



The Great Agent Chase

Three Places to Catch the Right Agent for You... *And Your Work*

By Louise Ahern
Orange Blossom Editor

Many authors will tell you that finding an editor to buy their work was easier than finding an agent.

After hearing literary agent Noah Lukeman speak at a writer's conference a couple of years ago, I can see how that might be true.

He drew a collective gasp from the hundred or so writers in the room when he said that a writer should send out no fewer than fifty queries to agents before settling on one.

It's the only way to guarantee that you find the right agent for your work, he said.

Makes sense. But, sheesh. *Fifty* agents? Where does a writer begin?

If you're an OCC/RWA member, you can start right here. We've investigated several Web sites and books where you can find the right agent for you.

Publisher's Marketplace

Wouldn't it be great if there were a service that e-mailed you daily book deals and included the names and contact information for the agents behind them?

Or how about a Web site where you could search for agents who have represented recent works similar to yours?

Good news. Such a service already exists.

For \$15 a month, writers can subscribe to Publisher's Marketplace, a service offering, according to its website, the "biggest and most

dedicated marketplace for publishing professionals."

Among the perks of membership: Publisher's Lunch, a daily e-mail round-up of the day's publishing deals, and searchable databases of agents and editors.

A really cool perk? The databases often include contact information — such as e-mail addresses — that you won't find on an agent's own Web site.

You can join at www.publishersmarketplace.com

Writer's Market

Most writers, whether focused on fiction or non-fiction, know this title. They probably have several copies on their shelves at home.

This massive book, updated yearly, lists editors and writer's guidelines for every book and magazine publisher on the planet.

(Yes, that's an exaggeration. But any book that includes a listing for *Naturally*, a quarterly magazine for "wholesome family nude recreation" is what I'd call comprehensive.)

It also includes the names and contact information for literary agents.

Even better? The book is now available online through a yearly \$30 subscription.

The online version at www.writersmarket.com includes a range of services that the book cannot.

Among them: Personalized submission trackers to help you stay organized, searchable databases of agents and editors, and regularly verified and updated information on the who, what, when, where, and why of agents.

So, you have no more excuses for querying an agent who has jumped ship.

The Insider's Guide to Getting an Agent

You won't find a list of agents here.

But this 1999 book by Lori Perkins — founding partner of Perkins, Rubie and Associates in New York — includes invaluable information on the different kinds of agents, the role of agents, and the changing face of publishing.

It also includes an informative checklist to make sure your career is on track.

Ready to catch your agent?



Orange Blossom editor Louise Ahern writes romantic comedies and zany mysteries when she's not editing the alumni magazine for the University of Redlands.

You can find her at www.TheWorkingWriter.com