

# SoCalCWC17

## finding an agent or an editor

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Other takeaways came from industry professionals in literary agencies or publishing.

When it comes to seeking an **agent**, writers ought to think about these ideas:

- What kind of contact do you want with agent. Do you want protection from publisher? Do you want agent to be the only contact with publisher? Do you want one that is strong in business acumen or warm and feely?
- Remember that an agent works for me. I don't work for them. They can tell me my proposal is good or not.
- Keep your genre simple. One genre for the first 3 projects (i.e.: literary fiction), then branch out (i.e.: children's books).
- List only comp titles in your proposal that are like your writing. Only compare to bestsellers: content, topic. State what is similar and what makes yours stand out.

Tip: An amazing writer overcomes being a debut novelist or having a platform. This is a unique situation. If an editor sees potential in the story and work, the project and author may be an anomaly in the publishing industry.

- *Out of Time* series by Nadine Brandes. Phenomenal writer.
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When it comes to seeking an **editor**, writers ought to think about these ideas:

- General market titles are driven by front list. Christian market titles are driven by back list.
- Story trumps all. Fiction should have a unique hook.
- 80K worded manuscript might run about \$1200 editing fee
- Make a list of expectations with editor and what you are looking for. Get specific about what you want and how you need it. Online, chapter by chapter, etc.
- Ask editor for references of writers they've edited work for.
- Ask for pay schedule.

- Settle on method of partnership (ie.: track changes in MS Word, comments for notes, etc).
  - Do a style sheet (see the [Steve Laube website](#)):
    - This is the basis for Webster's, Chicago style.
    - Sentence structure and punctuation.
    - Avoid the -ly adverbs. These tell, they don't show.
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## Recommended resources:

[Self-editing for Fiction Writers](#) by Renny Brown and Dave King

Find an Editor: [Steve Laube guide and website for links to editors](#).

Find an Editor: [Christian editors network- Kathy Ide](#).

Tip: Unique stories are told and need to be told. Kim Bangs recommends: [Hidden Figures](#) and [The Zookeeper's Wife](#). These get attention because they are unique and original. They are not a retelling of the same old tropes of literature or cinema.