Mystery Book Launch Checklist

From Idea Card to KDP Upload — a step-by-step companion for Nonogram Story Studio

PHASE 1 — BUILD YOUR STORY WORLD

- ■ Open the studio and start a new mystery book on the idea card.
- ■ Roll the dice on Place, Crime, Detective, and When — or type your own.
- ■ Shuffle or rewrite the six suspects until the cast feels fresh (rename at least two).
- ■ Pick a title and printed opening that name the mystery, not just "puzzle book".
- ■ Choose book size (20 / 30 / 40 puzzles), reader level, and trim size.
- ■ Check the studio's uniqueness warning — your title and story world must be unclaimed.
- ■ Press build, then note who the culprit is (you find out like your readers will).

PHASE 2 — READ, PLAY & EDIT PASS

- ■ Open the book in the reader and read every page exactly as it prints.
- ■ Switch to Play and solve at least 3 puzzles on screen, square by square.
- ■ Check the Evidence Board: circled letters must spell the culprit, in order.
- ■ Read the final puzzle — confirm it resolves from the earlier answers.
- ■ Edit story lines in place where the tone drifts; use "Shorten for me" on any text that overflows its page.
- ■ Run the "Make it yours" score — change at least 3 shared elements (suspects, opening, cover picture) to push it higher.
- ■ Open Manuscript view: spellcheck every word the reader reads; confirm the teaser line.
- ■ Use one-click swaps to replace any picture already used in your other books.
- ■ Press "Mark as reviewed" on the book page.

PHASE 3 — PREFLIGHT & PRINT FILES

- ■ Run the 12-point KDP preflight and fix every flagged item via its fix link.
- ■ Download the interior PDF and cover PDF (check the cover is sized to your page count and paper).
- ■ Open BOTH PDFs in KDP's Previewer — flip every page on screen.
- ■ Order a physical proof copy and play one puzzle on paper with a pen.
- ■ Save the publishing kit .zip — keep PDFs, listing text, and settings together.

PHASE 4 — COVER & LISTING

- ■ In Cover Studio, pick a design (Case File or Puzzle Pop) and colour — preview at Amazon search size.
- ■ Set a cover picture that is NOT in the book (no spoilers) and a one-line subtitle.
- ■ Copy the listing kit: title, subtitle, series, description (watch the 4,000-character counter), 7 keywords (50-char counters), 3 categories.
- ■ Confirm the 7 keywords reflect how buyers actually search (mystery + nonogram + gift angles).
- ■ Download the 9 A+ / social / Pinterest images and save the Amazon Ads keyword CSV for later.

PHASE 5 — KEYWORDS, PROOF & UPLOAD

- ■ Fill KDP's 7 keyword slots from your worksheet — no repeats, no brand names.
- ■ Pick 2–3 accurate categories; note the full category path you browsed to.
- ■ Answer KDP's AI-content question truthfully (see the studio's Help guide).
- ■ Set your price after checking the shelf for comparable puzzle books.
- ■ Publish, then verify the live listing: cover, look-inside, description, A+ content.
- ■ Upload your 9 promo images to A+ Content once eligible; pin 2–3 Pinterest pins in week one.
- ■ Back up the book in the studio; log the title, ASIN, and date on your bookshelf.

Created by Pickzox as a free bonus companion to Nonogram Story Studio. Checklist items follow the studio's own workflow — build, review, preflight, proof, publish.