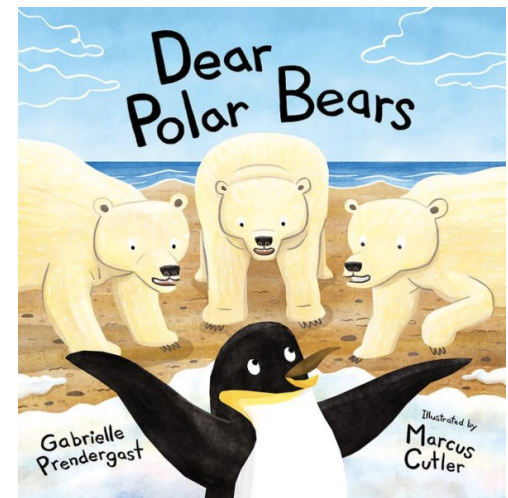
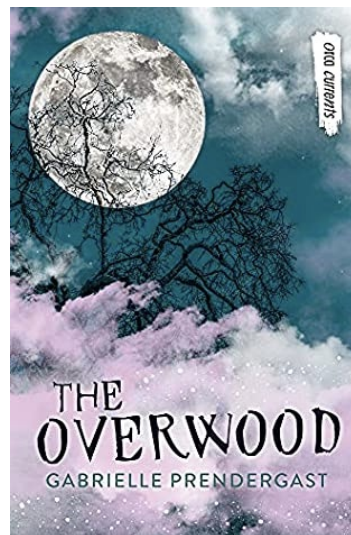
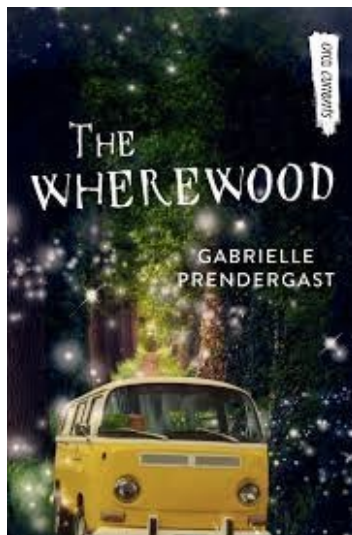
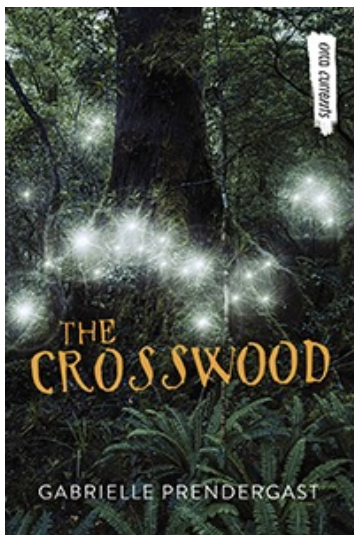
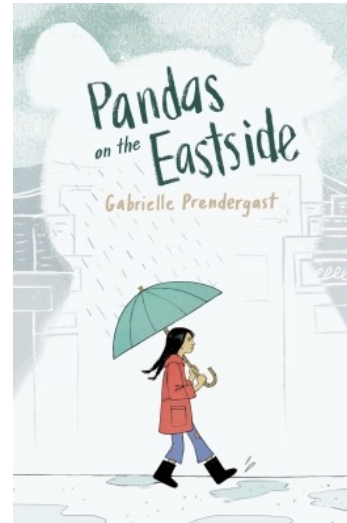
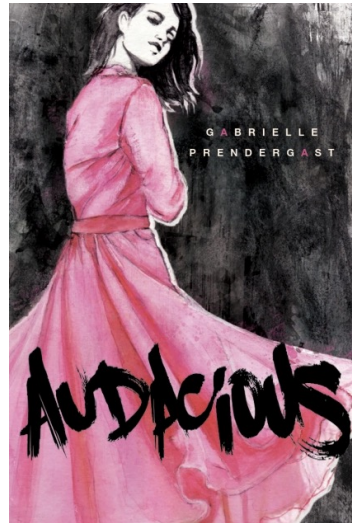
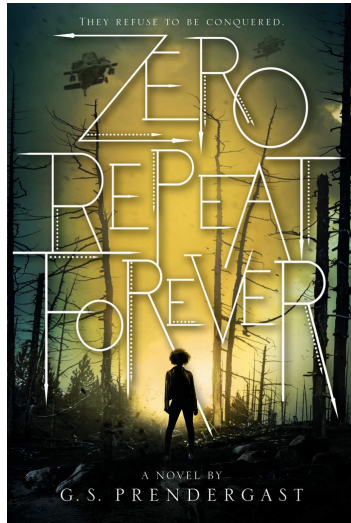
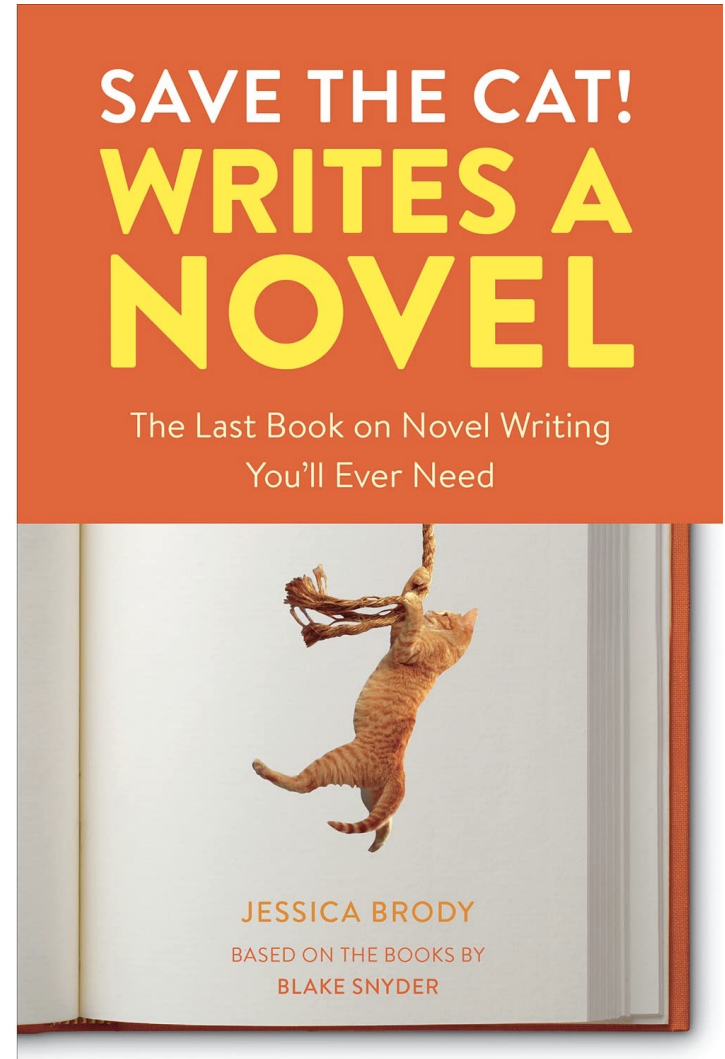
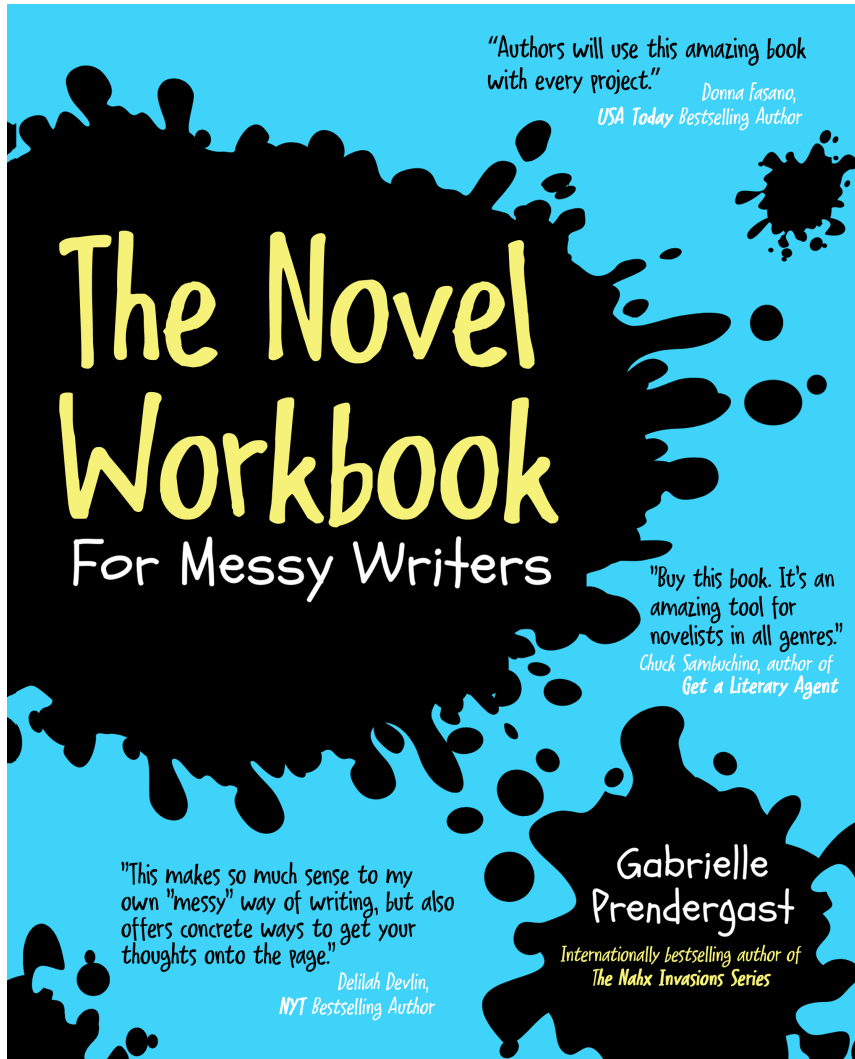


Paths to Publication

With Author Gabrielle Prendergast



Step One: Write Your Book



HOW TO WRITE A NOVEL IN FIVE EASY STEPS (FOR PLOTTERS)

WRITE YOUR LOGLINE

A logline is a brief (about 50 words) description of the premise and plot of our book--something like the brief program descriptions in your TV guide.

WRITE YOUR PITCH

Your pitch is a longer (200-300 words) description of your story. It tells us about the main character and plot but doesn't give away the end. It's a bit like the description on the back of a book or DVD.

WRITE YOUR OUTLINE

Your outline should include a brief description (one or two paragraphs) of what happens in each chapter of your book. Include all your main characters and every important scene.

PANIC

While you were trying to write your outline you probably discovered that you didn't know enough details of plot, character and setting to complete this step. That's okay. Keep revising your outline until you're happy with it.

WRITE YOUR BOOK

With a strong and polished outline, your writing step should go quickly. If you get stuck or don't like the way things are going, go back to your outline.

**NEED MORE HELP? PICK UP A COPY OF
THE NOVEL WORKBOOK FOR MESSY WRITERS
BY GABRIELLE PRENDERGAST
AVAILABLE AT AMAZON OR MESSYWRITERS.COM**

How to Write a Novel: The Gist

HOW TO WRITE A NOVEL IN FIVE EASY STEPS (FOR PANTSERS)

WRITE YOUR LOGLINE

A logline is a brief (about 50 words) description of the premise and plot of our book--something like the brief program descriptions in your TV guide.

WRITE YOUR PITCH

Your pitch is a longer (200-300 words) description of your story. It tells us about the main character and plot but doesn't give away the end. It's a bit like the description on the back of a book or DVD.

WRITE YOUR BOOK

Pantsing means writing without an outline, which is a bit like jumping without a parachute--exciting but possibly deadly. Are you a true pantser? You won't know until you try.

PANIC

The book you've written might be a mess. But that's okay. The real work in pantsing is trying to make sense of that mess. And for that you will probably need to borrow a tool from the plotters.

OUTLINE YOUR BOOK

Though your book is already drafted, now is a good time to write an outline. Play around with it. Move stuff. Massage it until it's closer to the shape of the book you want. Then rewrite.

**NEED MORE HELP? PICK UP A COPY OF
THE NOVEL WORKBOOK FOR MESSY WRITERS
BY GABRIELLE PRENDERGAST
AVAILABLE AT AMAZON OR MESSYWRITERS.COM**

Steps to Finish Your Manuscript

- **Substantive/Developmental Editing**
 - a developmental editor considers the big picture arc of the project— from the relationships between characters to the themes to the way scenes and chapters are structured.
- **Line editing**
 - A line editor works line-by-line, tightening up sentence structure so the language is sharp and clear.
- **Copy editing**
 - A copy editor ensures that the language in a manuscript follows the rules of standard English and adheres to the house style guide
- **Proofreading**
 - Proofreading checks for spelling mistakes, punctuation mistakes, repeated words, typos etc.

Substantive Editing

- Write your short “pitch” 250-300 words
- Write an outline, breaking your manuscript into parts, chapters and scenes
- Use index cards to move things around
- Map the dramatic arc of the manuscript and each part
- Create a table of characters and their plots/subplots

Substantive Editing: What to look for

- Characters or subplots that aren't balanced
- Slow sections
- Info dumps
- Unresolved plot points
- Logical problems
- Character development issues
- Plot comprehension problems
- Weak turning points
- Passive protagonists
- Flat or unbalanced story arc

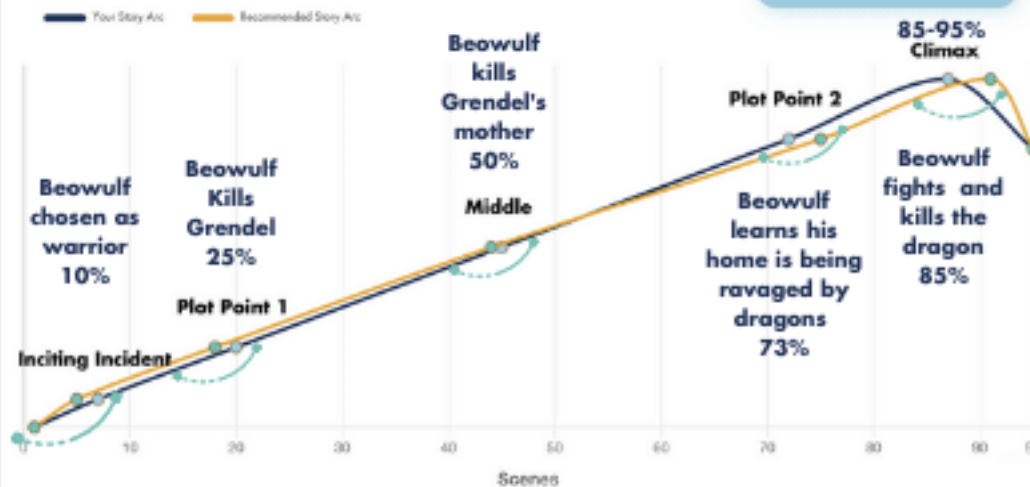
Story Arc ?

View Character Entry & Exit ?



Story Arc Beowulf 700-750 BC

View Character Entry & Exit



NO	TIME	TITLE	PLOT	PROPHECY	Hall of Prophecy	Cho/Ginny	D.A.	O.G.P	Snake/Herm + father	Hagrid + Group
6		'Didn't see that coming, did she?'								
13	OCT	Plots and Resistance	Snake lesson - Harry skips class Harry, Ron + Herm go to Hogsmeade meet Lupin and Tonks - cast talk, Unsubdodge teaches - pass note. Harry recruiting for O.G.P. Hagrid from m. w. s.	Harry sees Vol still formulating his plans. Notice of her w. s. able to get in + Des able to get in + Des able to get in + Des able to get in +	Cho in Hogsmeade - wants to join O.G.P.	Tonks + Lupin	recruiting	Harry learns to recruit for O.G.P.	Hagrid & still being injured - badly w. s. - "he's feeling better but he's not his old self"	
14	NOV	The Order of the Phoenix	First meeting of the Order of the Phoenix	First meeting of the Order of the Phoenix	Cho + Ginny both present	Underage new meeting - no mail	First meeting	Harry still recruiting for O.G.P.		
15	NOV	The Dirtiest Tackle	Quidditch versus Malfoy - Harry's team wins suspended following attack on m. after Cedric's death - then night, after Cedric's death - then night, after Cedric's death - then night,	Nagini attacks Mr. W.	Cho now meeting in love	Firehead. *				
16	NOV	Black Marks	Row H: skipping Snape's lesson Harry's meeting in day house - he says Quidditch in the Kitchens - Herm contacts Rita - Malfoy's team wins	Nagini got in, Vol has confirmation of Bode's story - only he + Harry can touch the prophecy	Cho kiss? Ginny's about unmarried about father	Don't rest of W. s. called in to see told of father's injury	Reactions - another meeting? overview	How about Harry not going	Hagrid still getting injuries	
17	DEC	Rita Returns	Snake lesson Hogsmeade / Xmas shopping they meet Rita	Rita information Missy shipkiss	Harry now deciding Cho a bit - Ginny + S.O. close?		O.G.P	Another lesson	Hagrid hospital wing	
18	DEC	St. Mungo's Hospital for Magical Maladies and Injuries	St. Mungo's visit Xmas Eve - see Bode (Machair visiting) - see Lockhart see Mr. Weasley Neville	NOW VOL IS ACTIVELY TRYING TO GET HARRY TO H.G.P. - very vivid - could see him come	Ginny + Dad	around				
19	DEC	(Xmas)		Bode dead - H.G.P. again	Herm + Ron Ginny + Ron Ron gets cups	Shows here Big reunion				
20	JAN	Extended Powers of Elvira Unsubdodge	Harry messes match v. Hufflepuff Order of Phoenix now by Unsubdodge - why were they match	Harry fighting increasingly strong visions but not very successfully	Valentine date with Cho - v. Unsubdodge - they could row.	got to keep Ginny + Ron	O.G.P his meeting	Snake learns H can reach on H.G.P. Prophecy	Hagrid out of hospital now going into forest cave with spikes etc	
21	FEB	(Valentine's day)	with Cho Hogsmeade - Thelma's out - financial replaces in row of Ginny - Rita reports back on Bode etc. same lesson?				O.G.P			
22	FEB	Cousin Group	Unsubdodge now really gone for Hagrid - Firenze teaching something prophecy + prophecies - H.G.P. go to with Hagrid in Unsubdodge's dark group.				O.G.P	Snake going off at Harry because he did do it		
	MARCH	(Treason)	Easter - discussing of O.G.P. - Dumbledore taken the cup XX - Azkaban	Harry starting to set it - blackout	Cho wants back with Harry another row	going here		Snake approaches him		
	APRIL	(Careers Guidance)	Careers consultation - Harry Order of Phoenix continued - Ginny has decided on the wall in lumber. Snake lesson	Harry starting to get it		firehead	See plot meeting Harry's meeting up with F + G		Hagrid choosing who join who to abandon group	

Line Editing

A line editor goes through a manuscript sentence by sentence, asking questions about how the language itself is working. For example:

- Words or sentences that are extraneous or overused
- Run-on sentences
- Redundancies from repeating the same information in different ways
- Dialogue or paragraphs that can be tightened
- Scenes where the action is confusing or the author's meaning is unclear due to bad transitions
- Tonal shifts and unnatural phrasing
- Passages that don't read well due to bland language use
- Confusing narrative digressions
- Changes that can be made to improve the pacing of a passage
- Words or phrases that may clarify or enhance your meaning.

Copy editing

- Corrects spelling, grammar, punctuation, and syntax
- Ensures consistency in spelling, hyphenation, numerals, fonts, and capitalization
- Flags ambiguous or factually incorrect statements (especially important for non-fiction)
- Tracks macro concerns like internal consistency in character names or locations etc.
- Checks adherence to “house style” (for example US vs UK spelling etc.

"It might be safer to go in the other direction," Xander suggests. "Toward Calgary, stay off the highway though, go along the river. There's a kind of tourist resort at Whatsitcalled, in the foothills. Right? Maybe people are hiding out there. That's what I would have done, if I'd been in town. Headed to high ground."

"How long?" Emily says.

"Two days maybe. There's a lot of uphill. It depends what we take with us."

"Don't you guys think we should go away from Calgary?" I ask. "Head west, toward the coast?"

Topher gives me a meaningful look. He knows what I'm getting at. We've talked about my parents and where they might be a hundred times. "We'd never make it across the mountains. Not now."

"And we don't have the supplies for such a long hike," Xander says.

"Hike?" Emily snorts. "Isn't it like six hundred miles?"

"It's smarter to see what's happening nearby," Lochie says. "We might find supplies, food. We could always come back here."

"Or head west," I say, stubbornly. The four of them stare at me, and I start to feel like we're going to have a vote, and I'm going to end up looking like a dickhead. "Fine. You're right. We should look for other survivors around here first. So we should take food and weapons. Maybe warm clothes. We'll need them soon." We could have blankets of snow by late September, if we live that long.

copyeditor 2016-11-17 5:24 PM

Deleted: Towards

copyeditor 2016-11-17 5:24 PM

Deleted: towards

Zareen 2016-12-19 2:57 PM

Comment [23]: Nice, but maybe have her explicitly mention her parents in this bit?

copyeditor 2016-11-23 3:52 PM

Comment [24]: Note: 1,000 km = 621.371 miles

copyeditor 2016-11-18 4:52 PM

Deleted: a thousand kilometers

copyeditor 2016-11-18 4:09 PM

Deleted: ,

Proofreading

- Typos
- Formatting issues
- Punctuation errors
- Skipped words
- Search and replace errors “occutrouers”

To self line edit, copy edit and proofread, **reading aloud** is the most effective. Best to have someone read it to you or to have a screenreader/ text to voice app. (on a Mac: , system, accessibility, speech – the default command to read highlighted text is Option+Esc)

"You can only backspace one word, basically? Like on Nana's old typewriter?"

"I don't know **that** that means but it sounds right. You simply say 'I wish I'd never made the last wish' then the incantation and...poof!"

"Why would someone want to undo a wish?" I ask. I know this is just a stupid game but I still have the urge to make it logical.

"I expect you'll find out," Tom bites down on his bottom lip for a second, so his oversized canines dig into his skin, making him look feral and, well, cat-like. Then he lays one hand on my shoulder, gripping it firmly. "Be careful what you wish for," he says solemnly.

"I've heard that before," I say. "My grandfather said that to me just this—"

But before I can finish my sentence, there's a whoosh of wind, a burst of light and **Tom body's** disappears in a flash. Left behind in his place is the very cat I



Readers

- Beta readers
 - Friends
 - Author colleagues
 - Critique groups/partners
 - Facebook groups
 - Barter?
- Sensitivity readers
 - Read for accuracy, appropriateness on identities that you don't share (LGBT, race etc)
 - Starts at about \$250

I have an edited and proofread draft

NOW WHAT

(let's take a 5 minute break and
then we'll find out)

You: Courage

- Let people read your work
- Not your mom
- Pay professionals (www.pinkadotpages.com)
- Barter with professionals
 - Editors
 - Beta readers
 - Sensitivity readers
- Yourself
- Query

You: A Thick Skin

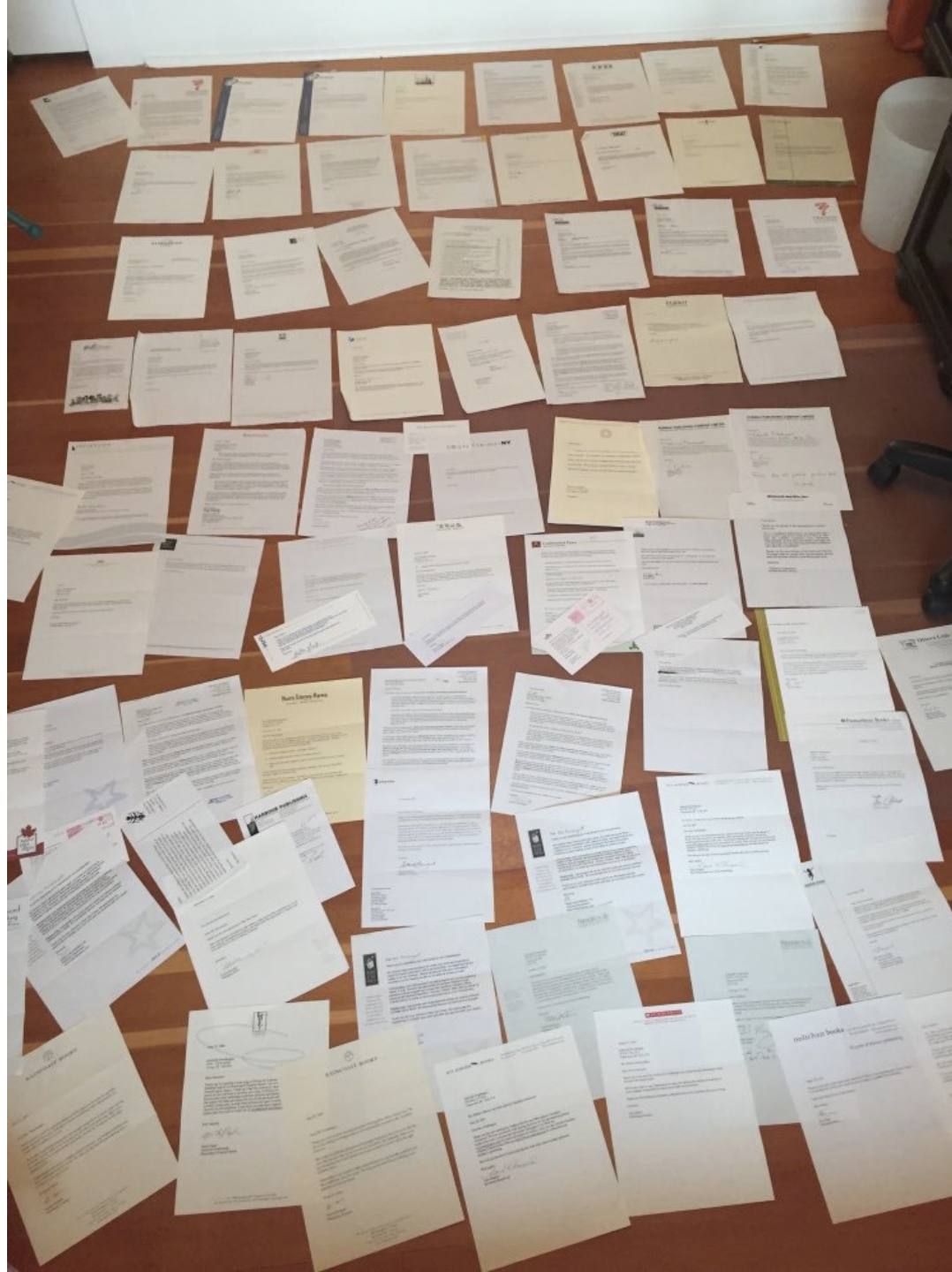
- Seek out criticism
- Listen to criticism and feedback
- Be prepared for LOTS of rejections
- Be prepared for bad reviews
- Be prepared to FAIL
- Know when to give up (and start again)

You: Patience

- Set manuscript aside for 2 weeks to a month after “the end”
- Give readers time to read
- Reflect on feedback for a few days before responding or reacting
- Agents will respond within hours or up to a year later
- At least two years from contract to publish

You: Perseverance

- Chances are you won't sell your first book
- "Debut" doesn't mean first book
- You will be rejected A LOT
- Never assume reasons for rejection
 - "the book is bad. I'm bad"
 - "No one wants books about X"
- Try multiple avenues
 - Querying agents
 - Querying direct to publishers
 - Entering contests
 - Taking part in pitch events online or at conferences
 - Indie publishing



You: At least two good manuscripts, the more the better

- Make them different or adjacent genres but the same category
 - i.e. adult SF and adult mystery
 - i.e. middle grade fantasy and middle grade contemporary
- Only pitch one at a time.
 - Agent may say “this is not for me but I like your writing. What else do you have?”
- Always start a writing new manuscript when you start querying the last one.

Your Book: A polished manuscript

- Use an editor
 - Substantive editing
 - Line editing
 - Copy-editing
- Use beta readers/critique partners
- Use a proofreader
- Adapt during the query process
 - Personalized feedback from agents is GOLD
 - i.e. “Good premise but the writing didn’t grab me” means punch up your writing

Your Book: A one or two page synopsis

- One or two sentences per chapter
- Include the conclusion
- Present tense
- 3rd person
- Writing style should match manuscript
- Not often called for but you should have it on hand
- Writing it will help your editing process

Your Book: A 1-3 paragraph synopsis/pitch

- Akin to “flap copy”
- Answer WHO does WHAT, WHERE, WHY (what are the stakes?), with WHOM and WHO tries to stop them?
- Forms part of your query
- 3rd person POV
- Present tense
- Don’t reveal the ending
- Designed to entice readers
- Focus on protagonist(s)
- Avoid “character soup”

Your Book: a one line “pitch”

- 3rd person, present tense
- Elevator pitch
- “TV Guide synopsis”
- Twitter pitch (see #Dvpit)
- Can be _____ meets _____
(comparables/comps)
- Use specifics
 - i.e. Not “Creatures fight a lord”

A query letter

- Answer WHO does WHAT, WHERE, WHY, with WHOM and WHO tries to stop them?
- 3rd person, present tense
- Match the tone of the book
- Use the 1-3 paragraph synopsis
- Personalize for each agent/editor
- Include comps
- Include your bio

What Happens When You Get an Agent?

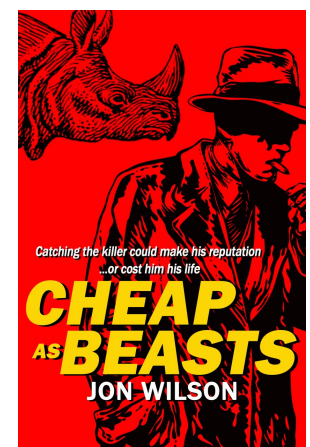
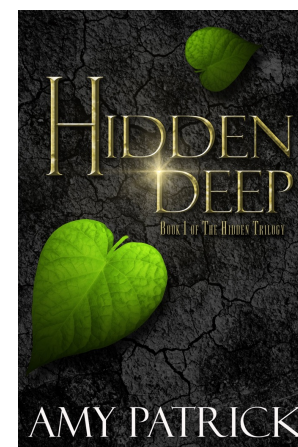
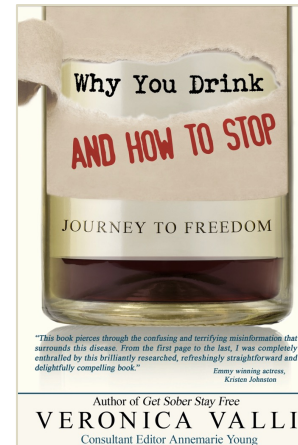
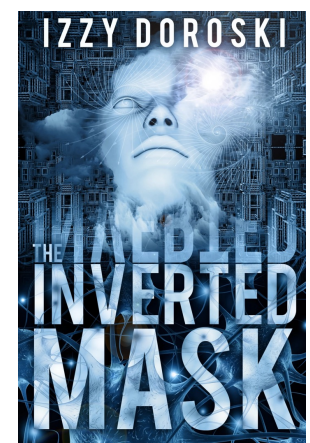
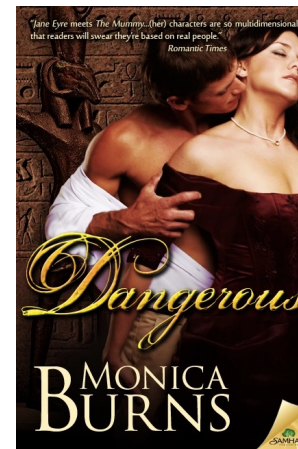
- One or more agents will offer to represent you
- Research them. Choose wisely
- Ask a lot of questions
- Talk to them about your future
- 15% is standard commission
- Agents NEVER ask for money up front.
- They may request extensive revisions
- You should sign a very simple contract
- What do do with an “R & R”
- Auction vs pre-empt
- Advance vs royalties

What Happens When You Sell a Book

- Your agent or editor tells you the offer
 - Advance can be anything from nothing to seven figures.
 - May sell world rights or just USA rights
 - May be a multi book deal
- You wait a LONG time for your contract
 - Decide about “first look” clause
 - Decide about ancillary rights
 - Be aware of timelines and terms
- You wait even longer for your money
- Even longer for edit notes
 - 2 or 3 rounds of edits are normal
- You are expected to do some of your own marketing

About Indie Publishing

- Do all the same editing, including the “flap copy”/query pitch
- Don’t pay more than about \$100-500 to design and layout your book interior
- Don’t pay more than about \$250 for a book cover
- www.coveyourdreams.net
- Robert@powellriverprinting.com
- Start with Amazon KDP – very easy, follow the prompts
- Print-on-Demand
- For fiction, eBook will be your biggest earner
- Kidlit and teen doesn’t do well in indie
- Romance does very well
- Fantasy, sci-fi, thriller etc do okay
- Literary fiction does not do well
- Some non-fiction does very well – self-help, spiritual, cooking etc
- Price your eBook at an impulse buy price (\$2.99 or less)



Any questions?

In Class Exercise

- Attempt your “twitter pitch”
- Examples:
- Include “this meets that”
 - A wolf in the Russian forest is cursed to trade places with Baba Yaga. Now she must learn magic and human ways to break the spell and stop the hunt that threatens her pack. HOWL'S MOVING CASTLE meets LADYHAWKE” (Karah Sutton, *A Wolf for a Spell*, Knopf, 2020)
- A very brief plot synopsis:
 - A young attorney’s rekindled affair with her ex-con ex-bf jeopardizes the lavish life she left him behind to find. V sexy contemp rom #carinapitch” (Juliana Keyes *Time Served*, Carina Press, 2015)
- Just a vibe:
 - What if the skin you wear is a lie? What if another you resides inside—waiting? The Road of the Lost. A faery tale. (Nafiza Azad, *The Road of the Lost* Simon & Schuster 2022)

Query part one:

Intro/personalization/comps

Dear FirstName LastName

I'm writing to tell you about my YA manuscript, *Dandelion*, about a cybernetic armored soldier who develops a dangerous obsession for a human girl. Readers (and audiences) of *The Fifth Wave* by Rick Yancey will enjoy the mystery and suspense of this page-turning alien invasion story, while readers who harken back to the fraught romance of *The Hunger Games* or *Hush Hush* will also be entertained. I'm a big fan of your client Lauren De Stefano, and *Dandelion* shares some of the rather dark themes of her *Chemical Garden Trilogy*, so I thought you might be interested.

Query part two: Tag/hook (optional)

I move my head slightly, careful not to disturb him, and press my ear onto the segmented armor of his abdomen. His heart. I can hear his heart beating.

He has a heart.

Query part three: Synopsis/Blurb (max. 250 words)

He has no voice, or name, only a rank, **Eighth**. He doesn't know the details of the mission, only his duties. **Protect his Offside**. Let her do the shooting. There is something familiar about the humans, something affecting about the way they scream and fall, but Eighth can't let that distract him. All he can do is follow his Offside and do what she tells him: kick down doors, tear locks open. **He lives to make her happy**.

Until a human kills her...

Sixteen year-old **Raven** has one summer as a camp counsellor to try to repair the damage she's done to her life, to give her boyfriend, **Tucker** a chance to live up to his promises. But all those good intentions are lost when the terrifying armored Nahx invade, destroying the cities, taking control of half the planet. In their remote Alberta wilderness camp, Raven and **her friends** might be safe if they can just remain undetected, and **find some way to survive the Canadian winter**.

But then a Nahx kills Tucker...

Driven by vengeance and fear, Eighth and Raven cross paths in an unfamiliar world, a world forever changed by violent forces neither of them understands. They should hate each other. They should want each other dead. But their grief both draws them together and breaks them down, until all they have left is their shared goal – **to get Raven and her friends out of the occupied zone**, even though for Eighth, the journey means almost certain death.

Query part four: “Sell” (optional)

Part *Terminator*, part *Beauty and the Beast*, part apocalyptic *Romeo & Juliet*, **Dandelion** is 95,000 words. It’s self-contained, but with series potential involving interplanetary war, incorporeal alien overlords, rebellious clones and of course, lots of romantic angst.

Query part five: Bio

(WHO AM I) I'm the writer of the award winning and multi-nominated young adult novels in verse **Audacious (2013)** and **Capricious (2014)**. My most recent novel for young readers, **The Frail Days** was published in April of 2015 and recently made the "CCBC Best Books Teens" list for fall 2015. My next novel, a lower middle grade, is slated for publication in October 2016, with another YA hi/lo novel scheduled for spring 2017. Currently underway are two new YA novels, as well as some adult romances. If you wish, you can find out a bit more about me at www.angelhorn.com.

(WHY I WANT AN AGENT) Having found some success in the smaller independent publisher market (all the above books were published by www.orcabook.com), I'm moving into the next phase of my publishing journey and hoping to find representation with an agent who enjoys my work and can help me find the right home for it.

Query part six: Yes, I can follow instructions

Below, I've attached a sample of **Dandelion** as **per your submission guidelines**. Please let me know if you'd like anything more.

I look forward to hearing from you and thank you for your time.

Sincerely

Gabrielle Prendergast

Phone/email/website