

The Disclosure Language

What to tell Amazon, what to tell readers, in what words, and what to keep in case you are accused.

Two things get muddled under the word "credit," and they are not the same. Amazon's checkbox is a compliance record. Your front matter is a statement to your reader, and it is the cheapest trust asset available to you. Neither is a citation: you do not cite a chat session, because there is nothing on the other end of the pointer for a reader to go and check.

WHAT AMAZON ASKS AT UPLOAD

The definition turns on **who produced the initial content**, and it applies "even if you applied substantial edits afterwards." That clause is what makes heavy editing irrelevant to the answer.

IF	THEN
AI assisted	You produced the initial text. The model researched, interrogated, diagnosed, organized. Nothing to disclose.
AI generated	The model produced the initial text, however much you edited it afterwards. Disclose.
Images	If a generative tool produced the initial image, disclose it, even if you rebuilt everything on top of it.
Marketing copy	Your description, keywords, ads and social posts sit outside the policy entirely.

The disclosure is internal. Buyers do not see it on your product page. Ticking it costs you nothing and not ticking it can cost you the book, so if you are in any doubt, tick it.

FRONT MATTER, IF YOU DID NOT GENERATE PROSE

Three parts and about a hundred and fifty words: what you used it for, what you did not use it for, and the line you held. Adapt the bracketed parts. The only rule is that it be accurate.

A note on how this book was made. I used AI to [research this book, to interrogate my own thinking, to test the structure, and to catch places where I repeated myself]. I did not use it to write the sentences. Every sentence here was produced by me, in a draft I made, and then edited by me. Where I have used AI to generate anything that appears in this book, I say so at that point in the text.

FRONT MATTER, IF YOU DID GENERATE PROSE

Say so. Plainly, without apology, in the same place.

Portions of [Chapters 4 and 7] were drafted with AI assistance and revised by me.

Being caught in a false disclosure is worse than any disclosure you could make. Name the chapters that are true for you.

- ☐ In the front matter, before the first chapter, where a reader meets it rather than hunts for it.
- ☐ **Not** on your attributions page. That page carries credit lines rights holders required as a condition of permission, worded as they specified.
- ☐ **Not** on your acknowledgments page. That page is for people.
- ☐ **Not** in your bibliography. A bibliography is a list of things a reader can go and read.

SHOULD YOU NAME THE TOOL?

You can. Nothing requires it, and it dates your book immediately. Name the practice, not the product.

KEEP THE EVIDENCE

Detectors are unreliable in both directions, and being accused is now a real hazard. What ends the conversation is not a detector score. It is a folder.

- ☐ Timestamped drafts, in a folder, in sequence
- ☐ Your recordings, if you talked your drafts
- ☐ Your Voiceprint file, with its edit history
- ☐ Your research notes and claims table
- ☐ Version history on the working document

When the 2026 Commonwealth Short Story Prize regional winners were accused, the Foundation reviewed exactly this: working drafts, timestamped documents and notes. It cleared all five of them.

Nothing here is legal advice. Copyright, fair use and platform policy are described as an author understands them, not as a lawyer would. When the answer matters, ask one.