

Book 1

Prolog - optional

This section is optional and will be treated the same as a chapter in terms of the table of contents and headings.

===

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Welcome to _EBookGenTools_.

The purpose of this sample book is to provide an example of the input book format. The format is for the most part plain text with minimal Markdown support. There are also some minor restrictions to ensure proper parsing of chapters and scenes. The following chapters describe the text format and some of the handling features of the EBookGenTools GNU/Linux scripts.

===

Chapter 2 - Required Text Format

The first three words at the start of a scene will become all uppercase characters. The first paragraph will become left justified.

All subsequent paragraphs in the scene will have their first line right indented.

All Chapters will start on a new page.

Chapters must start with the word **Chapter**, followed by **space(s)**, followed by a **number**, optionally followed by more text, all on a single line.

These ebook styles are created and handled by the **book2html** script. This script includes the format descriptors in CSS form to pair with the generated HTML file.

Each paragraph consists of a long line of text that is terminated by a new line.

Often editing tools will automatically wrap the text for you. Note that any blank lines between paragraphs will be removed by **book2html**.

===

All scenes must end in either:

Three equal signs on a separate line which denote scene breaks.

Or:

Three minus signs on a separate line which denote point-of-view breaks.

In the ebook both of these will be shown as a set of three centered asterisks.

===

After this sentence is an example of a scene break.

===

After this sentence is an example of a POV break.

A very small subset of Markdown style text is supported.

Bold text is supported by wrapping the words in double **asterisks**, or double underscores.

Italic text is supported by wrapping the words in single *asterisks*, or single underscores.

In addition you can include simple html tags in the source text such as bold or italic tags. Be sure to properly match opening and closing tags.

===

Additional processing is performed on the text input file.

Sets of double quotes will be converted into the appropriate style open and closing quotation marks as demonstrated below:

"Hi. How are you doing?" said the author.

A single quote will be converted into an apostrophe:

This is the author's sample-book text file.

Three dots will be converted into an ellipses:

Let's rock on and on and ... and on.

Two minus signs will be converted into an em dash:

Oh look -- an em dash -- is between my words.

****Reminder****: Don't forget to include a scene break (three equal signs) at the end of each scene. These are needed for proper parsing of your book information.

===

Chapter 3 - book2html Processing

Much additional processing is performed by the ****book2html**** script when it creates an html file from your book text file.

The book title page including details from the sample-book.cfg configuration file is included at the start.

A table of contents is generated.

A book summary is inserted. The contents come from the configuration file (sample-book.cfg).

All the chapters of your novel are included. These come from your book text file (sample-book.txt).

An about the author section is included at the end. This includes book review and acknowledgements subsections. The contents come from the configuration file.

===

Chapter 4 - checkbookhtml Validating

Checking the validity of the generated html file is highly recommended.

One way is to open the html file in a web browser. Personally I use Firefox with the ****Html Validator**** add-on installed. With this add-on you can right click on the book html page and select ****View Page Source**** to check for invalid html codes. These can often be fixed in your novel writing tool and then re-exported to a text file for processing by the ****book2html**** script.

Further validation can be performed using the ****checkbookhtml**** script. This script file will parse the generated html file looking for some common problems. This is often an iterative process to identify and correct anomalies found. Note that the ****checkbookhtml**** script is not fool-proof and may identify some situations which are not problems at all. It is up to you to decide which situations to fix.

===

Chapter 5 - html2ebook Generating

The ****html2ebook**** script will generate EPUB and DOC ebook format files.

Lots of information is displayed on the terminal while the various ebook formats are generated. Normally you can ignore this information; however, if you encounter problems you might need to read through the messages to troubleshoot an issue.

===

Chapter 6 - Conclusion

This concludes the demonstration of the plain text book format required by EBookGenTools.

Happy Authoring.

****REMEMBER**** to end all of your scenes with three equal signs. :-)

===

Epilog - optional

This section is optional and will be treated the same as a chapter in terms of the table of contents and headings.

===