

QUERY LETTERS TEMPLATES

My Team Has Given Months Of Research and Review on all of the Query Letters, I and the industry has received and written. I hope that by purchasing these templates you will give time and develop your Query Letter to make sure that your outreach to Literary Agents will go smooth and successful.

Enjoy these templates and we wish you the best in your journey.

TEMPLATE #1

Dear _____,

(Connect to the agent, you don't have to be represented by any agent. Just write something you adore about the agent)

I've been "attending" WriteOnCon the last few days and appreciated your frank and funny advice about query letters. I hope you will be interested in my middle-grade novel, ***Steering Toward Normal***.

(Perspective, give the agent the "why", why should readers appreciate your story)

Steering Toward Normal is a 56,000-word coming-of-age story set in the world of 4-H steer competitions. (I'm from Minnesota—we know cows.) It begins when eighth-graders Diggy Lawson and Wayne Schley discover they have the same father. *Steering Toward Normal* is the tale of how the boys go from being related to being brothers.

(Give the premise of your story)

Diggy's life may not be typical, but he's content. He hangs out with Pop and the county's farmers, raises steers to compete, and daydreams about July Johnston, high school senior and girl of his dreams. Hardly anyone teases him anymore about how his mom abandoned him on Pop's doorstep and skipped town on a tractor.

(Your story's twist)

Then Wayne gets dumped at Pop's, too. Suddenly, Diggy has a half brother messing things up. Wayne rattles Diggy's easy relationship with Pop, threatens his chances at the state fair, and horns in on his girl. Diggy believes family is everything, but he's pretty sure Wayne doesn't count.

The first ten pages of *Steering Toward Normal* won first place in the SCBWI Carolinas Writing Contest, judged by Sarah Shumway, Senior Editor at Katherine Tegan Books.

(About you)

I am a graduate of the Creative Writing MFA program at UNC Wilmington, editor of the SCBWI Carolinas quarterly newsletter, and member of the NC Writer's Network. My work has appeared in *Our State* magazine.

My professional background is in PR and marketing, having promoted new fiction and nonfiction authors with [redacted] and marketed magazines online for [redacted]. Additionally, I was president of my 4-H chapter in fifth grade. This is a multiple submission.

I look forward to hearing from you about *Steering Toward Normal*.

Sincerely,
Your Name

TEMPLATE #2

(This letter is intended to agents who require boldness from the writer, if you think the agent needs you to prove that you are serious and would do anything for the book then use this letter)

Dear _____,

(THIS LETTER IS FOR YOU, AND ONLY YOU!)

(Connect to the agent, you don't have to be represented by any agent. Just write something you adore about the agent)

I was thrilled to read your tweet yesterday stating that you love little witches. I love little witches too and have written a humorous picture book about witches entitled *IT'S RAINING BATS AND FROGS*.

(I CARE ABOUT YOU ENOUGH TO FOLLOW YOU ON TWITTER AND TO RESEARCH YOUR INTERESTS. ISN'T IT WONDERFUL THAT WE HAVE THINGS IN COMMON?)

(Perspective, give the agent the "why", why should readers appreciate your story)

IT'S RAINING BATS AND FROGS was written first as a picture book manuscript and later as a storybook app. I've attached only the picture book manuscript but please know the storybook app text is available upon request. A synopsis follows:

(I'M FLEXIBLE AND I'M WILLING TO LOOK AT OTHER BOOK FORMATS AND NEW TECHNOLOGY. IF YOU TAKE ME ON, I WILL WORK WITH YOU AND WILL BE OPEN TO YOUR SUGGESTIONS.)

(Give the premise of your story)

IT'S RAINING BATS AND FROGS (450 words) – It's raining on the Witch Parade and the witches are wet and miserable, so Delia decides to change the rain to cats and dogs, then hats and clogs, and finally bats and frogs. But each new type of rain brings its own problems. Eventually, Delia magics the rain back and the parade proceeds with the witches showing a great appreciation for real rain.

(I KNOW MY MARKET AND MY BOOK FALLS IN THE ACCEPTABLE WORD COUNT RANGE. I ALSO KNOW YOU EXPECT ME TO BE ABLE TO WRITE CONCISELY, SO I'VE SUMMED UP MY MANUSCRIPT IN THREE SENTENCES.)

(Give the agent some background of the people involved in writing your book)

My writing credits include winning the 2011 Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI) Barbara Karlin grant. This is an international award given out each year to one aspiring picture book writer. In 2012, I won first place in the Winchester Writers' Conference 'Writing for Children 4-7 years' category. I also won the 2012 Margaret Carey SCBWI British Isles Conference Scholarship for picture book writers and illustrators.

(I'M SERIOUS ABOUT MY WRITING. I'VE JOINED A PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION AND I'M DEDICATED AND HARD-WORKING. I'VE BEEN WRITING FOR SEVERAL YEARS, AND I'VE PUT ALL MY ENERGY AND FOCUS INTO WRITING PICTURE BOOKS.)

Before writing for children, I worked for the Russian comedian Yakov Smirnoff, taught English in Taiwan, traveled the world as a tour director, and worked as a librarian. Born in America, I now live in England.

(EVERYONE HAS A STORY TO TELL, AND THIS IS MINE. I'M MORE THAN A WRITER. MY CAREER LIFE HAS BEEN VARIED AND I HAVE PLENTY OF EXPERIENCES TO WRITE ABOUT. I'M ALSO NOT AFRAID TO EMBRACE NEW EXPERIENCES.)

Thank you for your time and consideration of my work. I look forward to your reply.

(YOU'VE TAKEN TIME OUT OF YOUR BUSY SCHEDULE TO READ MY LETTER AND HOPEFULLY MY MANUSCRIPT. YOU ARE A STAR! I REALLY APPRECIATE IT AND I HOPE WE CAN BECOME BESTIES! OR AT THE VERY LEAST, I HOPE WE CAN BECOME PEN PALS.)

Sincerely,
Your Name

TEMPLATE #3

(This query letter is made to be formal and creative)

Professor YOUR NAME, Historian
Royal Library
Candlenut Village Square
Island at the Center of Everything

(Creativity Starts at the greeting)

Most Esteemed Sir:

(Write why you have to write this and its importance to your target audience)

I would like to present for your consideration my true account of the recent dramatic events experienced by my native land, the Island at the Center of Everything, and her illustrious though sometimes self-indulgent monarch King Lucas the Loftier. By now you have perhaps heard news of our near-disastrous brush with obliteration when we discovered that the mountain upon which our beloved castle lay was, in fact, a giant asleep under a thousand-year-old blanket of earth and grass. Perhaps even rumors of civil war, treachery against the crown by the oppressed workers of the king's pepper mill, the heroic deeds of young Persimmony Smudge and her friend Worvil, and the mysterious prophecies of the Lyre-That-Never-Lies have reached your ears. My scrupulously researched narrative, *The Rise and Fall of Mount Majestic*, is an attempt to set the record straight once and for all. I humbly apply for your aid in securing a suitable publisher for my manuscript, as I am anxious to warn the rest of the world about the perils of not being fully aware of what lies under one's feet.

(Write why the book should be written by you and not anyone else)

I can assure you that my qualifications for this task are more than adequate, since I have spent fifty years of my life in the castle as royal historian and written numerous critically-acclaimed monographs, including *Roots Run Deep: A Compendium of Leaf-eater Lore*, *Where the Restless Mangroves Roam*, and *A Brief History of Famous People Eaten by Poison-Tongued Jumping Tortoises* (winner of the coveted Arthur P. Pickelheimer Prize for Acrimonious Adverbs). I expect that *The Rise and Fall of Mount Majestic* will find most welcome reception among those in the so-called "middle grades," since anyone younger may find it difficult to read such words as "discumbersomebubblated," and anyone older will be far too dull-witted to apprehend the dire importance of the story. It is 66,637 words long, written on the finest parchment paper in ink made from the sap of a coconut palm, and contains no less than fifteen semi-colons.

(Courtesy Message)

I have chosen to approach you with my urgent request because of the honor of your name and the loyalty you inspire in those who have entrusted their books to your care. After all, if you can help convince the public to believe in the moon falling down, what better advocate could I hope for in convincing them to beware of a mountain falling down?

May I be so bold as to send the manuscript for your perusal?

Yours respectfully,

Author Name

TEMPLATE #4

Dear _____,

(Connect to the agent, you don't have to be represented by any agent. Just write something you adore about the agent)

I am writing to submit my picture book, I HAVE A BALLOON, in hopes its humorous story and distinct voice match what you're looking for.

(Give the premise of your story)

Owl has a red balloon. Monkey wants her big, shiny red balloon. Monkey offers to trade Owl every possession he can find until, in desperation, he's left offering a sock. But when Owl points out that this sock has a star and a perfectly shaped hole, Monkey has a pretty tough decision to make. I HAVE A BALLOON, a story told by dialogue and illustrations, is 338 words and is meant for children ages 3-6. Readers of such picture books as Bob Shea's UNICORN THINKS HE'S PRETTY GREAT will similarly enjoy the silly humor of I HAVE A BALLOON.

(About you)

I am an associate member of SCBWI and attended my first conference in February in New York. I write a tongue-in-cheek blog entitled "How to Raise Benevolent Dictators" ([Your website](#)) and have been published on the Scary Mommy parenting blog and the Atticus Review online literary journal. In addition to I HAVE A BALLOON, I have several other completed picture books, including a second one featuring the Owl and Monkey characters. I am currently working on a chapter book.

Below please find the text for I HAVE A BALLOON. Thank you very much for your consideration!

Your Name

TEMPLATE #5

Dear _____,

(Connect to the agent, you don't have to be represented by any agent. Just write something you adore about the agent)

As a young literary agent with Curtis Brown Ltd. I have long admired Inkwell, as well as your

strong track record. To paraphrase Douglas Adams, if you searched for a book that was almost, but not quite, entirely unlike *THE BOOK THIEF* (which I absolutely loved), you might just have *JACOB WONDERBAR AND THE COSMIC SPACE KAPOW*, a middle-grade-and-up science fiction novel that I just completed. Still fun! But no one dies – Mr. Death would be lonely.

(Give the premise of your story)

Jacob Wonderbar has been the bane of every substitute teacher at Magellan Middle School ever since his dad moved away from home. He never would have survived without his best friend Dexter, even if he is a little timid, and his cute-but-tough friend Sarah Daisy, who is chronically overscheduled. But when the trio meets a mysterious man in silver one night they trade a corn dog for his sassy spaceship and blast off into the great unknown. That is, until they break the universe in a giant space kapow and a nefarious space buccaneer named Mick Cracken maroons Jacob and Dexter on a tiny planet that smells like burp breath. The friends have to work together to make it back to their little street where the houses look the same, even as Earth seems farther and farther away.

(Perspective, give the agent the “why”, why should readers appreciate your story)

JACOB WONDERBAR AND THE COSMIC SPACE KAPOW is 50,000 words and stands alone, but I have ideas for a series, including titles such as *JACOB WONDERBAR FOR PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSE* and *JACOB WONDERBAR AND THE VACATIONING ALIENS FROM ANOTHER PLANET*. I’m the author of an eponymous agenting and writing blog.

I’d be thrilled if you would consider *WONDERBAR* for representation, and a few other agents are considering simultaneously. Thanks very much, and hope to talk to you soon.

Your Name

TEMPLATE #6

Dear Ms. _____,

(Connect to the agent, you don’t have to be represented by any agent. Just write something you adore about the agent)

I enjoyed meeting you at the conference in Austin this past weekend. As I mentioned, I have had my eye on BookEnds for quite some time; when I discovered you would be at the conference, I knew I had to attend. We met during the final pitch session and discussed how the series I am working on might fit in with your current line of mystery series. Per your request, I have enclosed a synopsis and first three chapters of *Murder on the Rocks*, and 80,000-word cozy mystery that was a finalist in this year’s Writers’ League of Texas manuscript contest and includes several bed-and-breakfast recipes.

(Give the premise of your story)

Thirty-eight-year-old Natalie Barnes has quit her job, sold her house and gambled everything

she has on the Gray Whale Inn on Cranberry Island, Maine. But she's barely fired up the stove when portly developer Bernard Katz rolls into town and starts mowing through her morning glory muffins. Natalie needs the booking, but Katz is hard to stomach—especially when he unveils his plan to build an oversized golf resort on top of the endangered tern colony next door. When the town board approves the new development not only do the terns face extinction, but Natalie's Inn might just follow along. Just when Natalie thinks she can't face more trouble, she discovers Katz's body at the base of the cliff and becomes the number one suspect in the police's search for a murderer. If Natalie doesn't find the killer fast she stands to lose everything—maybe even her life.

(About you)

I am a former public relations writer, a graduate of Rice University, a member of the Writers' League of Texas, and founder of the Austin Mystery Writers critique group. I have spent many summers in fishing communities in Maine and Newfoundland, and escape to Maine as often as possible. The second Gray Whale Inn mystery, *Dead and Berried*, is currently in the computer.

If you would like to see the manuscript, I can be reached at (phone number). Thank you for your time and attention; I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,
Your Name

TEMPLATE #7

Dear _____,

(Write why the book should be written by you and not anyone else)

I am seeking representation for my crime fiction novel, BLESSED ARE THE DEAD. This novel was inspired by a story I covered as a crime reporter and my own efforts to get a serial killer to confess to taking and killing a little girl. When the man died in prison two years ago, I was called for a comment, so I guess I'm considered an "expert" on him now.

(Character Reveal)

Gabriella Giovanni has never met a man more exciting than a murder.

(Backstory for your character)

Her big Italian-American family can't understand why Gabriella chooses her adrenaline-pumping career as a San Francisco Bay Area newspaper reporter over being married with little bambinos running around. Instead, Gabriella spends her days flitting in and out of other people's

nightmares and then walking away unscathed, like a teenager exiting the haunted house at the fair. That's partly because for twenty years Gabriella's managed to avoid confronting her own dark childhood memories: her sister's kidnapping and murder.

(Your story's twist)

That changes when a little girl disappears on the way to the school bus stop.

(Give the premise of your story)

Gabriella's quest for justice and a front-page story leads her to a convicted kidnapper who reels her in with tales of his exploits as a longtime serial killer and his promises to reveal his secrets to her alone. Editors warn Gabriella she is in danger of losing her job when the biggest newspaper in town keeps scooping her on the story. Believing that the fate of her beloved job and solving the mystery of her sister's disappearance both lie in the hands of a serial killer, Gabriella risks her life to meet him when he is sprung from jail on a technicality.

The novel is complete at 88,000 words and took first place in the mystery category of The 2011 Sandy Writing Contest. The final judge, an editor at Simon and Schuster, said this about it:

(Perspective, give the agent the "why", why should readers appreciate your story)

"I liked Gabriella and wanted to spend time with her. I also thought the author did a good job establishing character, plot, AND building suspense within a short period of time. This reminded me of Sue Grafton or Jan Burke."

(About you)

I am a member of Sisters in Crime, polished my manuscript in a master class on the novel at The Loft Literary Center in Minneapolis, and am involved in three writing critique groups. I am a freelance writer and maintain two blogs.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration. I have included the first chapter so you can get a feel for my voice.

Sincerely,
Your Name

TEMPLATE #8

Dear _____:

I am seeking representation for my 75,000-word thriller, *A Bad Day for Sorry*.

(Give the premise of your story)

Three years ago, rural Missouri housewife Stella Hardesty stopped her wife-beating husband in his tracks for good. After being acquitted of his murder, Stella launched a career helping other abused women put an end to their problems. When Stella's on the job, abusive husbands and boyfriends disappear - sometimes to the far side of town, and sometimes forever.

(Your story's twist)

When young mother Chrissy Shaw asks Stella for help with her no-good husband, it seems like a straightforward case. Until Roy Dean Shaw disappears with Chrissy's 2-year-old son from a previous relationship. Now Stella and Chrissy must battle two-bit crooks and deadly Kansas City mafia to get the boy back - all the while staying one step ahead of the law.

(About you)

I have written professionally for 10 years, publishing articles in computing, parenting, and women's magazines, and most recently working as a copywriter and editor for C&T Publishing. My short story, "Anything for You," was a runner-up for the Crime Writers' Association's 2007 Fish-Knife Award. Other short stories will appear in upcoming issues of *Thuglit* and *Pulp Pusher*.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my work. My first 10 pages and synopsis follow. Upon your request, I would be happy to provide the complete manuscript.

Sincerely,
Your Name

TEMPLATE #9

Dear _____,

(Start with creating connection/familiarity. It doesn't matter if you don't know the agent, just say something like "I saw your social media or your page on your website")

It was a pleasure to meet you at the Las Vegas Writer's Conference. Not only did I learn a lot, but left steadfast and inspired. Thank you for sitting down with me to hear the pitch for my historical novel ASPEN'S WAY. I've attached the first thirty-five pages as you requested and included the query below. I look forward to hearing from you.

(Give the premise of your story)

It's 1906 and Askuwhetu, an Ojibwe Indian, stands trial for the murder of a white man. The shadows of Little Big Horn, Pine Ridge, and subsequent policy of forced assimilation loom over the courtroom. Alma Mitchell, a friend and former classmate of the defendant, travels hundreds

of miles from her home to prove him innocent. Her fledgling investigation brings her face-to-face with the destructive legacy of the “savage-taming” boarding school run by her father that she once called home. To discover the truth behind her friend’s arrest, Alma must first reckon with the past; with love, racism, and betrayal; and with the seemingly impassable divide between their cultures.

Told in an interwoven narrative, ASPEN’S WAY is a work of upmarket historical fiction complete at 99,000 words. The story was a finalist in the 2014 Pitch Wars competition.

(Tell agent something about you)

My short fiction appears in *Writer’s Bloc IV* (2012) and *VI* (2015) under the pen name A. R. Shenandoah. I am an officer in the Henderson Writers’ Group. My mother-in-law, a Lac Courte Oreille Ojibwe, sparked my interest in Native American history. Her struggles at an Indian boarding school in the 1950s and campaign to recognize the inherited trauma still haunting the Native American community are the genesis of my story.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Your Name

TEMPLATE #10

Dear _____,

I hope you’ll be interested in my contemporary YA novel, STARRY, STARRY NIGHT, which is complete at 81,000 words.

(Give the premise of your story)

Even though it’s another sweltering summer in Arizona, sixteen-year-old Jill Whitaker can’t remember the last night she spent under her roof instead of on it. Some things, like her parent’s constant fighting, are more oppressive than heat. Not even the prospect of fixing up her dream car, a 1970 Spitfire, with her dad can make her happy for long. And she’s definitely not smiling at her best friend and crush, Sean, after she catches her mom wrapped around him. Jill’s left with a post-it goodbye note from her mom, a suddenly cryptic dad, and a strained Sean. Meeting her neighbor, Daniel, a guy with a scarred past and an even more toxic home life than hers, shouldn’t change anything, but it does.

(Your story’s twist)

When Jill intervenes one night after Daniel’s mom hurls a lamp at his head, they become each other’s escape. During the day, she runs cross-country and loses herself under cars in her dad’s shop. At night, the first flickers of an impossible romance kindle while she and Daniel count stars and scars. But the more time she spends with Daniel over that long, hot summer, the more

Jill realizes that escaping hurts more than confronting her life. Especially when Daniel's inexplicable love for his mom forces Jill to deal with her own. Facing her life head on means learning that the father she idolizes isn't perfect after all. Sean may have an explanation for what happened with her mom. And hatred, no matter how justified, is the hardest thing to escape of all.

(Perspective, give the agent the "why", why should readers appreciate your story)

Full of heartbreak and humor, STARRY, STARRY NIGHT will appeal to fans of Sarah Dessen and Rainbow Rowell. I've spent a lot of time with my target audience working as a teen counselor, high school drama teacher, and more recently as blogger/reviewer and social media head for [redacted publisher].

Thank you so much for your consideration

Sincerely,
Author Name

TEMPLATE #11

Dear _____

(Start with your favorite most impactful line/scene in your story)

"I spent two days in a cage at the SPCA until my parents finally came to pick me up. The stigma of bringing your undead son home to live with you can wreak havoc on your social status, so I can't exactly blame my parents for not rushing out to claim me. But one more day and I would have been donated to a research facility."

(Character Reveal)

Andy Warner is a zombie.

(Backstory for your character)

After reanimating from a car accident that killed his wife, Andy is resented by his parents, abandoned by his friends, and vilified by society. Seeking comfort and camaraderie in Undead Anonymous, a support group for zombies, Andy finds kindred souls in Rita, a recent suicide who has a taste for consuming formaldehyde in cosmetic products, and Jerry, a twenty-one-year-old car crash victim with an artistic flair for Renaissance pornography.

(Give the premise of your story)

With the help of his new friends and a rogue zombie named Ray, Andy embarks on a journey of personal freedom and self-discovery that will take him from his own casket to the SPCA to a media-driven, class-action lawsuit for the civil rights of all zombies. And along the way, he'll even devour a few Breathers.

(Perspective, give the agent the “why”, why should readers appreciate your story)

Breathers is a contemporary dark comedy about life, or undeath, through the eyes of an ordinary zombie. In addition to *Breathers*, I’ve written three other novels and more than four dozen short stories – a dozen of which have appeared in small press publications. Currently, I’m working on my fifth novel, also a dark comedy, about Fate.

Enclosed is a two-page synopsis and the first chapter of *Breathers*, with additional sample chapters or the entire manuscript available upon request. I appreciate your time and interest in considering my query and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,
Author Name

TEMPLATE #12

Dear Ms. _____:

I am seeking representation for my literary novel (type of novel), _____. I found your submission guidelines online and have included below a one-page synopsis.

I live and work in Salt Lake City, Utah, I have had short stories published in _____ and _____, and one of my _____ (give some credibility on your writing skills _____).

_____ (Your Book) _____ is approximately _____ (Your book’s length i.e. sixty-thousand words) _____ in length.

In summary: (Book Title) is a man who cannot feel physical pain (Describe your book in one sentence).

(Then write a short premise for your book)

When (My Hero) wanders into a dying circus, he doesn’t know who he is or how he got there. Despite feeling like an outcast, the circus adopts him. When it becomes clear that his “talent” (if you can call being shot with nail guns and staplers a talent) will make him the star freak of the show, he becomes the circus’ best chance for survival. After nearly sacrificing himself for the circus’ sake, (My Hero) decides to run away from the circus and make his way to New York City to discover himself and his past.

Accompanied by his water-eating best friend, (Hero Partner), (My Hero) discovers a world outside the circus that is all too ready to reward and punish him for his self-destructive talents. In this world, he finds women to comfort him, yet he won’t allow himself to trust them. He looks for love but won’t accept it, and he looks for safety in self-destruction. After undermining or

losing friends and lovers, (My Hero) is forced to figure out how to find a place for himself instead of just taking up space.

(Then compare your book to other successful projects)

This novel is a battle cry for our attention-deprived world, which has become so overrun with data and distractions that people have forgotten how to communicate with one another.

I look forward to your thoughts.

Sincerely,

Author Name

TEMPLATE #13

Dear _____,

I have recently completed a historical novel (type of novel), and read in several interviews that you enjoy historical fiction(create relevance to the agent) and distinct characters. I am hoping that you would find all this and more in my novel, (Novel).

(Then write a short premise for your book)

"God gave me everything I ever needed, except for that which He took away," Il Svizzero—the last great castrato—writes this in 1806, when he is finally ready to tell the secrets of his life. From his birth in a belfry high in the Alps to his appearance on Europe's greatest stages., THE BELLS is the confession of a killer, a kidnapper, and a lover who had no right to love. It is the recollection of the boy with a supernatural sense of hearing—with ears that heard a deaf mother's cries, the hateful gurgle of a father's throat, and the beating of a lover's heart.

(Write an impact, this creates an emphasis to why people should read your novel)

History mixes with fantasy in the story of Il Svizzero's life: from Uri, Switzerland to the Abbey of St. Gall and finally to Vienna, where, in 1762, he hides beneath the greatest stage in Europe for the premiere of Willibald Gluck's "Orfeo ed Euridice"—the opera that would change him and music forever.

(Author Bio)

Born and raised in New Hampshire, I live in Switzerland now, where I teach and write. In the past two years, I've published half a dozen stories in American literary journals, most recently in The Massachusetts Review (Fall 2007) and in artisan, a journal of craft (Winter 2007). I'm twenty-nine.

(Tell the agent why you choose to write to her/him)

As you request on your PublishersMarketplace bio, the first five pages of THE BELLS appear below. The completed novel is 100,000 words and is ready to be sent at your request.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my work. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours,

Author Name

TEMPLATE #14

Dear _____,

I'm writing to seek representation for my 95,000 word YA historical. A Mad, Wicked Folly is a tale of classic teen rebellion, with a twist: the rebellious teenager becomes a suffragette.

(Give the premise of your story)

London, 1909. When 17-year-old Victoria Darling poses nude for a forbidden art class, she gets dismissed from her posh French boarding school. Her humiliated parents decide to tame their willful daughter by removing what got her into trouble, her beloved art. Vicky is devastated to lose her dream of becoming an artist, but sees a glimmer of hope when her parents arrange a marriage to Edmund Carrick-Humphrey, a wealthy young man. Marrying Edmund means she can go to her dream school, London's Royal College of Art; but more importantly, she can finally break free from her father's control.

(Write the twist of your story)

Vicky feels her life is set until she meets a group of militant suffragettes and a handsome young police constable, William Fletcher, who is sympathetic to their cause. When Vicky mistakenly gets arrested in a suffragette riot, she falls into a world where women are willing to sacrifice everything to win the right to vote. Vicky meets fellow artist and American suffragette Lucy Hawkins. Lucy is the woman Vicky wants to become—independent, with a life she's created.

(Cliff-hanger)

Will Vicky decide whether to step out into an unknown world where her opinions and individuality matter or stay in a place where she feels safe but her voice is never heard?

(Perspective, give the agent the "why", why should readers appreciate your story)

A Mad, Wicked Folly looks into an era that has made such a great impact on women's lives today. The story is filled with the luxury of Edwardian fashion, the exotic world of Pre-Raphaelite art, the delicious taste of forbidden love, and the bravery of young women during the birth of women's rights.

Enclosed is a two-page synopsis and the first chapter of *A Mad, Wicked Folly*, with additional sample chapters or the entire manuscript available upon request. I appreciate your time and interest in considering my query and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,
Author Name

TEMPLATE #15

Dear _____,

(Simple Introduction)

I am seeking representation for my novel, *People Who Knew Me*, and wanted to reach out to see if you'd be interested in taking a look.

(Give the premise of your story)

On September 11, Emily Morris is lazing in the bed of her lover, playing hooky while he goes to work at the World Trade Center office they share. When the towers collapse--along with the affair she's been using to escape her unhappy marriage--she sees an opportunity. By September 12, everyone in her life thinks she is dead. By the next week, she is living a new life in California, pregnant and alone.

(Perspective, give the agent the "why", why should readers appreciate your story)

People Who Knew Me weaves back and forth between the present--fourteen years after 9/11--and the past. When Emily is faced with a devastating diagnosis, she must revisit the past and make peace not just with those in her current life, but with the people who knew her in the life left behind.

(About the author)

I am a 34-year-old novelist residing in Southern California. After completing the Masters of Professional Writing program at USC, I went into a career in advertising, writing fiction in my off hours. I have been a contributor to [DimeStories](#), was selected for the [America's Next Author anthology](#), and was a featured author at the West Hollywood Book Fair. You can learn more at: [\(Your website\)](#)

I look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Your Name

----- END -----