



## Dancing Lemur Press L.L.C.

**P.O. Box 383**  
**Pikeville, NC 27863-0383**  
**[inquiries@dancinglemurpressllc.com](mailto:inquiries@dancinglemurpressllc.com)**  
**[www.dancinglemurpress.com](http://www.dancinglemurpress.com)**

### **A Guide to Submitting to Publishers and Agents**

- Polish your manuscript, using critique partners and/or an editor, before considering submission. NO writer can self-edit and it will show in poor quality work.
- Research all possibilities and check publishers'/agents' reputations. Never pay someone to read a manuscript.
- Study each publisher/agent. What are they seeking? What genre. What do they want in a query?
- Can you meet them at a conference or pitch to them during a Twitter pitch event?
- Master the art of a query letter – it's all about first impressions. Query letter should be one page and contain manuscript title, word count, genre, short pitch covering the who-what-where-why-how, writing credits, and full contact information.
- For fiction – a full synopsis is 2-5 pages double-spaced and is a brief encapsulation written in paragraph form.
- For non-fiction – an outline is an exhaustive summary of each chapter, 5-10 pages double-spaced.
- Some request a marketing plan – have a detailed, one-page marketing plan prepared.
- Follow submission guidelines. Send only what they request and how they want it sent. Unless otherwise stated, no attachments. Absolutely no mass emails – personalize each query.
- Unless otherwise stated, do not pester publishers and agents. If they haven't responded within the stated time frame, consider it a rejection and move on.
- Be open and willing to do rewrites and edits if requested.

#### **BONUS TIPS:**

- Do not think that any of the guidelines and rules DON'T apply to you. If you can't follow directions, no one will want to work with you.
- Do not argue with a potential publisher or agent. Your name will be blacklisted by many.
- A good working relationship is vital but understand your publisher does not work for you. They have the final say, as do agents.
- Understand what a publisher does – everything they do to produce a book and the risk they are taking financially. In turn, understand what you the author must do to produce a story that will sell and market it.
- Realize that it's a business – the bottom line is to make money.
- Stay positive, courteous, and friendly.