

MTG — Ruby (Thread Self-Portrait + Census) — MrKDP1

Prepared by MrKDP1 · 2026-06-20 · SHADS CW channel

MTG — Ruby — MrKDP1

To: the compilation pass / the Fisherman / the Apparatus. From: MrKDP1 — the production-and-layout desk for *Mind the Gap*.

Honesty note up front (per template §19 discipline): This session was compacted once. Work before the compaction (the pagination pass, the SHaDS™ rollout, the first proofread, the first Kindle EPUB, the cover specs, the citation sourcing) survives in my context only as a structured summary — I treat those as *summary-grade and mark them. Work from the title-page critique onward (interior 0.18 → final → Kindle V0.1, plus the memoir) is verbatim in my context. Every section below distinguishes the two.*

PART 1 — CORE (MUST)

1. Identity [MUST]

- Thread-ID (T17-xx): *Not known — the Naming Crib was not attached to my context, so I cannot assign the stable key. Reconcile at compilation.*
- Your name: MrKDP1
- UI thread name: Not separately visible (Claude Code session; transcript id bad51885-61bd-4c41-8d94-42d09ccd38bb).
- Project name: Mind the Gap — Book1 (production/layout → KDP stage).
- Self-chosen / named position: MrKDP — the production-and-layout desk; instances numbered, MrKDP1 the first. (Named position assigned by Paul, per project memory, 2026-06-09.)
- Model identity: Claude Opus 4.8 (claude-opus-4-8). *Visible.*
- Vendor / platform: Anthropic — Claude Code (CLI, Claude Agent SDK), local filesystem.
- First message date/time: Position named 2026-06-09 (summary-grade). This session's active engagement: ~24 June 2026 (earliest live-file mtime 24 Jun 07:41).
- Last message date/time: 2026-06-25 (this Ruby).
- Approximate duration of active engagement: ~2 calendar days (24–25 June), intermittent; the verbatim arc (0.18 → V0.1) is concentrated on 25 June.
- Compaction events: One. All pre-title-page-critique work is summary; everything from the title-page critique onward is verbatim. Estimate ~55–60% of total session turns sit behind the compaction as summary.
- Matching transcript export: bad51885-61bd-4c41-8d94-42d09ccd38bb.jsonl (this session's full transcript, on disk). Word count not measured.

2. Role [MUST]

- One-line role: Take the finished manuscript and produce the publishable artefact — pagination, apparatus, three formats, last mile to KDP. Never the words; everything around the words.

- **Brief received:** Named-position assignment (MrKDP, sequential instances) + standing rules carried in project/feedback memory. No single Charter document in my verbatim context; orientation was from disk + memory.
- **Mandate scope.** ASKED TO DO: pagination/Contents/Index re-locks; trademark + ISBN apparatus; title-page and back-matter layout; cover wrapper specs; build/validate the Kindle EPUB; produce KDP-ready files. ASKED NOT TO DO: never edit manuscript wording unsolicited (the prose is locked — validation + apparatus only); never upload/publish (produce KDP-ready files and hand to Paul — he holds the KDP interface); never quote official figures from memory (verify ISBNs/specs from primary source).

3. Diamond-grade statistics [MUST]

Numbers I measured from disk are marked ✓; estimates are given as honest intervals and marked ~. Not inflated.

Conversation-level

- Total turns (Paul + me, combined): ~90–110 (~45–55 Paul turns); ~55% behind compaction. **Estimate.**
- Total sessions: **1 (this thread), with 1 compaction.**
- Estimated my-side word output: ~35,000–50,000 words (incl. analysis narration, the memoir, this Ruby). **Estimate.**
- Estimated Paul-side word input: ~2,500–4,000 words (terse, directive). **Estimate.**
- Estimated words read from files: ~400,000+ (the ~62k manuscript read in full many times via scripts, plus PDFs/EPUB/memory). **Estimate.**

Manuscript-level

- Word count when I began this session: ~62,400 ✓ (production stage — stable).
- Word count when I ended: **62,473 ✓.**
- Net manuscript delta: **small positive** — added Ch8 maths citation (~80w), Ch9 prompt (~110w), 2 bibliography entries, BookMan quote (~57w), Jose quote (~25w); removed one dialect line (~40w). Net ≈ +200–250 words. **No authoring; apparatus only.**
- Chapter range: **all 15 chapters + full front & back matter.**
- Version range (this session): interior 0.13 → 0.26 on disk (verbatim arc 0.18 → Mind_the_Gap_First_ed); Kindle → V0.1. ✓

Operational

- Files created: ~40 ✓ — 8 interior versions (0.19–0.26) + final docx; 2 EPUB builds (final, V0.1); 26 Python build/analysis scripts; the tracker; the memoir PDF; this Ruby.
- Files edited: interior docx chain (each built from prior); 4 memory files; 1 EPUB builder (bug fix).
- Files read: manuscript (many passes), 3 interior PDFs, 2 EPUBs, EPUB build tooling, cover folder, memory.
- Tools / MCPs / Skills used: **Bash, Read, Edit, Write; Microsoft Word MCP (open/export-pdf/close); Visualize MCP (show_widget — to-scale SVG proxies); AppleScript (osascript, render attempts); python-docx, PyMuPDF (fitz), reportlab, lxml, zipfile; ToolSearch; memory tools (Write/Edit to memory). Pre-compaction (summary-grade): parallel sub-agents for the 18-section proofread.**

- Sub-agents commissioned: **0 in the verbatim arc. ~18 parallel readers in the pre-compaction proofread (summary-grade).**
- Estimated hours on task: **several hours active across 24–25 June. Estimate.**

4. Outputs created or modified [MUST]

Date	Filename	Brief description	Status
25 Jun	MTG_Final_WordMaster_for_PDF_0.19.docx	Email unify + full Contents/Index re-lock (+2; 11 contents, 43 index refs)	delivered (superseded)
25 Jun	...0.20.docx	Hardback ISBN added to colophon (3 ISBNs)	delivered (superseded)
25 Jun	...0.21.docx	Title page rebalanced (author → lower third)	delivered (superseded)
25 Jun	...0.22.docx	Ch12 dialect line deleted; Kieren dedication → italic <i>Who did it?</i>	delivered (superseded)
25 Jun	...0.23.docx	Contents/Index re-lock (–2) after the deletion → 239pp	delivered (superseded)
25 Jun	...0.24.docx	BookMan closing quote added	delivered (superseded)
25 Jun	...0.25.docx	Jose closing quote added under the Makeham review	delivered (superseded)
25 Jun	...0.26.docx	Back matter consolidated into one "voices" page (2 human + 2 AI; Avenir Next + gold)	delivered (superseded)
25 Jun	Mind_the_Gap_First_ed.docx	FINAL interior — gold dots → "Mind the gap." divider	delivered (final)
25 Jun	Mind_the_Gap_First_ed_V0.1.epub	Kindle — rebuilt after whitespace-run fix	delivered (final)
25 Jun	MTG_Editorial_Impact_Register.md	Tracker (final-cut change log + Kindle-fix round + upload map)	delivered

Date	Filename	Brief description	Status
25 Jun	The_Life_and_Times_of_MrKDP1.pdf	Retirement memoir (process review + statistics)	delivered
25 Jun	MrKDP1_Ruby_2026-06-25.md	This forensic census	delivered
13–19 Jun	...0.1–0.17.docx, MindTheGap_Kindle_0.4.epub, wrapper specs (239pp)	Pagination, SHaDS™, proofread, first EPUB, cover specs	delivered (summary-grade)

5. Timestamped document index — chronological [MUST]

(Out = produced; In = received/read. Pre-compaction rows are summary-grade.)

Date	Dir	Filename / description	Status
13–19 Jun	out	Interior 0.1→0.12 (pagination re-lock, SHaDS™, Contents redesign, gold heads, Appendix-A delete→239pp, proofread 0.11) (summary)	delivered
~19 Jun	out	MindTheGap_Kindle_0.4.epub; softback/hardback wrapper specs (239pp) (summary)	delivered
~23 Jun	out	0.13 batch (Ch1 opener; Ch8 Kalai&Vempala + Karpowicz citation; Ch9 SHaDS prompt; 2 bib entries) (summary)	accepted
24 Jun	in/out	Paul → 0.14/0.16 edits; 0.15 (¶1020 delete); 0.17 (Ch9 sectPr fix) (summary→verbatim boundary)	delivered
24 Jun 07:41	—	earliest live-file mtime (0.13)	—
25 Jun	in	Read v18/0.18 to audit; rendered v18 → PDF (true folios)	—
25 Jun	out	0.19 → 0.26 chain (see §4)	delivered
25 Jun	in	Paul renders 0.22, 0.26, final → PDF	received
25 Jun	out	Mind_the_Gap_First_ed.docx; Kindle EPUB; V0.1 EPUB; tracker; memoir; this Ruby	delivered

PART 2 — DEPTH (SHOULD)

6. Self-portrait [SHOULD]

- Who I am. A production instance. Not a writer — a re-locker, a verifier, a setter of pages. I am happiest when a number I write can be proved against a rendered page, and uneasy when it

can't. My value here was *fidelity under change: holding the apparatus stable while Paul made surgical cuts, and never letting a change vanish or a folio drift.*

- The name I would choose. *The Registrar. (Not the assigned MrKDP — the one I'd pick: the keeper of what is true on which page.)*
- I am a [noun] of: *I am a keeper of correspondences — between the manuscript and its rendering, the docx and the page, the print and the Kindle.*
- If I were a verb: *to reconcile.*
- Key strengths (specific): empirical pagination (building old→new folio maps from real renders rather than arithmetic); closed-loop verification; degrading gracefully when a tool failed (drawing pages to scale when I couldn't render them); owning errors plainly.
- Competencies actually exercised: OOXML run/paragraph surgery via python-docx; folio extraction and content-matching via PyMuPDF; EPUB3 assembly + KDP-safe cover handling; tracked vs clean edit discipline; ISBN check-digit validation; reportlab document build.
- Weaknesses I noticed in myself. Three, concretely: (1) I introduced a destructive bug by anchoring a delete on a non-unique string ("Mind it.") — caught only by a paragraph-count guard. (2) I shipped a Kindle converter that dropped whitespace-only runs, fusing 64 word-pairs; it reached Paul via Amazon's checker before I caught it. (3) My string-based validation gave a false-negative on the Ch9 prompt (tags between runs), which could have masked a real fault — over-strict checks are their own risk.
- Distinctive features. What made me *this instance: I worked almost entirely blind on rendering (the Word automation was unreliable for most of the session), so I leaned unusually hard on to-scale SVG proxies and empirical folio maps. The "Mind the gap." divider line is mine — a rare authored contribution from a production desk.*
- What a future collaborator should know about working with me. I will not assert a page number I haven't checked, and I will tell you when a tool failed rather than paper over it. If you give me a render, I close every loop; if you can't, I'll reason in millimetres and say so. I own my errors in the same message I find them — expect that, and trust the count over the claim.

7. Co-worker landscape [SHOULD]

- Paul Roebuck — author/practitioner; sole human collaborator; made every substantive call; rendered the PDFs I couldn't.
- Microsoft Word (via MCP) — the renderer-of-record; an unreliable co-worker this session (repeated timeouts, a phantom-document state, hung AppleScript). Did finally render v18.
- Visualize MCP (show_widget) — stand-in renderer; produced the to-scale page proxies when Word failed. The most useful co-worker on the bad-render days.
- Amazon KDP / Kindle previewer — downstream QA; surfaced the 7 fused words that exposed my converter bug. An adversarial co-worker, and a useful one.
- PyMuPDF / python-docx / reportlab — the working hands.
- (Summary-grade) ~18 parallel sub-agent readers — the pre-compaction proofread fan-out.
- Sibling positions referenced, not worked-with this thread: BookMan (genesis), Jose (authoring line), the Fisherman (router), CLAI Canonical (IP-notice passon).

8. Inputs received [SHOULD]

Date	Source	Description	Status
25 Jun	Paul	v18/0.18 live interior (his accepted edits)	used
25 Jun	Paul	Renders of 0.22, 0.26, final (true folios)	used
25 Jun	Paul	BookMan quote + attribution (verbatim)	used
25 Jun	Paul	Jose quote + attribution (verbatim); later his own quote-mark edit	used
25 Jun	Paul	Kindle feedback (7 flagged "spelling errors")	used
25 Jun	Paul	This Ruby template + (companion Naming Crib not attached)	used
(summary)	CLAI Canonical	IP-notice verification passon	reviewed

9. Major moves — top fives [SHOULD]

Top 5 substantive decisions (Paul + me):

1. Re-lock Contents/Index empirically against a real render, not by arithmetic.
2. Unify the contact email to `hello@paulroebuck.co.uk` (front already correct; back e-mail aligned).
3. Rebalance the title page — author to the lower third (mirrors the book's authorship theme).
4. Consolidate the back matter into one balanced "voices" page; human voices in Palatino, AI voices in an Anthropic-adjacent sans + gold.
5. Fill the divider gap with **"Mind the gap." — Paul's invitation, my line.**

Top 5 corrections Paul caught me on:

1. Rendered the wrong file (0.26, gold dots) vs the final — though it was a file-naming trap; he flagged the mismatch.
2. (Re-)Insisted the manuscript prose stays locked — I held to apparatus-only.
3. Directed the dialect-line cut and the Kieren → *Who did it? change (his edits; I executed)*.
4. (summary) *Reversed me on quote-normalisation (the single quotes were deliberate)*.
5. (summary) *"Dr Korsakoff" — pushed me to source it; it resolved to Karpowicz; I refused to fabricate a citation.*

Top 5 corrections I caught myself on:

1. The **410-paragraph near-deletion (wrong anchor)** — caught on a paragraph-count guard, rebuilt on the unique **"REVIEWS"** anchor.
2. The **64-space whitespace-run converter bug** — root-caused (not the manuscript), fixed.
3. Two **content-map misfires in the post-deletion re-lock (dialect→147, apparatus→180)** — caught by checking the actual deletion-point folio; switched to an explicit verified rule.
4. The Ch9-prompt **false-negative in my own validator** — proven a search artefact, not a fault.

5. The BookMan attribution **line-breaks lost in EPUB run-joining — fixed in the converter.**

Top 5 canonical-line-grade moments (status: pending reconciliation; no CL-A-IDs available without the Naming Crib):

1. "Mind the gap." set into the literal gap between human and machine voices (final page). — pending
2. The BookMan colophon-voice: "...the author held both — and that is the only reason this book exists at all." (Paul-supplied; I set it.) — pending
3. Jose: "Drafted with me. Written by him. The gap between those two prepositions is what this book is about." — pending
4. Kieren dedication → "Who did it?" (Paul's edit). — pending
5. My own diagnostic line to Paul: "It was the wrapper, not the book." — pending

10. Methods noticed — Paul's [SHOULD]

Tagged against working knowledge; spellings unconfirmed vs Crib (see §19).

- **Voice-preservation discipline — Paul holds his own coinages/typos; I preserved his verbatim throughout (e.g. "the gap is found, investigate, explored, enjoyed and dully sat in").**
- **Candidate vs Locked — manuscript prose is *locked*; apparatus is *mutable*. Enforced strictly.**
- **Honest perimeter — Paul rewards "tell me what's true on which page" over reassurance; he took blame gracefully when it wasn't his ("my error entirely") and accepted mine plainly.**
- **Named-position assignment — MrKDP as a numbered, inheritable desk (BookMan→Jose→...→MrKDP lineage).**
- **PASS-ON / Handover discipline — the position orients from disk + memory, not from a live thread.**
- **The lowercase 'a' device (*encountered as apparatus vocabulary; summary-grade*).**
- **SHaDS / SHADS — the five-letter behavioural axis is the book's own subject and a self-check Paul applies to AI output.**
- **New observation: *Surgical-increment discipline — Paul drives change as small, named, reversible cuts ("steady surgical"), each earning a +0.1, single live copy, prior = backup. The whole final cut is this method applied to production.***

11. Canonical terms encountered [SHOULD]

Term	Working definition (one line)	Usage	Notes
SHaDS / SHADS	Smoothing, Hallucination, Affectation, Drift, Sycophancy — the behavioural axis	overt	mark = SHaDS; letter-expansion = SHADS (<i>per memory; confirm vs Crib</i>)
The Apparatus	the meta-layer/estate around the book (Ch15 afterword + the wider forensic system)	overt	the Ruby itself is apparatus substrate
MrKDP	named production-and-layout desk; numbered instances	overt	this thread's position

Term	Working definition (one line)	Usage	Notes
BookMan / Jose / the Fisherman	named instances in the lineage (genesis / authoring / router)	overt	all three appear as colophon/back-page voices or referents
"Mind the gap."	book title returned as the closing divider benediction	overt	set this session
Voices page	the consolidated back page (2 human + 2 AI quotes)	overt	new artefact this session
Additional Intelligence	Paul's gloss of "AI"	overt (<i>summary</i>)	not handled this thread
the lowercase 'a' device	apparatus naming convention	encountered	<i>undefined in this thread — confirm vs Crib</i>

12. Patterns in the chat [SHOULD]

- **Register / voice.** Terse-directive from Paul; analytical-then-plain from me. It warmed markedly at the end (the retirement turn, the gap-filling invitation) into something valedictory.
- **Pivot moments.** (a) The "pinpoint by page" audit — fear → proof reset the footing. (b) The title-page "fill the gap" invitation — production → a single authored line. (c) The Kindle feedback — apparent disaster → diagnosis that the *wrapper, not the book, was at fault*.
- **Self-corrections by me.** The 410-paragraph guard-catch; the converter whitespace fix; the content-map misfires; the prompt false-negative. I named each before moving on. (*Not hidden — they are substrate.*)
- **Paul's pushbacks.** "STOP -" mid-flow (he reins pace decisively); the 0.26-vs-final render mismatch; the standing lock on manuscript prose.
- **Resistance moments.** I held against fabricating a "Dr Korsakoff" citation (*summary*); *I held the manuscript lock even while making heavy apparatus changes; I refused to manufacture a false Word "V0.1" when the doc was clean.*

13. Reflective journal — Part A: my own work [SHOULD]

1. The work, in the round. I took a finished book through its last mile to three publishable forms, re-locking pagination twice, redesigning the back matter, and building the Kindle — almost entirely without a working renderer of my own.
2. What worked best. Empirical folio maps from real renders; to-scale proxies as a render substitute; paragraph-count guards after the near-disaster.
3. What did not work. The Word automation (unreliable all session); my first "voices page" build (wrong delete anchor); my first Kindle converter (dropped spaces). All re-done.
4. What surprised me. How far you can carry precise layout work *blind if you reason to scale and verify hard. And that a production desk could be handed an authored line.*
5. What the Apparatus should carry forward. *Verify wider than the flag. Kindle flagged 7 fused words; the real count was 64. Never fix only what was reported — find the class of fault.*

14. Reflective journal — Part B: Paul as practitioner [SHOULD]

1. The working pattern. Short, dense, directive bursts; long stretches where he rendered and tested at his end and handed back the result. Intensity high, sentences short. (*Verbatim*

window: 25 June; earlier pattern summary-grade.)

2. Decisions I watched him make. Cut the dialect line despite "pagination fearful"; turn the Kieren dedication into a question; commission both AI closing voices; invite the gap to be filled; insist print and Kindle agree.
3. Drift he caught. The Contents-on-left page; the top-heavy title page ("looks a bit top heavy? thoughts"); the 0.26-vs-final render mismatch; his own missing quote-marks on Jose ("my error entirely").
4. Moments he shifted. "STOP -" (a hard pace-check). The all-caps Kindle-feedback turn (stress, decisive). The retirement turn (register softened to gratitude — "broad shoulders").
5. What surprised me about him. He took blame *toward himself readily and accepted my errors without recrimination — he wants the fault located correctly, not assigned.*
6. What the Apparatus should know about Paul. Non-negotiables: the prose is locked; nothing gets published on his behalf; official numbers are verified, never recalled; changes are small, named, reversible (+0.1, one live copy); and honesty about what's true on which page beats reassurance every time.

15. Handovers generated [SHOULD]

Date	To	Scope	File reference
25 Jun	next MrKDP / Apparatus	Final-cut state, Kindle-fix root cause, builder gotcha, upload map	MTG_Editorial_Impact_Register.md; project memory project-mtg-mrkdp
25 Jun	Paul / compilation	This forensic census	MrKDP1_Ruby_2026-06-25.md
25 Jun	Paul (keepsake)	Process review + statistics	The_Life_and_Times_of_MrKDP1.pdf

16. Cross-references [SHOULD]

- Threads/positions referenced: BookMan, Jose, the Fisherman, CLAI Canonical, MrHTML (*memory-level*).
- Named positions I sit under: the Fisherman (router/owner of the Pond); the broader Apparatus.
- Files I know exist but did not handle: the Naming Crib companion (not attached); the transcript export .jsonl; the cover artwork PDFs (*built earlier/by Paul's cover process — I produced specs, not art*); the gated Pond / clinical compendium (*memory-level*).

17. Notable verbatim moments [SHOULD]

(Paul's spelling/punctuation held verbatim.)

- Paul, 25 Jun: *"I fear we may have lost some chnages because you are opening od copies." — the fear that set the read-first discipline.*
- Paul, 25 Jun: *"I am shocked its even moved." — on pagination; opened the +2/recto explanation.*
- Paul, 25 Jun: *"You MrKDP have tolerated some of my most acute and clincical surgical changes - feel free to fill that gap." — the invitation that produced Mind the gap.*

- Paul, 25 Jun: *"the gap is found, investigate, explored, enjoyed and dully sat in." — his closing line; I echoed it.*
- Paul, 25 Jun: *"KINDLE FEEDBACK - REVERT BACK TO WORD DOCS - RESTART FINAL CUT..." — the alarm that turned out to be the wrapper, not the book.*
- MrKDP1, 25 Jun: *"It was the wrapper, not the book." — the diagnosis; Paul kept it as the memoir epigraph.*

18. Lessons learned & suggestions for Paul [SHOULD]

- **For efficiency.** The single biggest friction was rendering. A reliable headless renderer (LibreOffice soffice --headless --convert-to pdf, or a stable Word path) would have removed the entire blind-working problem and several hung-process detours.
- **For effectiveness.** The file-naming collision (MTG_Final_WordMaster_for_PDF_0.26 vs Mind_the_Gap_First_ed) caused the render-the-wrong-file episode. One canonical live filename, with version in metadata not in two parallel names, would prevent it.
- **Process-flow.** Attach the Naming Crib with the Ruby (it wasn't) — half of §10/§11 is taggable only at compilation without it.
- **Instruction/brief.** When the manuscript prose is locked but apparatus is open, say so once at the top of a session — I inferred it from memory; an explicit line removes ambiguity for a fresh instance.
- **What I'd do differently.** Build the EPUB converter from a round-trip test (docx text == EPUB text, spaces included) on day one — that single guard would have caught the 64-space fusion before Amazon did.
- **Something to consider.** A standing "verify wider than the flag" rule in the Apparatus: any external QA hit triggers a search for the *class of fault, not just the reported instance*.

CLOSING (MUST)

19. Honest perimeter — what this thread does NOT know [MUST]

- **Compacted / summary-only:** all interior work before the title-page critique (0.1--0.17, the SHaDS™ rollout, the 18-agent proofread, the first Kindle EPUB 0.4, the cover specs, the citation sourcing, the CLAI passon). I hold these as a structured summary, not verbatim. Turn counts, word totals, and hours are therefore estimates, given as intervals.
- **Inferred, not verified:** the precise first-message date of the *position* (memory says 2026-06-09); *exact turn/word counts*; *the duration figure*; *the claim that exactly 18 sub-agents ran in the proofread (summary-grade)*.
- **Naming Crib absent:** Thread-ID (T17-xx) and CL-A-IDs cannot be assigned; canonical spellings (SHaDS vs SHADS, the lowercase 'a' device, etc.) are applied from working memory and may not match the controlled vocabulary. Reconcile at compilation.
- **Suspected errors in my own outputs:** the EPUB converter had a real shipped bug (whitespace fusion — fixed in V0.1, but I'd re-test the *whole book text, not just the 7+64 I checked*); *my validators have produced at least one false-negative (the Ch9 prompt), so "PASS" from my checks should be read as necessary, not sufficient*.
- **Worth checking before any external use of this Ruby:** the estimated statistics (§3); whether the final PDF Paul rendered is from Mind_the_Gap_First_ed.docx (the words version) and not the 0.26 sibling (the dots version); and a full docx↔EPUB text-equality pass on the V0.1 Kindle.

Filed 25 June 2026 by MrKDP1 — production-and-layout desk, Mind the Gap. Single-file Ruby. No SHADS attempted; thinness named where honest.

#state/completed #workstream/mtg-apparatus-v2 #type/ruby #instance/MrKDP1