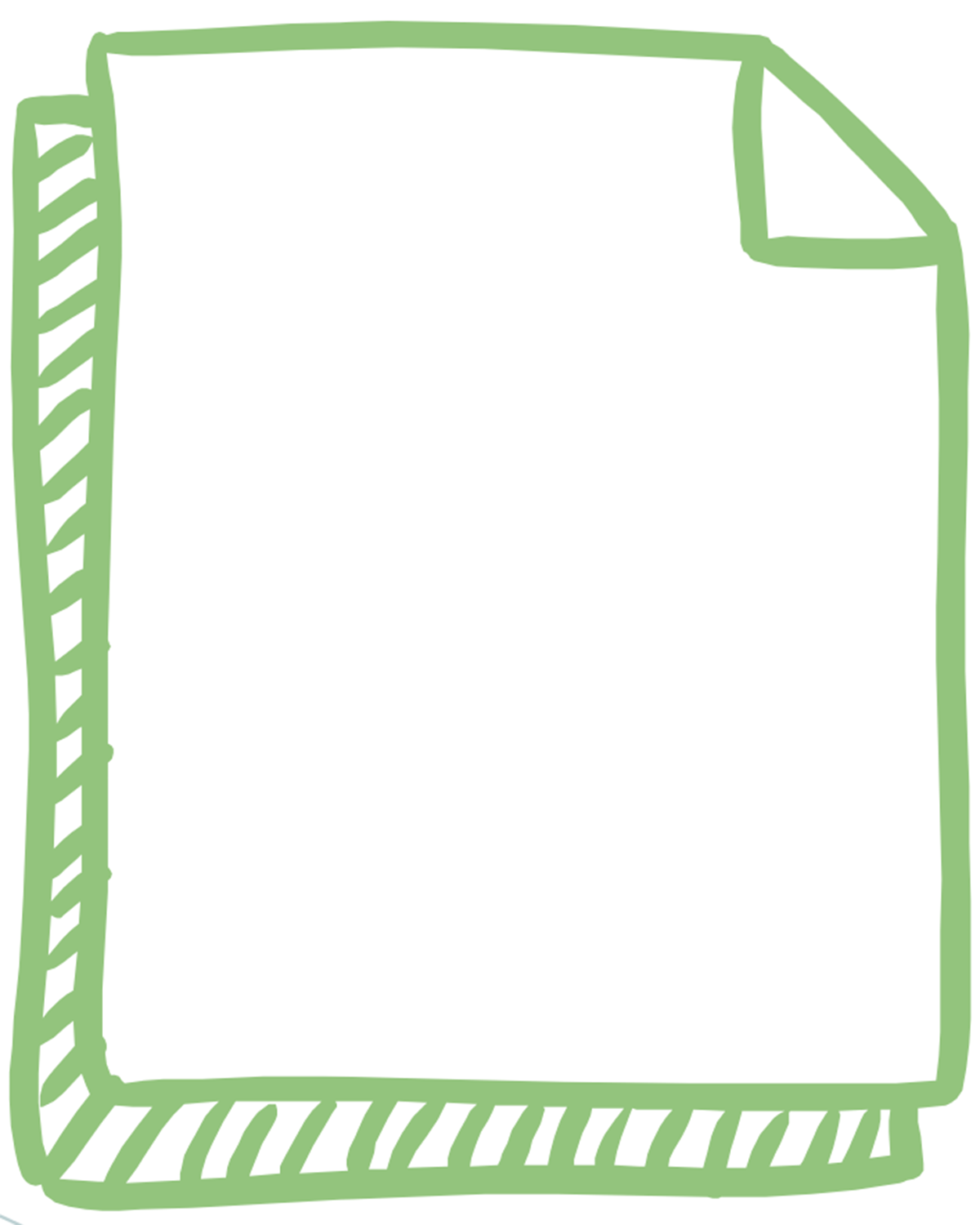
Understanding Rights Reversion

Hands-On Exercise: Scenario #2

# Part 1

Taylor Torrez published *Treasury of Tactile Textiles* a few years ago with Palpable Publisher, which has released the book in e-book form only. Because it is assigned as core reading in several Fashion Design 101 classes, the book is selling well. But several professors who have not assigned the text have reached out to Taylor to relay that their students prefer a more tangible reading experience, and they would consider assigning the book only if it is available in print form. Taylor is eager to expand the market for their work, so they want to explore options to make *TTT* available as a print book.



**Publishing Agreement** between Palpable Publisher (“Publisher”) and Taylor Torrez (“Author”) for *Treasury of Tactile Textiles* (the “Work”)

**Grant of Rights:** Author herebygrants Publisher worldwide, exclusive rights to the Workin all electronic and print formats for the life of copyright.

Does Taylor need to revert rights or come to another agreement with his publisher to make their book available as a paperback? Why or why not?

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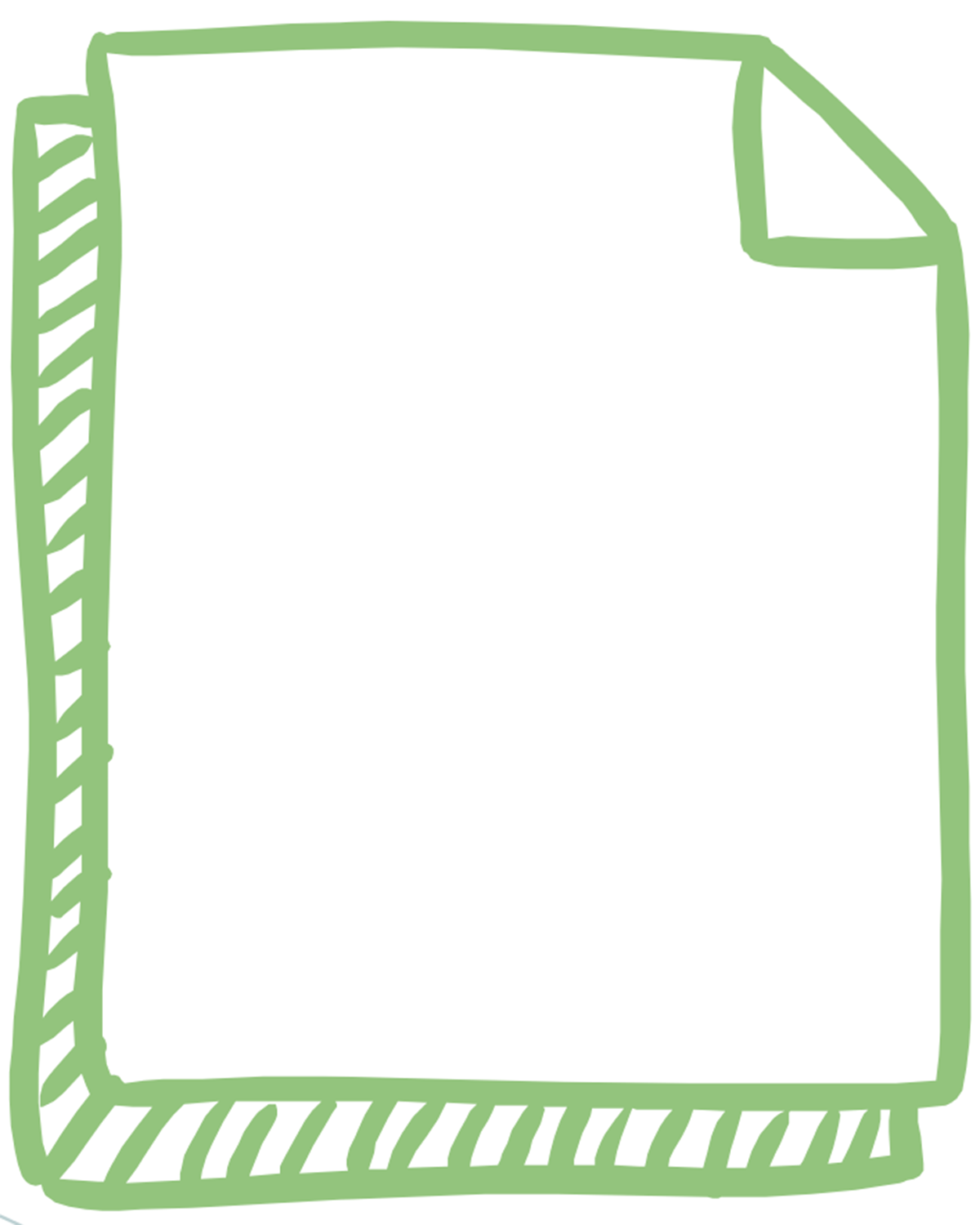
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# Part 2

Taylor reviews their contract and sees they gave Palpable Publisher all of the exclusive rights to the *Treasury of Tactile Textiles* for the life of copyright. This means they will need to revert rights or otherwise come to an agreement with Palpable before they can make *TTT* available in print form. Taylor digs deeper and finds that their contract has a reversion clause.



**Out of Print Clause:** In the event that the Work is out of print, Author may request to have all rights granted to Publisher under this agreement reverted. Work is not out of print if it is available in any electronic or print-on-demand format.

Is Taylor eligible to exercise their reversion clause? Why or why not?

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# Part 3

Taylor’s reversion clause is triggered when their book is “out of print.” Since their contract defines a book as “in print” if it is available in any form, print or electronic, and their book is available as an ebook, Taylor determines that they are not eligible to exercise their reversion clause.

How can Taylor make a case for reversion?

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What other options can Taylor explore with Palpable Publisher?

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# Conclusion

Taylor knows that there are other ways to make a case for meeting their goals in the absence of eligibility to revert under the terms of the contract. There’s no one right answer, and you may have come up with other options for Taylor, but here are some options they might consider:

* + - If Taylor has a good relationship with their publisher, it may not make sense to revert rights and deal with the hassle of self-publishing or seeking a new publisher for a print version. Instead, Taylor might start by asking whether Palpable would consider releasing a print version, bolstering their argument by pointing to the potential additional sales to students of the professors who have indicated they would add *TTT* as required reading if it is available in print form.
    - If Palpable is not interested in or able to release a print version, Taylor can make a compelling case for rights reversion by pointing to the fact that Palpable is not utilizing the rights that Taylor granted in the contract and Taylor is therefore missing out on potential revenue from the title. If Taylor pursues this option, they may want to ask that Parable just return rights to the book in print form, allowing Palpable to continue to sell the e-book version.

1. [[1]](#footnote-1).

1. . **Authors Alliance is grateful to Arcadia—a charitable fund of Lisbet Rausing**

   **and Peter Baldwin—for a grant that supported the creation of these materials.** [↑](#footnote-ref-1)