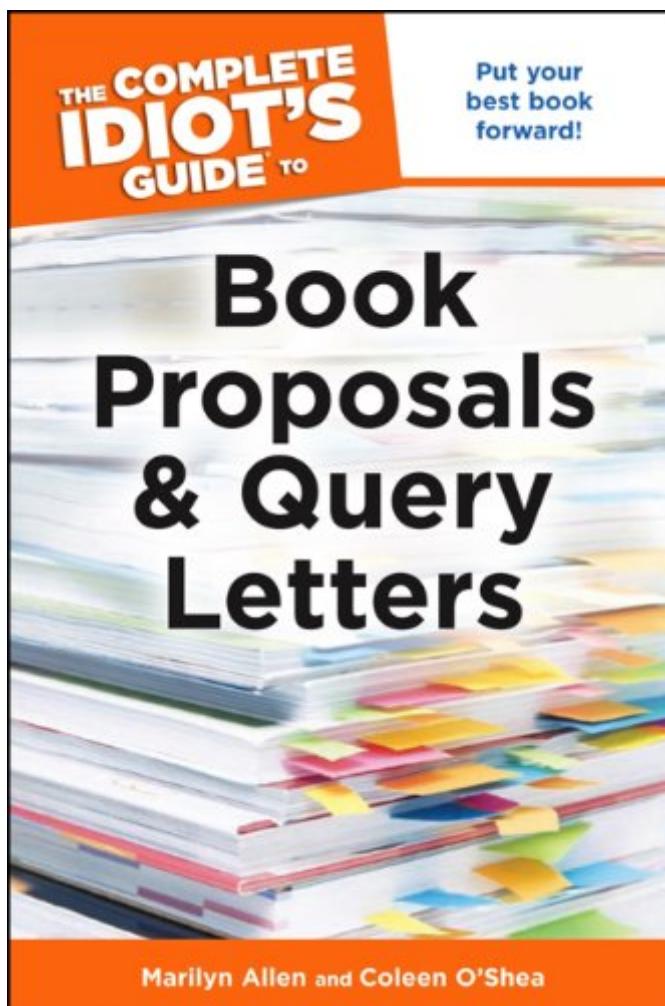


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# The Complete Idiot's Guide To Book Proposals & Query Letters



## **Synopsis**

Tips for catching and holding an agent's attention. Essential reading for any fiction or nonfiction writer seeking publication, *The Complete Idiot's Guide® to Book Proposals & Query Letters* provides in-depth information on composing a successful query letter as well as detailed suggestions on how to craft each element of a book proposal - from author bio to marketing and competition information to a synopsis for fiction writers. By following the same guidelines an agent uses when submitting her client's book proposals to editors (and selling them), writers are given proven techniques for creating winning submissions. The most comprehensive information on query letters found in any book on writing? The only book on book proposals that also targets a fiction audience? Author is an agent who also blogs to a readership of about 1,500 daily

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## **Customer Reviews**

This book may be part of the Idiot's Guide series, but you don't have to be a rookie writer to understand what a gift it is. It can be very difficult to break into publishing or to attract the interest of a great agent, so if one of the most respected agent teams in the business offers

straight-to-the-point advice for just the price of a book, that's a huge win for any writer. This book provides insight into the nuts and bolts concepts so important to creating and shopping your work, but its most valuable features may be the "Agent's Advice" nuggets sprinkled throughout the pages. They alone make the book a must-have tool for any writer, new or established. It's like having open communication with the agent. Questions are answered before you can even think to ask them. To a writer, that's pretty valuable.

Being a published, professional writer involves more than writing a book. Many aspiring writers do all the hard work of putting together what may be a terrific book but then never get it published, often because they haven't taken the extra steps necessary to get the attention of a publisher or a literary agent. Marilyn Allen and Coleen O'Shea have written a concise and incredibly helpful guide for anyone who hopes to get his or her book published. They guide you through each step of the process of writing book proposals and query letters, giving you lots of examples of both what to do and what not to do. Being literary agents with a long history in publishing, the authors have lifetimes of experience and wisdom to pass on to you. As with most books in the "Complete Idiot's" series, there is a treasure trove on information and helpful advice in these pages on every aspect of writing a proposal or query letter. You will learn how to research your proposal and make it as powerful as possible, to craft a query letter designed to get the full attention of an agent or editor. You'll also learn about how best to market both your book idea and yourself as its author, to create a platform that will help boost your chances of landing a book contract, whether your work be fiction or non-fiction. Best yet, the authors' advice is both practical and encouraging. Clearly both Allen and O'Shea have a deep love of the publishing business and want to help others have the chance to share their literary talents with the world. If you're serious about getting your writing published, you should definitely take all the advice they offer in this book to heart. Peace

I have just completed a memoir which is currently in the editorial stage. Being a first-time writer and unaware of appropriate methods to submit my manuscript to literary agents or publishers, the information and examples of query letters and book proposals have prepared me for what is required to grab their attention. In fact, I have completely changed my tactic and written a new query letter using one of their samples as a guide. I would highly recommend this book to any new writer who is unfamiliar with the world of publishing.

Quite honestly, there are a lot of books out there on book proposal writing, and I'm not sure this one

varies much from those. However, it's written by people who know the industry well, and insight on the dos and donts.

There are many books on books and how to write a query letter, this one is simple and interesting, well worth the price.

Helpful material for writers to assist in writing proposals and query letters. Highly recommend to anyone wishing to learn the finer aspects of writing for publication.

Very helpful, ideas are very clear

This is an area in which I am weak. This book, along with two others, is helping me hone this very important skill.

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