

How to Get Published--Sessions 4 & 5

By Tim Shoemaker

What's the Secret About Agents?

Agents are REPRESENTATIVES.

Agents are "MIDDLE-MEN" between authors & editors.

Agents make their money by taking a % of the MONEY a publisher gives an author.

DO I NEED AN AGENT?

Many publishers won't accept an unsolicited manuscript unless it comes from an agent.

Getting an AGENT is just like interesting an EDITOR . . .

A. MEET IN PERSON . . .

B. And SOLICITING them through the mail or email . . .

APPROACHING an EDITOR or AGENT by EMAIL or a LETTER . . .

SELF PUBLISHING

If you self-publish . . . GO INTO IT WITH YOUR EYES OPEN

-All the PRODUCTION & PRINTING COSTS are YOURS

-All or MOST of the MARKETING & SELLING is YOURS

If you self-publish . . . HIRE an EDITOR so your book is it's best.

-Make sure the COVER IS GREAT

-You still need to do a PROPOSAL of sorts . . .

-You still need to write out a MARKETING PLAN.

E-BOOKS

If you get a contract from a publisher, it should address E-BOOKS as well.

It should state how you will be compensated in the case of e-books . . .

If you're going to do your own e-book . . . be CAREFUL of HIDDEN costs . . .

-You still NEED an EDITOR . . .

-A great COVER is CRITICAL . . . and you need to MARKET the book . . .

Sometimes the proposal/rejection process is exactly what we need . . .

Five Essentials for True Publishing Success

1. GOD'S TIMING . . .

2. REPUTATION . . .

"A good name is more desirable than great riches;

to be esteemed is better than silver or gold."

Proverbs 22:1

-Having a good reputation means . . .

being known to do GOOD work . . .

being known for GETTING ALONG with OTHERS . . .

being known for being TEACHABLE (not prima donna) . . .

-Having a good reputation is about WHO WE ARE INSIDE . . .

-It is something you get by . . .

being the REAL DEAL at home and at the workplace

having a WHOLEHEARTED RELATIONSHIP with GOD
being DEDICATED to FOLLOWING GOD'S WORD . . . not sloppy
being careful to be a PERSON of INTEGRITY
-DOING the RIGHT THING, whether I feel like it or not

“Therefore, I urge you brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.

*Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. **THEN** you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good pleasing and perfect will.”*
Romans 12:1-2

-WHEN is THEN?

-When I live as a LIVING SACRIFICE—when I CHOOSE to LIVE RIGHT, with HIS HELP, to live according to God’s word . . . THEN I find His GOOD, PLEASING and PERFECT WILL. We start experiencing God’s perfect plan for us as we live in OBEDIENCE to HIM.

A. Reputation is important . . .

B. Respond graciously to criticism . . . if you respond at all.

“Thank you for your insights. I will continue to try harder.”

3. PLATFORM

Message platform...

The big message I am building on...

Marketing platform...

Any avenue you may have to reach SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS of people . . .

The publisher wants to see that YOU WILL BE ABLE TO MARKET AND SELL YOUR BOOK, and if you have some kind of platform, they’ll see that as BUILT-IN SALES.

-Often this will move you out of your COMFORT ZONE . . .

-Chances are, God is already PREPARING YOU for SOMETHING.

-Some way of getting the word out about your writing to more people . . .
because your writing will HELP PEOPLE.

-So ask God to show you what to do when the time comes . . .
and be willing to do it even if the thought scares you.

Remember Philippians 4:13

“I can do everything through him who gives me strength.”

4. WORKING on the CRAFT

-We never “ARRIVE” . . .

5. KEEP the PROPER PERSPECTIVE

-Handling SUCCESS . . .

-be careful not to get heady, but give God the glory.

-be careful to GIVE BACK . . .

-Handling REJECTION & what WE SEE as FAILURE . . .

-Know that it HAPPENS to ALL writers.

- Understand it is *PART of the PROCESS . . .*
- Rejection helps *KEEP US HUMBLE in a heady industry*
- Rejection helps *KEEP US SHARP, working on our writing*
- Rejection helps *KEEP US DEPENDANT on GOD*
- Rejection helps *KEEP US LIVING RIGHT . . .*

**Publishing success doesn't always come to the most TALENTED WRITERS—
but to the most PERSISTENT.**

Understand God's DEFINITION of SUCCESS is often *different from the world . . .*

"A secular writer who doesn't quite sell 20,000 copies of a book isn't considered a success, but a Christian writer who only sells one copy but it changed somebody's life IS a success" Terry Burns

Five Essentials for Learning the Craft

God does gift with writing talent, but often the REAL gift is the *HEART to write . . .*
It ISN'T simply all NATURAL TALENT . . . and that means WE CAN ALL DO IT.
When it comes to talent . . . it isn't just the "HAVES" and the "HAVE NOTS".
It is more about those who "WORK" & those who "WORK NOT".

1. Go to WRITERS CONFERENCES

- ATTEND CLASSES and take notes . . .
- Make an APPOINTMENT and talk to an editor or writer . . .
- Get a CRITIQUE—you'll *see some things you never* considered before . . .
- Make NEW WRITING FRIENDS and acquaintances & exchange work . . .

2. BUY BOOKS on WRITING . . . and read them

- You'll learn what others have learned over YEARS of work . . .

3. READ GOOD BOOKS

- The BEST of the TYPE & STYLE you want to write . . .

4. WRITE—set *weekly or daily* QUOTAS

- We can have the right tools, *but we to be a real writer, we must practice . . .*

5. SHOW SOMEBODY YOUR WRITING

5 Essential Areas to Improve Your Writing Skills

1. The START

The first line, first paragraph of your story or article needs to be STRONG . . .

- DRAW the reader in. It needs to have a HOOK.
- A slow start will kill your story . . .

EXAMPLES . . .

Intrigue them. Hint at danger. Ask a question that isn't answered . . .

2. BACKSTORY or BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Often we try to insert all kinds of DETAILS IN THE FIRST PAGES . . .

-Generally it is a MISTAKE.

-Give readers that information in small doses and spread it out.

3. POINT of VIEW (fiction)

POV is the perspective from which a scene or story is written . . . it is WHO IS TELLING the STORY, or through whose eyes or PERSPECTIVE we are seeing the story.

FIRST person-*"I did, I said, I felt, I thought, I heard."*

THIRD person- *"He did, he said, he felt, he thought, he heard."*

What gets writers in trouble with POV is generally two things.

A. Head hopping- jumping from one character's POV, one character's head or perspective, to another's in the same scene without a clear distinction.

B. Sorta-psychic- relaying info the POV character couldn't possibly have seen, heard, or known unless they're psychic, a time traveler, or having "out-of-body" experiences.

EXAMPLE . . .

POV isn't just a mistake to avoid . . . it is a tool to strengthen your writing . . .

EXAMPLE . . .

Not only do we want to avoid obvious POV mistakes, like head-hopping . . .
But we want to stay so deeply entrenched in the POV character's head and perspective that it comes out in every scene.

4. SHOW DON'T TELL, or SDT . . .

There are times in a manuscript where you need to "tell" . . .

What gets us in trouble are the times we should be showing, but we keep on telling.

5. DIALOGUE

Dialogue has to have the appearance, the ILLUSION of being real . . .

Dialogue on the page needs to have all the BORING PARTS TAKEN OUT . . .

The dialogue needs to sound NATURAL & REALISTIC,

BUILD YOUR CHARACTERS, & MOVE your STORY FORWARD.

BUT DON'T STOP with these five areas . . .

-Look at your CHARACTER development, CONFLICT, PACING, & STYLE . . .

CLOSING

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Shoemaker/How to Get Published

Five Recommended Books for Improving Fiction Writing Skills

Techniques of the Selling Writer

By Dwight Swain ISBN 0-8061-1191-7

The First Five Pages

By Noah Lukeman ISBN 0-684-85743-X

Plot & Structure

By James Scott Bell ISBN 1-58297-294-X

The Art & Craft of Writing Christian Fiction

By Jeff Gerke ISBN 978-0-9821049-6-5

The Fire in Fiction

By Donald Maass ISBN 978-1-58297-506-1

Five Recommended Books for Submitting Proposals

Give 'Em What They Want

By Blythe Camenson & Marshall J. Cook ISBN 1-58297-3330-X

A Writers Survival Guide to Getting Published

By Terry Burns ISBN 978-1-935600-03-9

The Writers Digest Guide to Manuscript Formats

By Dian Dincin Buchman & Seli Groves ISBN 0-89879-293-2

Christian Writers' Market Guide

Some kind of book on **GRAMMAR** and **STYLE**— *there are many on the book table.*

Recommended for Non-fiction

Writing the Christian Non-Fiction Book

Concept to Contract

By David E. Fessenden ISBN No. 978-0-9825773-3-2

Effective Magazine Writing

By Roger C. Palms ISBN No. 0-87788-211-8

How to Write What You Love

And Make a Living at it

By Dennis E. Hensley, Ph.D. ISBN No. 978-0-87788-174-2

On Writing Well

By William Zinnser ISBN No. 0-06-089154-8