

Grok Bot Starter Template

From *Grok Bots That Earn* by Kevin J. Bermingham

You write the four files once, lock the outline so later runs can't add, drop, or merge sections, and let each run handle one section.

The Bible is the law. The Outline is the only structure. The Progress file is the source of truth for what's done. The Manuscript receives only approved text.

Before you start

- ☐ Access to Grok.
- ☐ A place to keep four plain-text files where the conversation can read and write them.
- ☐ A willingness to lock an outline and leave the writing to the runs.
- ☐ Confirm how your tool reads and writes files today.

Folder the tool can reach: _____

Create the four empty files in the order the runs will read them: Bible, Outline, Progress, Manuscript.

☐ Bible ☐ Outline ☐ Progress ☐ Manuscript

The Bible

You write the Bible once, before any sections. Runs read it; they don't rewrite it.

Title: _____

Subtitle: _____

Reader: _____

The job the book does: _____

The voice: _____

Hard rules: *Do not invent numbers. Do not promise income or rankings. Flag dating risk. One section per run.*

Hard rules that fit the new topic: _____

Keep the dating-risk rule in every new Bible.

The Outline

Header: *Do not add, drop, or merge sections. Word targets are approximate.*

ID	Title	Job	Word target

Write every job as a sentence that begins with a verb the reader can picture: show, list, walk through, give the checklist, state the rule without a number. Keep it under two lines.

Section brief

Use this short template for every brief.

Job: _____
one sentence that starts with a verb and names the deliverable the section must give the reader.

Must include: _____
one or two concrete pieces the section has to show or list.

Must not: _____
anything the Bible has already ruled out or that another row is scheduled to cover.

Word target: _____
the approximate number already listed in the Outline.

Before you lock the Outline, run every brief through three checks.

- ☐ Does the job start with a verb the reader can picture doing?
- ☐ Does it name a deliverable that appears in the section itself?
- ☐ Does it stay inside the hard rules already in the Bible?

Progress

Progress starts with every section pending and the pointer on the first one.

Pointer: _____ BOOK COMPLETE: ☐ yes ☐ no

ID	Title	Status	Revisions	Residual risk	Next

Status is pending or approved.

The residual-risk column is the only place uncertainty is allowed to live.

The Manuscript

- ☐ The Manuscript starts with the title, the subtitle, and a note that it contains approved sections only.
- ☐ Handoff notes, editor comments, residual-risk language, and instructions to the next run all stay out.

Scheduled prompt

A reliable scheduled prompt contains these lines:

1. Read the four files in order.
2. Take only the first unfinished section named by the Progress pointer.
3. Write one section against the job and word target.
4. Run the editor pass.
5. Append only approved text.
6. Update the Progress row and move the pointer.
7. Stop. Do not start the next section.

A one-line guardrail reminder you can paste at the top of any scheduled prompt:

No invented numbers. No income or ranking claims. Flag dating risk. Stay inside the book's own limits.

A short pre-flight checklist

- ☐ Four files exist and are writable.
- ☐ Progress pointer is on an unfinished section.
- ☐ Scheduled prompt says “one section only.”
- ☐ You know where finished runs are logged so you can spot a stall.

Where finished runs are logged: _____

The cycle as a checklist

- ☐ Files are readable.
- ☐ Pointer names an unfinished section.
- ☐ Writer produces a draft that matches the job.
- ☐ Editor returns APPROVE or one REVISE.
- ☐ Clean text is appended.
- ☐ Progress row is updated and pointer advances.

When you return, check three things in order

- ☐ Confirm the pointer matches the first pending row.
- ☐ Glance at the residual-risk notes on the approved rows so you know what to verify yourself.
- ☐ Open the Manuscript and confirm the last approved heading matches the section just before the pointer.

Check current rules

Before each new book, write one line in your Bible or at the top of Progress:

Checked _____: file tools still match; KDP AI rules still require disclosure for generated text and images.

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