers to me?
 - A Less important – visibility matters more to me
 - B Very important – dialogue and connection matter
 - C Both are important to me
 - D I don't want to deal with this right now

2. My Content and Genres

4. What kind of books do I mainly write?
 - A English-language fiction or internationally oriented genres
 - B German-language fiction, nonfiction, or guides
 - C Multiple areas or mixed genres
 - D I'm still figuring this out
5. How much does my book rely on discussion, feedback, or community?
 - A Hardly at all – the book stands on its own
 - B A lot – interaction is part of the concept
 - C Moderately – feedback is helpful but not essential



D I haven't thought about this yet

3. My Resources

6. How much time can I realistically invest in a platform?

A Irregularly, mostly passive

B Regularly and actively

C Limited, but intentionally

D None at the moment

7. Am I willing to allocate a budget for visibility or promotional activities?

A No – I only want to use free options

B Yes – for community-based activities on German-language platforms

C Yes – if it makes strategic sense

D I haven't looked into this yet

8. How do I feel about online communities?

A I prefer observing rather than actively participating

B I enjoy exchanging ideas and discussing

C Both, depending on the topic

D I generally avoid online communities

9. How do I deal with public feedback?

A Objectively, with some distance

B Openly and ready for dialogue

C It depends on the situation

D I find this difficult (for now)

4. My Goals

10. What is my main goal in using a platform?

A Long-term visibility

B Exchange and feedback

C Both

D I don't have a clear goal

11. Do I expect quick results (e.g. sales)?

A No, I'm thinking long term

B Partly

C I know platforms take time

D Yes, I expect that



Evaluation

Count which letter (A, B, C, or D) you selected most often.

- **Mostly A – Goodreads may be the better fit for you** → You write internationally or in English and think long term. Goodreads can be a suitable platform to build visibility and reach over time, without the pressure of immediate marketing results.
- **Mostly B – LovelyBooks may be the better fit for you** → Your audience is primarily German-speaking, and interaction matters to you. LovelyBooks works well if you're looking for feedback, reader engagement, and community-based activities.
- **Mostly C – Both platforms could make sense** → You operate between different goals or audiences. Using both platforms in a conscious, well-prioritized way can work, as long as you don't overextend yourself.
- **Mostly D – No platform is necessary right now** → This is a completely valid outcome. Your focus may currently be on writing or publishing. Platforms can always be chosen later, when your goals or resources change.

Final Thought

Platforms are **tools**, not obligations. This worksheet is meant to support an informed decision—not to push you in any direction. **Return to this worksheet whenever your book, goals, or resources change.**

This decision worksheet complements the following articles:

- <https://www.grin.com/en/magazin/self-publishing/goodreads/>
- <https://www.grin.com/en/magazin/self-publishing/lovelybooks/>

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