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Industry: Book Publishing (specifically, Christian publishing)

College Major: Theology & Ministry, focus in Children's & Family Ministry

Job Title: Acquisitions Editor, Nonfiction

Company: Tyndale House Ministries

What is the day in the life like at your job? What are typical job responsibilities for someone in this role?

I work on a nonfiction acquisitions team at a Christian publishing house. Our team's role is to discover and partner with authors, then walk alongside them throughout the publishing process. We help develop their book ideas, shepherd their vision, and bring those ideas to life for readers.

One thing I love about my job is that no two days look the same! Some days I'm reviewing book proposals and researching authors, brainstorming book titles with my team, gathering pieces of a manuscript like endorsements and forewords, or writing back cover and marketing copy. Other days I'm coordinating meetings, communicating with authors and literary agents, or supporting marketing or administrative projects.

A big part of my role is making sure the information and vision for each book is communicated clearly as it moves from one team to the next. Bringing a book to life takes a lot of collaboration, so I get to work with editorial, design, production, sales, marketing, and publicity teams throughout the publishing process of each book. One day I might be discussing cover concepts or product packaging ideas, and the next I could be collaborating with another team to make sure everyone has what they need as they prepare to work with one of our authors. It's rewarding to play a part in bringing books to life that meet readers where they are in their walk with the Lord and encourage them in their faith.

What do you love about your job?

The first thing that comes to mind is the people. I really enjoy being part of a team that's collaborative, encouraging, and genuinely values each person's ideas. Even though I've only been in my role a few years,

I've always felt like my voice matters and that I'm trusted to contribute. Because of that, I've felt at home in both my job and my company. This is a gift that I don't take for granted!

Building on that, I love knowing that what I do each day matters. Even behind the scenes, I get to participate in creating resources that encourage believers, equip churches, and point people toward Christ. This truth is something that keeps me energized even on mundane-feeling days.

One other thing that comes to mind is the balance I've found in this role. Before publishing, I worked in pastoral ministry. While I really cherished that season, I've found that the more predictable rhythm of publishing lets me bring my best to work while still having the time and energy to pour into my family and friends. I'm really grateful I didn't have to choose between meaningful work and a rhythm of life that fits me—I found both.

What is challenging about your role?

Something that comes to mind are the creative challenges that can come up along the way. Because we're often working on each book for a 1.5 - 2 years before they reach readers, there's a lot of care and intentionality behind every book decision. That was actually one of the biggest surprises to me when I started in publishing—I couldn't believe how much thought went into every step of the process. I'll never walk through a bookstore the same way!

Whether we're trying to land on the right book title or fine-tune an important detail, there are times when we can feel a little stuck. But that's also where having a team you genuinely enjoy, trust, and respect makes all the difference. Everyone brings a different perspective, and it's rewarding to see our ideas and problem solving come together to create the best possible book.

What are the benefits of working in this field?

If you're someone who loves to read and loves to learn, you'll find little joys in this work every day. Every project introduces you to different ideas, perspectives, and conversations, so there's always something new to discover.

I also love that publishing is such a creative and collaborative field. You get to think through everything from big-picture concepts to the smallest details alongside people who genuinely care about creating books that serve readers well. And in Christian publishing, there's the added privilege of partnering with authors to help share the hope of the Gospel. Knowing that my work, however small, can play a part in that is something I'm really grateful for.

What experiences did you have that prepared you for this role?

I didn't have any publishing experience before stepping into my current role, so these past few years have been filled with learning! My team often says that learning the publishing industry is like learning a new language, and I think that's probably true of any new field.

Before publishing, I served as a Children's Pastor. That role taught me how to manage a lot of moving pieces, communicate with a diverse team of people, and adapt quickly when plans changed. It also gave

me a deep appreciation for the impact that thoughtful books and resources can have. I saw firsthand how God used them to encourage me and the families in our ministry, so getting to help create those kinds of resources now feels like a natural extension of that work.

What do you see happening in the future for these types of careers?

One thing that's really encouraged me is seeing the people I work alongside who have spent decades in Christian publishing. Many started in roles similar to mine and have grown into manager, director, or publisher positions over time. Along the way, they've found the kinds of books and ideas they're most passionate about—whether that's Bible studies, devotionals, children's books, or another area—and they've been given room to grow in those strengths.

That gives me a lot of confidence in the future of this field. I also think there will always be a need for thoughtful, biblically grounded resources. The ways we publish and connect with readers will continue to change, but I don't think the need for faithful content—or the people who help bring it to life—is going away.

What advice do you have for a student considering a career in your profession?

In a broad sense, my biggest advice would be to pay attention to the skills, interests, and experiences God has already given you. Sometimes we can get so focused on finding the perfect career path that we overlook the ways our current experiences are preparing us for what's next.

While certain careers do require specific skills or experience, many roles also value transferable skills like communication, organization, collaboration, creativity, and problem-solving. I certainly didn't have a background in publishing before this role, but the experiences I had as a ministry leader helped prepare me in ways I didn't expect. So whether you're interested in publishing or another field, I'd encourage you to stay curious, keep learning, and look for opportunities where your gifts and passions can be used to serve others.