

# Make books

# // Nick Berendsen

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Make books



# Make books

Nick Berendsen

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Desbeers <http://www.desbeers.nl>

MANY THANKS!

To all the developers from the Open Source communities  
who gave us so much fun stuff to play with.

The LaTeX community

The Pandoc community

And all you others out there!



## CONTENTS

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Introduction                               | ix |
| Installation                               | 1  |
| Configuration                              | 3  |
| <b>WRITE A BOOK</b>                        | 5  |
| The anatomy of a book                      | 7  |
| Markup your words                          | 9  |
| Parts, dedication, and other special pages | 13 |
| Metadata for your book                     | 15 |
| The folder structure of your book          | 17 |
| <b>COMPILING</b>                           | 19 |
| Compiling your book                        | 21 |
| Compiling all books in one time            | 23 |
| Compiling book collections                 | 24 |
| Compiling tags collections                 | 28 |
| <b>TECHNICAL STUFF</b>                     | 29 |
| What are all those files?                  | 31 |
| Pandoc filters                             | 34 |
| LaTeX                                      | 36 |
| Make                                       | 38 |
| A real macOS application                   | 39 |
| Afterword                                  | 41 |



# INTRODUCTION

## WRITE A BEAUTIFUL BOOK

 like to write books and I like to make books. Both literally. They have a lot in common and even more *not* in common. Writing is a creative process. Words, words and words. On the other hand, *making* books is mostly a technical process.

It's a nice combination.

For years and years, I'm searching for the "perfect" book environment. Perfect for writing and perfect for self publishing. It's been a long journey, I made my first books around 2004. Half the time was writing; the other half programming. At that time, I was much into web programming so my "publishing system" was home-made in PHP and MySQL. Fun to do, impossible to maintain.

So, time to make a new system! Instead of reinventing the wheel I looked around, learned [LaTeX](#), found [Pandoc](#), learned a bit of shell and [Lua](#) scripting and glued that whole stuff together to my brand new writing environment.

I'm not a writer, nor a programmer, just a hobbyist who does this for fun. It was a lot (lot, lot, lot) try-and-error and I'm sure many parts can be done better but that does not matter for me. That's part of the fun, just keep learning.

It's all on [Github](#), a repo with all the bits and pieces to make beautiful PDF's and ePub books. An sample book, which is actually this book, is included and it explains it all...

Enjoy,

Nick



---

## INSTALLATION

*A* basic technical knowledge is required to use this system; it's working from the `command line` unless you use the macOS frontend. I will give it a fair try to help you to get it all up and running. As always, [Google](#) is your best friend if you read this chapter and it makes no sense to you...

This system is only tested on macOS Big Sur and Ubuntu 20.04. There is no Windows support and that is also not a my todo list; I have no clue about that system.

### SOFTWARE

The following software must be installed on your computer:

- [Pandoc](#), the swiss-army knife for file converting.
- A [LaTeX](#) distribution like [MacTEX](#) for the Mac. For Ubuntu, I did `sudo apt install texlive-full` to get all the goodies in one time and no complains about missing packages.
- The `zsh` shell; standard on macOS Big Sur; install it on Ubuntu.
- `rsync`; should be standard...
- The `make` program. Part of Xcode or grab it from [Homebrew](#) when you are on a Mac. Else; do your Linux magic.
- For a “Kobo” ePub, “kepubify” and “ImageMagick” are needed. Get it [here](#) and [here](#).

### FONT

The “drop caps” font [GreatVibes](#) has to be be installed on your system. It's in the `fonts` folder. On Mac, use `fontbook`. On Linux, as always, find your own way. If the font is not properly installed you get the following friendly warning:

```
Package fonts spec Error: The font "GreatVibes" cannot be found.
```

And the whole fun stops... I'll tried to “just use the font from the folder” and, although I could get that done, it gave more troubles...

LuaLaTeX remembers where fonts are and will never forget it; unless you do magic... Didn't want to do that kind of magic; not worth the risk of breaking even more. So... just install the font, it's gorgeous!

For PDF, the font `otf-cm-unicode` is used. You have to have it installed as part of your LaTeX installation. For Arch Linux, it is in the “aur”.

## PLACE THE FOLDER

The content of the `Make-books` repo can be copied to any location on your computer. Mine is in `~/Documents/Leesvoer/scripts` for example. Only one thing, don't move any files inside this folder, keep them in place.

## ADD THE SCRIPTS TO YOUR \$PATH

The folder `/terminal` has the shell scripts to make the books. It's handy to have this folder in your `$PATH` if you run the scripts from the command line; saving you a lot of typing.

On my Mac, I dropped a file containing the full path to the scripts: `/Users/Desbeers/Documents/Leesvoer/scripts/terminal` into the folder `/etc/paths.d`. That did the job for me.

Linux? Up to you...

That's it! Now a bit of configuration and you're good to go.

---

## CONFIGURATION

*G*OOD news! There is really not much to configure for this build-system. There is only one file that needs a bit of your attention if you run the scripts from the command-line. If you use the macOS frontend; it has its own settings in the usual place.

/config.zsh

It needs to know where to find your stuff...

```
#!/bin/zsh

### Configuration of this build-system
### ----

# Base directory of the books; full path.
# Used when making collections and all books.

books="/Users/Desbeers/Documents/Leesvoer"

# Export directory for the books; full path.
# Automatically created if it does not exist.

export="/Users/Desbeers/Documents/Mijn boeken"

# PDF options
# -----
# The options are from the LaTeX Memoir class.
# See: https://www.ctan.org/pkg/memoir

# The default papersize:

papersize=ebook

# The default fontsize:

fontsize=11pt
```

And yeah; you can have spaces in your path name... As long as you have them between those nice quotes...

## PAPER AND FONT OPTIONS

### Paper size

Those options are defined in the LaTeX Memoir class... Oops, that sounds pretty nerdy... Yes, because it is! See [their manual](#) if you want to know all the available options.

Just a few common ones: `ebook` (9 by 6 inches, my default), `a4paper`, `letterpaper`, and `legalpaper`. If you like more options, you know where to find the manual now.

### Font size

Again, defined in the LaTeX Memoir class. There are not so many options fortunately. They are `9pt`, `10pt`, `11pt`, `12pt` and `14pt`. And no, there is no `13pt`. I don't know why, it's simply not an option. Because... just because I guess...

Both options can be overruled in the `make-book.md` file for the individual books. How this is done I will explain later.

All the rest *is as it is*, as we always say at my job. That means, any other kind of customisation that you might want to do requires dirty hacking... Lucky for you, the code is full with comments to make your wishes at least *a bit* easier...

# Write a book

Well, I'm not going to tell you how to write, I'm sure you know, otherwise you wouldn't read this. I'm only gonna tell you how to write *for this build-system* because there are some strict rules to follow. Read and don't break the rules!





## THE ANATOMY OF A BOOK

OK, let's have a look at the structure of a book. Not being an expert, I might use the wrong wording once in a while, but that's ok I hope. It is not rocket-science, so I'm pretty sure my explanation will be good enough. I'll throw in a bit of LaTeX terminology because, well, that's the only terminology I know...

### THE BOOK:

```
cover page (optional)
half title
title
copyright
\dedication (optional)
table of contents
\frontmatter
foreword (for example)
\mainmatter
\part (optional)
chapter 1
chapter 2
\part (optional)
chapter 3
chapter 4
\backmatter (optional)
afterword (for example)
```

That's it. That's the anatomy for a book. At least, for my books.

A bit of additional explanation:

### HALF TITLE & TITLE

This is just something I see in my “real books” at home. Real books just have that. On the first page the “half title” which is actually *not* half the title, but only the title and not the author. Don't know why they call that kind of page *half title* but that's the official name. The second page is the title of the book, followed by the authors name. It's called the *title* page; even though it has the title *and* the author. Anyway, I like that look, so it's there...

## COPYRIGHT

This page will automatically created based on the provided metadata.  
See the next chapter for that.

## DEDICATION

Maybe not the correct name, but it is a page that comes before the table of contents. I use it as dedication page but you can use it for whatever you like.

## \FRONTMATTER

These are the pages that will go before the start of your *real* content.  
A foreword for example, or an introduction.

## \PART

A book can be divided into *parts*. Maybe for *episodes* for example.  
Further-on I will explain how to make those parts.

## \BACKMATTER

These are the pages that will go after your *real* content has ended. You can use it for an afterword for example.

## MARKUP YOUR WORDS

 HE books have to be written in *markdown*. Cut and paste from [Wikipedia](#): “Markdown is a lightweight markup language with plain-text-formatting syntax. Its design allows it to be converted into many output formats.”

There are many flavours of Markdown and since I use *Pandoc* for the book creation it’s obvious I use Pandocs flavour. See [their manual](#) for the details. However, there are some “rules” to follow, specifically for this book building system:

### HEADERS

- Chapters are marked with #.
- Sections within chapters are marked with ##.
- Subsections within sections are marked with ###.

And that’s it. There are no more headers available. This for a good reason. When creating an ePub; the headers are shifted according their place in the book. A book can be divided into **books** (when making collections) and **parts**. So, if a chapter is inside a *part*; the header will be shifted. If the *part* is part (haha) of a *book* it is shifted one more time. So, that is why ##### and ##### are not available. The ##### is special, see later on...

### PARAGRAPHS

In good *Markdown style*, “enters” in the source files are more or less ignored. One enter does nothing; two enters are just starting the text on a new line. By design, there is no space between paragraphs. You can enter as much as you like, but you will never even get *some* space between paragraphs this way. They are simply ignored.

To get some space between the paragraphs, as you can see here, this system is “misusing” the **horizontal rule** tag. In Markdown, that’s “---” or variations on that. See the Pandoc documentation.

So, the **horizontal rule** is not available for its normal intended use. Too bad, but I think this is the “cleanest” hack I could think of.

## CHAPTER'S PRÉCIS

Markup ##### has a special function. A line with this markup will be converted to a *Chapter's Précis*. Thats a line below the chapter name. Call it a *sub-chapter-name* or something, it's a “subparagraph” in LaTeX language. I use it to write the date and place underneath a story for example:

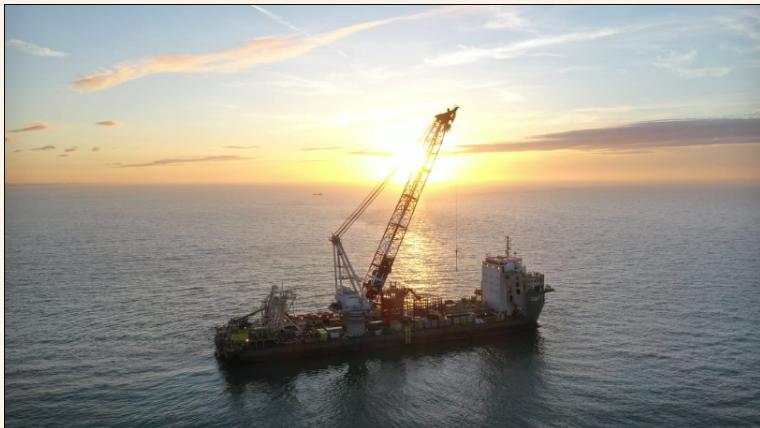


Chapter's Précis

## IMAGES

Images are done in “normal” Markdown; except you can set the width for an image as well. This is not something I invented; it’s part of Pandocs flavour of Markdown.

```
! [Caption for image] (images/chapter-header.png){width=85%}
```



Caption for image

The `caption` is not required; nor the `width`. If no width is specified; it will default to 92% because I think that looks nice with the indentation of the paragraphs. Assuming the image is larger than the page itself...

## ALL THE REST

Well, just “normal” Markdown. Plain (haha) and simple.

Inline styling:

Lets write in `*italic*` or in `**bold**...`

Lets write in `italic` or in `bold`...

I made a `~~mistake~~` stiketrough...

I made a `mistake` strikethrough...

Quotations:

> "I'm a quote!"

“I'm a quote!”

Lists:

- I'm a list item
  - And so am I!
- 
- I'm a list item
  - And so am I!

They can have numbers as well...

1. I'm a numbered list item
2. And so am I!

1. I'm a numbered list item
2. And so am I!

## Footnotes:

Footnotes can be in the paragraph itself ^[This is a footnote.] However, the Pandoc way of putting footnotes in a book also allows for naming the footnote inline like so:

Here is a footnote reference, [^1]

and the footnote itself can be at the end of the document like so<sup>1</sup>:

[^1]: Here is the footnote.

Last but not least: have an empty line between all the block elements; eg, headers, lists, images, quotes etcetera or else strange things can happen. Also, at all times, end your documents with an empty line. You've been warned...

---

<sup>1</sup>Here is the footnote.

## PARTS, DEDICATION, AND OTHER SPECIAL PAGES

 chapter is a chapter, plain and simple. But what about the other bits and pieces that makes a book *a book*?

Special pages are also written in Pandoc's Markdown. To let the build-system knows if a page is special, you have to add a `class` to your heading. That's all. All these files, except the `dedication` page are living in the same folder as your *normal* content. So, order is important! See *the folder structure for your book* page in this book.

### FRONTMATTERS

The `frontmatter` pages should go before you start any chapter or optional part page. Please note this should not be a *dedication* page. It can be a foreword for example.

To make a `\frontmatter` page, write the following header:

```
# My frontmatter title {.frontmatter}
```

And ten just write whatever you want to write. You can have as many `frontmatters` as you like; as long as they have all the above class added.

### PARTS

To make a `\part` page, write the following header:

```
# My part title {.part}
```

Parts can have normal text as well; just like any other chapter, frontmatter or backmatter page. It's just styled in a different way to make it look like a real part division. A PDF part-page will always start on the right; followed by an empty page.

## BACKMATTERS

To make a `\backmatter` page, write the following header:

```
# My backmatter title {.backmatter}
```

And then, write along again. You can have as many `backmatters` as you like; as long as they have all the above class added.

## DEDICATION

A `dedication` page is a separate Markdown file that lives in the `/assets` folder. See the chapter about the folder structure of your book later on. It does not need any `class`; you just write it like a chapter page. It will be between the `copyright` and `table of contents` pages in your book.

## METADATA FOR YOUR BOOK

**E**VERY book has a `make-book.md` file in the `/assets` subfolder of your book; providing the metadata for the book. It's just plain text and without this file, the book will not be created. For the nerdy people: it's actually a `yaml` format file.

```
---  
title: The name of the book  
author: Nick Berendsen  
date: 2020  
revision: Revision 1.0 March 2020 (optional)  
lang: nl-NL  
subject: Manual (optional)  
publisher: Desbeers (optional)  
rights: Creative Commons (optional)  
publisher: Desbeers (optional)  
chapter-style: plain (optional)  
revision: Revision 1.0 March 2020 (optional)  
papersize: ebook (optional, defaults to your global setting)  
fontsize: 11pt (optional, defaults to your global setting)  
collection: My collection (optional)  
add-to-collection: My collection=1 (optional)  
---
```

The order of the tags does not matter.

## CHAPTER STYLES

Normally, chapters look like this:

## PANDOC FILTERS

**A**LL Pandoc filters are written in [Lua](#). The order of running the filters is important; some of them are a bit destructive for the Pandoc's *AST* (abstract syntax tree).

For books that have numbered chapters by itself, like *Chapter 1*, it looks a bit ugly. If you set the `chapter-style: plain`, the number and line above the chapter name will be removed.

Any other chapter style provided by the LaTeX *Memoir* class can be used for PDF output. For ePUB output, there is no style provided in the CSS file, besides for the standard style and `plain`.

## PAPER AND FONT OPTIONS

As I described in the *configuration* page; all options are coming from the LaTeX Memoir class. Have a look over there if you skipped that chapter...

## REVISION

This does not really *do* anything. Whatever you set here will literally be dropped on the copyright page.

## COLLECTIONS

The `collection` related tags are not the “official ePUB3” standards for grouping your books into *series*; it is only ment for building your “collection book”.

The `add-to-collection` tag is used by the `make-collection` and `make-all-collections` build-scripts to create one *collection book* out of the other books who have the same `add-to-collection` tag. The collection itself is defined with `collection`. I will explain that later.

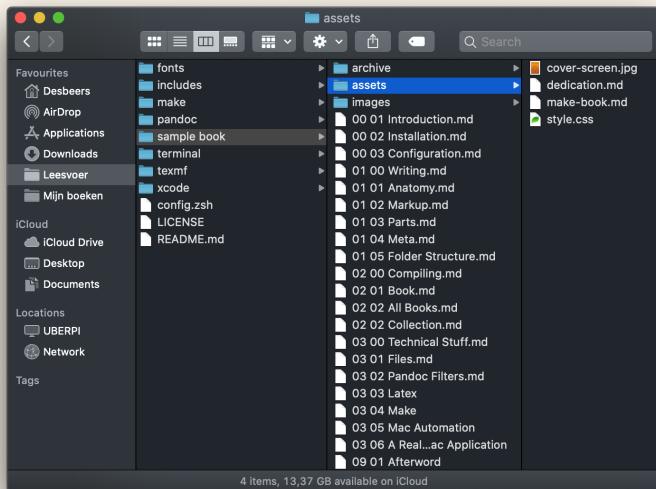
## ALL THE REST

The `make-book.md` file is just a part of the Pandoc possibilities, so, anything that Pandoc supports can be in this file. In theory... Lot's of Pandoc options are set by the build-scripts so they might conflict with each other. According the manual, the command line, so, these build-scripts, will “win” from settings in the `make-book.md` file...

---

## THE FOLDER STRUCTURE OF YOUR BOOK

*T*HERE are some rules to follow to get everything nice and dandy. Your book must be organised in a specific way:



The folder structure

All your *normal* text files should be in the root folder. That includes the `\frontmatter`, `\part` and `\backmatter` pages. The pages are processed in alphabetical order. As you can see above, I just numbered the files in `part-chapter-name` order. So, reordering pages is just a matter of renaming the files.

### THE `assets` FOLDER

There are a couple of files in this folder:

`dedication.md`

The *dedication* file for your book, as described before. It is not required; however, feel free to thank me...

## `cover-screen.jpg`

If this file exists, it will be used as cover page when creating PDF's and ePubs. It is not required.

## `make-book.md`

The `make-book.md` file as described before.

## `style.css`

If this file exists, it will be included in the ePub export. Your *one and only* chance to override the default styling of your ePub.

## THE `images` FOLDER

Of course, this is where the images for your book are stored. Reason to make this a “rule” is because if you want to make *collections* of your books; the build-script should know where to find those images. Also, it is a smart behaviour to give all the images a unique name. When *collecting* a book; all your images will be trow into one big pile. If there are duplicates, well, they will be overwritten...

## THE `archive` FOLDER AS SEEN IN THE SCREENSHOT

Not required. I just store all non-essential files that I still want to keep in the “book folder” into this `archive`.

# Compiling

*Y*EH, a fancy word, better so say *nerdy* word for making the actual book... Compiling... Let's get our hands dirty!

It's time go get that plain text into a beautiful book...



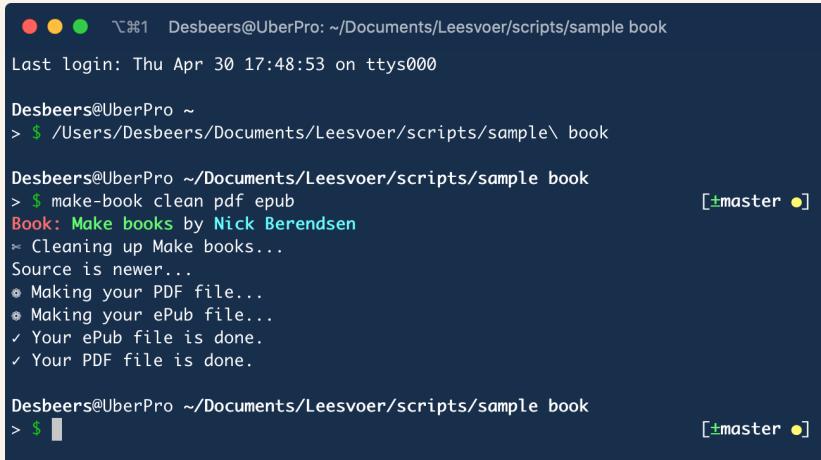


---

## COMPILING YOUR BOOK

**C**OMPILING the book will be done on the command line with the `make-book` command, followed by some optional arguments.

You have to be in the folder containing the book. A picture says more than thousand words, so please have a look:



```

● ● ●  ~%1 Desbeers@UberPro: ~/Documents/Leesvoer/scripts/sample book
Last login: Thu Apr 30 17:48:53 on ttys000

Desbeers@UberPro ~
> $ /Users/Desbeers/Documents/Leesvoer/scripts/sample\ book

Desbeers@UberPro ~/Documents/Leesvoer/scripts/sample book
> $ make-book clean pdf epub
Book: Make books by Nick Berendsen [master •]
Book: Make books by Nick Berendsen
Cleaning up Make books...
Source is newer...
• Making your PDF file...
• Making your ePub file...
✓ Your ePub file is done.
✓ Your PDF file is done.

Desbeers@UberPro ~/Documents/Leesvoer/scripts/sample book
> $ [master •]

```

Compiling this book

If you run `make-book` without any argument it will give you a PDF and an ePub in the export folder. The optional arguments for the `make-book` command are the following:

### CLEAN THE EXPORT FOLDER: **CLEAN**

This is a special command. It's doesn't create anything. Even the opposite; it will *clean* whatever book might have been compiled in the past and is still in the export folder. Don't worry; it will not get even close to your writing stuff. Please note; the script, or more precisely, the `make` program, is smart. It will know when you have changed something in your book and will always grab *the latest and greatest* files. So, there is no need to *clean* for that reason.

## OUTPUT FORMATS: **PDF, PRINT, EPUB, KOBO**

Just put any type you want to compile as argument. You can add as many as you like at the same time and order does not matter.

A few notes about the export formats:

### **pdf & print**

They are basically the same. The only difference is that **pdf** will have the (optional) cover included and has a slightly coloured background while **print** will never have a cover and is just plain white. That makes the **print** file more suitable for uploading to a POD service for example. Also, **print** does not have coloured hyperlinks; even though the links are still working.

### **epub & kobo**

An **epub** is, you might have guessed it, an ePUB. An **kobo** is also an ePUB, however, optimised for the Kobo reader.

### **tex** (LaTeX format)

It will be the complete **tex** file but I'm pretty sure you will not be able to compile it with any other software. The file will be stuffed with dependancies on this build-system and your images will be completely forgotten...

## COMPIILING ALL BOOKS IN ONE TIME

*J*N SIDE the `/terminal` folder, there is another handy script. It's called `make-all-books` and guess what it does? Yes, it will compile all the books the script can find.

It does this by sniffing your whole disk starting from the folder defined in `config.zsh`.

It just search for every `make-book.md` file; double-checks if it is actually a book and then tells the `make-book` script to compile that book for you. All automatically, wow!

All arguments are the same as with the single `make-book` script.

So, to compile all and every book to a PDF, just run the following command in the terminal:

```
make-all-books pdf
```

Assuming you put the scripts into your `$path` as described on the installation page of this book, you can run this script from anywhere.

---

## COMPIILING BOOK COLLECTIONS

 ANOTHER script in the /terminal folder is `make-collection`. It's meant to make a book, containing any of your other books. A big, fat, huge masterpiece of writing!

It might be a bit of a struggle for your computer because collecting more than thousand pages, as I have tried, is not an easy job... and for sure not a quick job... But doable.

```
● ● ●  ~%1 Desbeers@UberPro: ~/Documents/Leesvoer/00 Mijn boeken/collection
Desbeers@UberPro ~/Documents/Leesvoer/00 Mijn boeken/collection
> $ make-collection clean pdf epub
[+master ●●]
⌘ Cleaning up Al het leesvoer...
Prepair: Met de Ada op tour by Nick Berendsen
Source is newer...
• Collecting Met de Ada op tour...
✓ Collected Met de Ada op tour.
Prepair: Met de Layla op tour by Nick Berendsen
Source is newer...
• Collecting Met de Layla op tour...
✓ Collected Met de Layla op tour.
Prepair: Een wereld van chaos by Nick Berendsen
Source is newer...
• Collecting Een wereld van chaos...
✓ Collected Een wereld van chaos.
Prepair: Tussen wal en schip by Nick Berendsen
Source is newer...
• Collecting Tussen wal en schip...
✓ Collected Tussen wal en schip.
Prepair: Met de Kestrel op tour by Nick Berendsen
Source is newer...
• Collecting Met de Kestrel op tour...
✓ Collected Met de Kestrel op tour.
Prepair: Met de Nicole op tour by Nick Berendsen
Source is newer...
• Collecting Met de Nicole op tour...
✓ Collected Met de Nicole op tour.
Collection: Al het leesvoer by Nick Berendsen
Source is newer...
• Making your PDF file...
• Making your ePub file...
✓ Your ePub file is done.
✓ Your PDF file is done.

Desbeers@UberPro ~/Documents/Leesvoer/00 Mijn boeken/collection
> $ [+master ●●]
```

Compiling a compilation of my own books

Unlike the *normal* books, this kind of book needs a slightly different `make-book.md`. So different actually, that it is called `make-collection.md`. All the other files in the folder are just the same.

This file is where the collections related tags, as described in the *metadata chapter*, are essential. It still needs the other tags as well, of course. Name, title, etcetera.

## GIVE YOUR COLLECTION A NAME

```
---  
collection: My Huge Collection  
---
```

## ADD BOOKS TO THIS COLLECTION

To get a *normal* book into this collection; give it *exactly* the same `collection` name, together with its position in the collection in its `make-book.md` like this:

```
---  
add-to-collection: My Huge Collection=1  
---
```

You can add your book to more than one collection:

```
---  
add-to-collection: My Huge Collection=1; My smaller collection=3  
---
```

Thats all. Make sure you are in the folder of your collection and enter the following command in the terminal:

```
make-collection pdf epub
```

The arguments are again just like when you are making a normal book. You can make a collection in any kind of format that you can make your normal books.

## ADDITIONAL FILES

If you like, you can add additional front- and backmatter pages to your collection. They are just like they are in a normal book, also in the same place. Keep the naming of the files in mind. Your **compilation** book will be collected in a temporarily folder, together with the selected books. The name of the book in the temporarily folder will start with the number from the **add-to-collection** tag, so, most probably starting with 1. As long as you start the name of your **front matters** with a 0; you are safe. And name your backmatter “99-name”, unless you have more than 99 books of course...

### Backmatter

You can add a **backmatter**; however, the header must be named a bit different than normal. This is because the build-system has no clue about the difference between a “collected backmatter” and a “collection backmatter”. So, define the header as follows:

```
# My collection backmatter page {.backcollection}
```

### MAKE ALL COLLECTIONS

Just as with the **make-all-books** we also have a **make-all-collections** in the **/terminal** folder. It behaves exactly the same as well.



All my books stuffed in one ePub!

## COMPILING TAGS COLLECTIONS

 ANOTHER script in the `/terminal` folder is `make-tag-book`. It's meant to make a book, containing any tag found in all your source files.

Same as with *collection* books, this kind of book needs a slightly different `make-book.md`. For “tag books”, it is called `make-tag-book`. All the other files in the folder are just the same.

This is where you define your `tag`. It still needs the other tags as well, of course. Name, title, etcetera.

```
---  
tag: #favorite  
---
```

It actually just search each and every file for whatever you define as the tag. It doesn't have to be a specific `#` word.

Thats all. Make sure you are in the folder of your `make-tag-book.md` and enter the following command in the terminal:

```
make-tag-book pdf epub
```

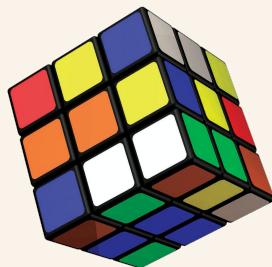
The arguments are again just like when you are making a normal book. You can make a collection in any kind of format that you can make your normal books.

## MAKE ALL TAGS

Just as with the `make-all-books` we also have a `make-all-tags` in the `/terminal` folder. It behaves exactly the same as well.

# Technical stuff

*N*ow we are going to get technical. No essential reading, however, if you want to have some more background information about how all these magic tricks are happening you are at the right place!





## WHAT ARE ALL THOSE FILES?

 LET'S get through the piles of folders and files inside the `make-book` folder and give it some explanation....

I will not go through them one by one; that's too boring and also not so interesting. No, instead I take you on a tour. Let say we are in the folder containing this book and type `make-book clean pdf epub`.

FILE: /TERMINAL/MAKE-BOOK

`make-book` is a shell script in the `/terminal` folder. It will check if you are in a *correct book folder*. If not, it will punish you and stop.

If it is all ok; it will grab your `config.zsh` in the root folder so it knows where to drop your fresh book in the end. That's why you need to set an `export folder`.

Then it will set-up a whole bunch of necessary *variables* by including `/includes/variables.zsh`. This file is shared by all the other scripts as well to save me from typing over and over again.

Then, the time has come... We are ready for `make`. Make is a verb here, oh yeh, because it is an application you have installed if you followed the install instructions nicely. Make is a program to make stuff; in our case, a book. Let's make it by running `make`.

FILE: /MAKE/MAKEFILE

The `Makefile` is the heart of the build-system; all the smart stuff is happening over there. Make needs that file because it will set a lot of settings, grabs your writing stuff and gives that as homework to Pandoc to do what Pandoc can do best. Convert your Markdown to PDF and an ePUB in this case...

To give Pandoc proper homework, the `Makefile` includes a whole bunch of other files...

FOLDER: /PANDOC/TEMPLATES

This is where the templates are stored for Pandoc. It should know how we like the layout to be, of course. Pandoc has a lot of *default* templates

but I like my own better. There are templates for PDF and ePub in here, as well sub-templates to get the **dedication** page for example.

#### FOLDER: /PANDOC/FILTERS

To customise Pandoc's output you can run the content through filters. A lot of smart-ass stuff is happening in there, so it even deserves its own page in this book...

#### FOLDER: /PANDOC/CSS

Here you can find the stylesheets for the ePub and html output. I did not put much effort in the html styling yet...

#### FOLDER: /TEXMF/TEX/LATEX

Pandoc is doing great, but let's not give it *all* the credit. It does get some help to make that PDF. PDF's are actually made by **LuaLaTeX**. Also a story by itself that will come later on. All I will say now that the LaTeX templates and some font info are stored here. Ok, and I will also tell you now that this script-stuff is temporarily disabling your local tex folder if you happen to have one... So you know...

#### FOLDER: /XCODE

Last but not least... The Xcode folder... This is the source for a macOS application that you can use as frontend for the scripts. It has its own chapter at the end of this book.

#### BONUS FILE: /TERMINAL/MAKE-FILE

This script converts a Markdown document into a single PDF. Use it on the command line again:

```
make-file my-text.md
```

The PDF will be dropped on your Desktop. Be careful; if there is already a file over there with the same name it will be overwritten... Thats why this is only a bonus file; it's not too smart...

The screenshot shows a Mac OS X desktop environment with the Textmate application open. The file tree on the left shows a project structure for a book. The terminal window on the right displays a shell script named `variables.zsh` with code related to Pandoc actions and file synchronization.

```

#!/bin/zsh
#
#####
# MAKE BOOK
#
#
#####
# What is this script making?
: ${PANDOC_ACTION=Book}
#
#
#####
# Include the shared script:
$@ $(which includes/shared.zsh)
#
#
#####
# Logging
start_log $0
#
#
#####
metadata_file='assets/make-book.md'
#
#
#####
# Kill if there is no metadata found
if [ ! -f $metadata_file ]; then
    echo "Metadata for book not found!" >&2
    exit 1
fi
#
#
#####
# Setup the variables:
. $local/includes/variables.zsh
#
#
#####
# Print what we are making:
print "$BOLD_RED$PANDOC_ACTION: $BOLD_GREEN$title$RESET by $BOLD_CYAN$author$RESET"
echo "$PANDOC_ACTION: $title by $author" >> $LOGFILE
echo "log += \"$PANDOC_ACTION: $strong-$title$strong<br />$author<br />\";" >> $JSLOGFILE
#
#
#####
# Do it...
#
#
#####
# Functions
#
#
#####
# Sync the original files with the source directory
rsync --recursive --update --delete . $SOURCE_DIR
#
#
#####
# Optional dedication file, create an empty one if not exists
collect() {
    print "Source is newer..."
    log += "<p class='make info'>$title is updated...</p>" >> $JSLOGFILE
    mkdir -p $SOURCE_DIR
    # Sync the original files with the source directory
    rsync --recursive --update --delete . $SOURCE_DIR
    #
    # Optional dedication file, create an empty one if not exists
}

```

Textmate, often my best mate!

## PANDOC FILTERS

 LL Pandoc filters are written in [Lua](#). The order of running the filters is important; some of them are a bit destructive for the Pandoc's *AST* (abstract syntax tree).

### METADATA FILTER

This filter sets default values for paper and font size if they are not in the book's metadata file. The values are taken from the `config.zsh` file.

### HASHTAGS FILTER

I write my Markdown in iA Writer and that program writes hashtags (#tag) directly into the files. This filter removes them.

### DROP CAPS FILTER

Makes the first letter of the first paragraph after a # header a drop cap. This is done with the [Lettrine package](#) for LaTeX and with CSS for ePub/html.

If there is a `blockquote` after a # header, it will not get a drop cap, however, the first paragraph after the quote wil get the drop cap.

If the paragraph starts with a quote (''), the quote-symbol will be before the dropped cap. The double quote is hard-coded; so sorry for those who use singles quotes.

This filter must run before the Header Filter or else the headers are most probably changed to something unusable for this filter.

### LINEBREAKS FILTER

The `horizontal rule` is misused to get some space between two paragraphs. For LaTeX, it will be replaced by a `\bigskip`. For ePub/html by a `<div.bigskip>`.

## CHAPTER PRÉCIS FILTER

The ##### header has a special function for me. I use it to write the date/place of a story after the # header. In Latex, it is a \subparagraph styles as a “Chapter précis” and in ePub/html a div with class chapterprecis.

## HEADERS FILTER

When there are `\parts` in a book, the headers within those parts will be shifted for ePub, html and docx output. This is so that the TOC is correct.

If the `\parts` are also in a `\book`, as with collections; they are shifted twice.

## MATTERS FILTER

For Latex, it checks the Markdown for `.book`, `.part`, `.frontmatter`, `.mainmatter` and `.backmatter` classes and adds the corresponding LaTeX for that.

It also fiddles with the `\openany` and `\openright` options in the LaTeX output.

## IMAGES FILTER

Figures for LaTeX will be rewritten, so it has a caption without “Fig:” in front and it will have the alignment that I like for all images.

The pictures default to a width of 92% when not set.

## QUOTES FILTER

I like *double quotes* (“”) and this filter makes sure they are just like that; independent of what’s in the Markdown. A quote inside a quote will be a single quote (‘’).

## LATEX

 HY make things easy if you can make it very difficult? Yes, give me one good reason *not* to use LaTeX for the layout of a very simple book... Just one good reason... Because it is very difficult? I like that... Because it's like driving to the supermarket in a Ferrari? I don't care... For you info; I play a *real* Fender Telecaster as *hobbyist* too, hahaha!

There was, and still is, a lot to learn for me when it comes to LaTeX. But, that's the reason why I use it. I like the challenge and even more I like the great results you can get if you just keep trying hard enough.

### THE TEMPLATE

I use the `Memoir` class as base for my templates. The `/tex/latex/` folder has the first part of my template; providing it's own class. The Pandoc template in `/pandoc/templates` is using this class.

### THE \$TEXMFHOME PATH

The `/includes/variable.zsh` script sets the `TEXMFHOME` variable to this build-system so LuaLaTeX can actually find its stuff:

```
# For LaTeX, set TEXMFHOME to these scripts:  
export TEXMFHOME=$local/texmf
```

Once the script is done and the terminal session is closed; everything is again back to normal. So, that means if you fiddle with the `build-scripts` and you expect LuaLaTeX to find your own stuff you are out of luck... Now you know why...

### FONTS

I'm using LuaLaTeX for the actual compiling and that means the system fonts are available for me. Yeh, great! For me... However, nice guy that I am, what about you?

You most probably don't have that charming font on your system that I use for drop caps. So, for you, yes, special for you, I found out after a long time how to get this right. Install this font on your computer.

Don't just change this font for a different one; the result will not be pleasant. And you will hurt my feelings as well, because, really, it took me a long time to get this right.

## WHINING AND CRYING

LaTeX can be a bitch. One character in the wrong place and boom! A cryptical punishment will follow. It looks like LaTeX doesn't really like any other character than A to Z, hahaha!

If you edit your `make-book.md` for example; sometimes you can use the ":";, sometimes you can't. I'm afraid it depends on the direction of the wind sometimes... LaTeX is mysterious...

## MAKE

ELL, `make` is living in an old world where filenames have no spaces. I can live with a Case Sensitive File SySyeM, however, in a world without SpaceS, no...

### LET'S DUMP `make`

No. `make` is fancy and smart, it knows what to do and what it has done. So, I wanted it for this `build system`. It took me a long time, but I found-out how to deal with it. Your book will be copied to a `cache` directory and will be removed from All Evil Spaces. Then, `make` can do its usual great work.

But the question is; when to copy? Always? That's lazy... When the Source is Newer than the destination? Oh, yeh! Just like `make` is doing... So I reinvented `make`. It checks your book and if anything is newer than we have in the `export folder`; it copies the stuff.

### I `make` IT BETTER

Fun thing is; while figuring this out, I'm even smarter than `make`. If you alter an image in your book, it knows... It updates.. Just brilliant! It knows everything! Even your thoughts, be warned...

Now I still don't like that `make` is living in its own "old fashion" Spaceless world; but it learned me new tricks that I shouldn't have learned otherwise...

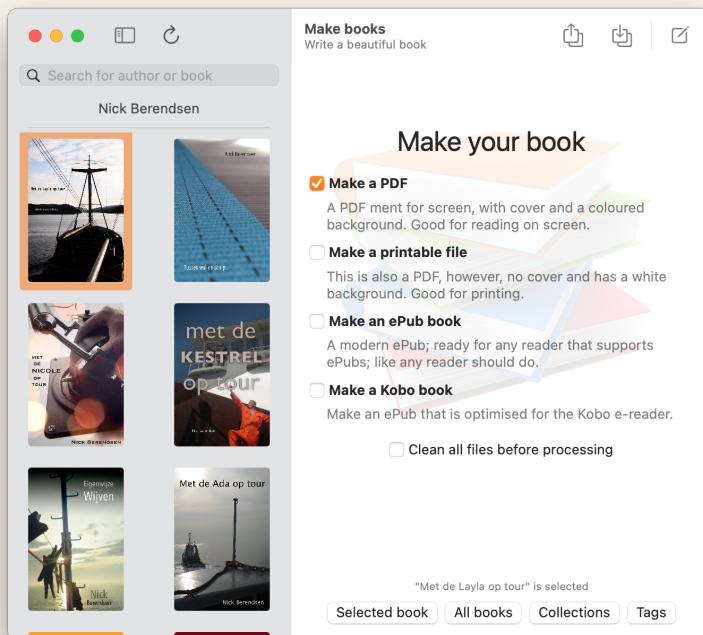
Respect the old!

## A REAL MACOS APPLICATION

*N* the `/xcode` folder there is the source for a real macOS application. It is written in SwiftUI 2.0, so it only works on Big Sur. It is a frontend for the scripts.

If you build the application, it will be “self contained”, e.g., all the scripts will be inside the app bundle and you can drop it anywhere you like. It has its own configuration as well and doesn’t care about the settings in `config.zsh` and the scripts don’t have to be in your `$PATH`.

The only thing left is that you have to install the `GreatVibes` font on your system and off course the external applications like Pandoc, LuaLaTex etc...





## AFTERWORD

WELL, that was all the fun! There is actually no real *afterword*.  
This page just exists because it shows the possibility  
to say something at the end of your book.

The only thing I might have to say is that this is my first Github project; learning bit by bit. It is not my first contribution to Open Source projects, however, it is my first “project”. Hope it is useful for anyone and I promise to try to be a good maintainer of this project. I have a lot of fun with it and I hope you have some fun with it too.

Well, that's it!

Nick