

Scott Editorial

How to Write a Query Letter

Below is an explanation as to what should be included along with an example



A query letter is your opportunity to introduce your novel to a literary agent, capture their interest and encourage them to request your manuscript. Keep it professional, engaging and concise, ideally no longer than one page.

Writing a Query Letter

Personalise your introduction

Address the agent by name and, where possible, explain why you've chosen to approach them. Mentioning an author they represent or a book they've worked with can help demonstrate that you've done your research.

Introduce your novel

Include the title, genre, word count and a brief description of the story.

Create intrigue

Introduce your main character, what they want, the challenges they face and what's at stake. You want to give the agent enough information to become invested in the story without revealing every twist or the ending.

Consider comparable titles

Mention one or two recently published novels that share similarities with yours. This helps demonstrate your understanding of the current market and where your book might fit.

Keep your author biography relevant

Include any writing achievements, publications or personal experiences that directly relate to your novel. There's no need to include your entire writing history.

Finish professionally

Thank the agent for their time and consideration, and make sure you've followed their individual submission guidelines.

Remember

Your query letter should reflect the tone and style of your novel. Think of it as your first opportunity to demonstrate your writing ability. You don't need to tell the agent everything about your story, just enough to make them want to read more.

Example

Dear [Agent's Name],

I am seeking representation for my debut novel, *The Blunder's Blundering Blunder*, a humorous contemporary novel of approximately 75,000 words. Having enjoyed your work with authors who combine comedy with wonderfully flawed characters, I feel my manuscript could be a good fit for your list.

Bernard Blunder has never done anything right in his life. From accidentally setting fire to his own retirement party to proposing marriage to the wrong woman, his ability to turn even the simplest task into a complete disaster is quite extraordinary.

But when Bernard accidentally inherits a failing hotel, a suspiciously large sum of money and a goat named Margaret, he finds himself facing his greatest blunder yet. With just thirty days to save the hotel from demolition, Bernard must achieve the one thing he's spent his entire life avoiding: success. Unfortunately, Bernard has a plan. And, as anyone who knows Bernard will tell you, that's usually where the trouble begins.

The Blunder's Blundering Blunder will appeal to readers who enjoy the observational humour of Richard Osman and the wonderfully chaotic characters found in the novels of Jonas Jonasson.

As for my own background, I have extensive experience in blundering. Having worked as a full-time blunder for most of my adult life, I feel uniquely qualified to explore the consequences of making spectacularly poor decisions. While this is my first novel, I have spent many years conducting what can only be described as practical research into the subject, often entirely unintentionally.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be delighted to send you the full manuscript should you wish to read more.

Kind regards,
Adam Adams