

## Authors Against Scammers: Facebook Group Checklist

### Free Downloadable PDF/Printable Checklist

*Spot Fake Author Groups in Under 5 Minutes*

**Print this, save it, share it.** Use it on your phone while browsing Facebook. Tally your score: **4+ red flags = High Risk – Walk Away.**

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### Quick-Scan Checklist for Any Facebook Group

#### 1. About Section & Basics (Score if...)

- **Generic nonsense or AI filler?** (No clear purpose, rules, or author focus)  
*Example: Motivational quotes instead of "We help with publishing & promo."*
- **No pinned welcome/rules post?**
- **Created recently with huge members?** (Check Group History)  
Score: \_\_\_ / 3

#### 2. Membership & Activity (Score if...)

- **Big numbers (10k+), but low real engagement?** (Emojis only, same posters)
- **Rapid growth?** (+1k/week via bots/auto-adds)
- **Engagement bait posts?** ("Drop book link!" "Where you from?")  
Score: \_\_\_ / 3

#### 3. Admins & Moderators (Score if...)

- **Suspicious profiles?** (No photo, new accounts, non-authors)

- **Run multiple similar groups?** (Copy-paste scam networks)
- **No industry creds?** (Marketing backgrounds, not writers/publishers)  
Score: \_\_\_ / 3

#### 4. Content Quality (Score if...)

- **Mostly spam/promos?** (No craft talk, critiques, or advice)
- **AI-generated/low-effort?** (Quotes, memes, stock photos)
- **"DM me for services" everywhere?** (Editing, covers, agents)  
Score: \_\_\_ / 3

#### 5. Funnels & Risks (Score if...)

- **External links/chats?** (WhatsApp, Telegram, shady sites)
- **Unrealistic promises?** ("Guaranteed bestseller!")
- **Upfront payment requests?** (Any "packages" via DM)  
Score: \_\_\_ / 3

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#### Your Total Score:

- **0-3: Low Risk** – Probably legit. Lurk a bit more.
  - **4-7: Medium Risk** – Proceed with burner account only.
  - **8-12: High Risk** – **EXIT IMMEDIATELY.** Report to Facebook.
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## **Next Steps (Always Do These)**

1. **Verify Admins:** Google their names + "author" or check Amazon/LinkedIn.
2. **Test Safely:** Join with fake profile, watch for DM spam (48 hours max).
3. **Tools:**
  - GPTZero.com (detect AI descriptions)
  - Reddit: Search "[group name] scam"
  - ALLi.org/be-watchful (scam database)
4. **Report It:** Facebook > Report Group > Scam/Fraud.
5. **Safer Alternatives:**
  - 20BooksTo50K
  - ALLi Forums
  - Historical Novel Society Group

**Pro Tip:** Real communities moderate, discuss craft, and uplift—no pressure to pay.

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