

# **How to Get Published**

## **Continuing Session**

### **By**

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#### **Introduction & overview...**

#### **Session 1**

- The Appointment
  - 8 Reasonable Goals for an Appointment
  - 4 Ways to Prep for the Appointment
  - 15 Reminders & Tips for Better Appointments
  - Appointment follow up
- The Pitch
- A Tale of Two Appointments . . . & 3 Things I Learned
- Writing for publication . . . some basic steps from CONCEPT to CONTRACT

#### **Session 2**

- Zeroing in on What to Write . . . 6 Tips
- Focusing Your Ideas . . . 6 Tips
- Fiction . . . The Heroes Journey-elements of your FICTION story
- Writer's Market Guide
- Thinning the Herd . . . there's a lot of competition . . . so we need to LOOK PROFESSIONAL.
  - Using the PUBLISHER'S submission GUIDELINES.
  - Understanding MANUSCRIPT RIGHTS
  - USING YOUR HEAD when SENDING to a PUBLISHER
- Simultaneous Submissions
- Contracts . . . 2 Tips
- Rejection . . . "Badge of Honor" or "Mark of an Amateur"?

#### **Session 3**

- Agents
- Query letters . . . and 10 Keys to Writing Successful Ones
- Proposals
- Submitting manuscripts in the correct format
- Self-publishing
- E-publishing
- Finding Markets for Your Writing

#### **Session 4**

- 5 ESSENTIALS for PUBLISHING SUCCESS  
(God's Timing, Reputation, Platform, Working the Craft, Right Perspective)
- 5 ESSENTIALS for LEARNING the CRAFT  
(Writer's Conf., Books on Writing, Reading, Writing Quotas, Show Work)
- 5 ESSENTIAL AREAS to IMPROVE your FICTION WRITING Skill  
(POV, SDT, Dialogue, Back story, Conflict )
  
- 5 Recommended books FOR FICTION
  
- 5 Recommended books for NON-FICTION

#### **Session 5**

Finish issues we haven't completed, Q & A, more time on Proposals

## **THE APPOINTMENT**

### **8 REASONABLE GOALS for an APPOINTMENT**

1. To see if YOUR IDEA or WRITING is of INTEREST to OTHERS . . .
2. That they'd get a SENSE of WHO YOU ARE . . .
3. That they'd get a GOOD IMPRESSION of you as a person . . .
4. That they'd SEE YOUR PASSION . . .
5. That they'd see how YOU'RE A GOOD ONE TO WRITE ABOUT it . . .
6. That you'd GET IDEAS on HOW TO IMPROVE your WRITING . . .
7. That you'd learn what your NEXT STEPS should be . . .
8. That they'd INVITE YOU to SEND A PROPOSAL—if you're ready for that . . .

*It was a good appointment IF . . .*

### **4 WAYS TO PREP FOR THE APPOINTMENT**

1. Research the person you're having an appointment with . . .
2. Print up business cards . . .
3. Practice your pitch . . .
4. Pray About it . . .

### **15 REMINDERS & TIPS FOR A BETTER APPOINTMENT**

1. BRUSH YOUR TEETH . . .
2. BE EARLY . . .
3. DON'T HOVER . . .

**4. WHEN the APPOINTMENT AHEAD OF YOU DOES GO LATE . . .**

**5. REMIND YOURSELF before the appointment . . .**

**6. BE MINDFUL OF THEIR COMFORT ZONE . . .**

**7. WOMEN . . . if you're meeting with a man . . .**

**8. MEN . . . if you're meeting with a woman . . .**

**9. SMILE & INTRODUCE YOURSELF . . .**

**10. GIVE THEM A SENSE OF WHO YOU ARE . . . heart, passion, platform . . .**

**11. If you have a PROJECT, GIVE THEM your PITCH . . . but don't be PUSHY . . .**

**12. FOLLOW THEIR LEAD . . .**

**13. REACTING TO ADVICE OR INPUT THEY MAY GIVE . . . listen, don't argue . . .**

**Remember TWO THINGS when receiving ADVICE or CRITICISM.**

**A. 10 different editors = 10 different opinions . . .**

**B. The idea is to learn from them—not defend your POSITION . . .**

**14. ASK TO SEND A PROPOSAL IF APPROPRIATE . . .**

**15. WATCH THE CLOCK DURING YOUR APPOINTMENT . . .**

**WHEN IT'S TIME TO LEAVE . . .**

**REMEMBER . . .** how you conduct yourself during an appointment is critical . . .

The editor you **OFFEND** or **IMPRESS** now may someday . . .

### **APPOINTMENT FOLLOW-UP**

*If there is no manuscript to send, no proposal to send . . . SEND A “THANKS” . . .*

Subject line:

*“Thanks for the appointment at the \_\_\_\_\_ writers’ conference”*

Give them a reminder of who you are . . .

Thank them for meeting with you . . .

Wish them the best & that you hope to meet them again sometime.

### **IF THERE IS a MANUSCRIPT or PROPOSAL to SEND . . .**

If sending via email . . .

Subject line:

*“Regarding requested proposal from \_\_\_\_\_ writers’ conference.”*

Start the email like before . . .

Remind them of their invitation to send a proposal & what the project was about.

If the proposal IS ready to go . . .

-Close with another thanks for looking at the proposal

-Attach the proposal

If the proposal is NOT ready to go . . .

-Determine how much time you need to finish it

-Add a bit of time . . .

### **ANATOMY of a PITCH**

A SHORT, CAREFULLY CRAFTED SUMMARY . . .

***The PURPOSE is NOT SIMPLY TO SUMMARIZE . . .  
BUT TO CATCH THEIR ATTENTION & TO GET THEM INTERESTED in it.***

## **1. The ELEVATOR PITCH . . .**

***Short enough*** to share on an elevator ride.

**Preface it by mentioning the TITLE and the GENRE.**

*“The title is Code of Silence, & it’s a contemporary suspense for middle readers.”*

The pitch is ***one line—two at max . . . ideally 25 WORDS or less . . . 10 seconds . . .***

***Your pitch should . . .***

*-BE COMPELLING. GRIPPING. INTRIGING.*

*-HOOK the INTEREST of the person you’re talking to.*

*-MAKE them WANT TO HEAR MORE.*

*-MAKE THEM WANT TO READ THAT BOOK!!*

*-HELP them SEE THE POTENTIAL for audience appeal*

*-If pitching FICTION, it should reveal the MAIN CONFLICT,  
the PRIMARY TROUBLE your main character will face*

***PITCH SAMPLES . . .***

## **2. Then PREPARE A LONGER PITCH**

**Something you can SAY IN ABOUT 30 SECONDS or so . . .**

***If they seem interested . . . be prepared to ELABORATE . . .***

*-THEME, WHAT IS AT STAKE, Character strength, weakness, growth . . .*

*-MAJOR PLOT POINTS (cheat sheet OK)*

*-Why does your CHARACTER NEED TO GO ON THIS JOURNEY?*

*-What INCITING INCIDENT PUSHES THEM into the STORY?*

-What HAPPENS IN THE MIDDLE that ALMOST MAKES THEM TURN BACK?

-What FORCES THE CLIMAX? How is it RESOLVED IN THE END?

***If you're not prepared with all this now . . . that's OKAY . . .***

**TWO APPOINTMENTS . . . and THREE LESSONS I learned . . .**

**1. How you CONDUCT YOURSELF during an appointment MATTERS . . .**

**2. Your REPUTATION MATTERS . . .**

-The kind of person you REALLY are BECOMES KNOWN . . .

-IT IS AS IMPORTANT AS THE QUALITY OF YOUR WORK . . .

**3. GOD Can Make the CONTRACT HAPPEN at JUST THE RIGHT TIME, even if . . .**

**8 BASIC STEPS of a WRITING PROJECT FROM CONCEPT to CONTRACT**

*Writing the Christian Nonfiction Book: Concept to Contract* by David Fessenden

**1. BRAINSTORMING . . .**

**2. RESEARCHING . . .**

**3. OUTLINING . . .**

**4. PREPARING the PROPOSAL . . .**

**5. WRITING the ROUGH DRAFT . . .**

**6. REVISING . . .**

**7. FINE-TUNING the MANUSCRIPT . . .**

**8. GETTING the CONTRACT . . .**

You've written it, now how do you get a book published? Explore publishing routes, literary agents, and prepare for sharing your book with the world. This is what you typically think of: A book publisher offers a contract to the author to print, publish, and sell the book through bookstores and other types of retailers. They also provide editing services and book cover design ideas. The publishing house buys the rights to publish your book and then pays you royalties from the sales. Self-publishing. In this scenario, you, the author, take publishing your book into your own hands. How to Publish an Article in a Magazine in 5 Steps. For many freelancers, the publication process can seem confusing and complex. Here are some tips to increase your chances of getting your work published: Choose a topic you're passionate about. Before you can see your byline in a magazine publication or website, you'll need to come up with a great article idea. The first indicator of how hard it will be to get published there is a lack of submission guidelines. Let's say that you are highly ambitious and want to get into Matter, the most popular publication on Medium with 1M followers. Now go to their homepage and try to find a submission form, guidelines, or anything else on how to submit. No, don't waste your time, there is nothing to be found there. You can, however, find their email. Can you? You have to be a bit of a detective, but that's how things work here on Medium. I'll help you out. On their homepage, scroll down until you see this: There's Struggling to understand how to get a book published? We'll take you through the process with our definitive guide to book publishing. How to Get Published. The world of publishing: a guide for writers. The author. It can be hard as a new writer to understand how the document saved on your laptop could ever make it onto the shelves of your local bookshop. Here's our guide to navigating the publishing process as an aspiring author. Tips on fitting writing around Family commitments by Sara Collins. If you want to get your book published, you have more choices than ever to accomplish your goal, and the path can be confusing if you're new to the publishing industry. This post lays out the process in the simplest terms possible. There are three primary paths to getting published: Land a traditional publisher who will offer you a book contract. This is what most writers imagine when they think about getting published. The publisher pays you, the author, for the rights to publish the work. Hire a company to help you publish your book. To learn more: Start Here: How to Self-Publish Your Book. Posting your work online. Many writers wonder if they'll ruin their chances at traditional publication if they self-publish an ebook, use Wattpad, or put chapters on their website.