



Agent and Editor Meetings

Anyone who's submitted their work to the publishing world knows about the lag times, the polite declines, and the form rejections. This is your chance to actually sit down and chat with a literary agent or editor to find out what they thought when reading your manuscript.

For writers interested in taking their work to market one day, Lit Fest offers an opportunity to educate yourself about and connect with publishing professionals. Given the busy schedules of agents and editors, it's a rare chance to receive their direct feedback and advice.

To request a meeting with an agent, you must purchase an Advanced Workshop Plus Agent Meeting or a Gold, Weekend Gold, Silver, Bronze, or Full-Access Business Pass.

Lit Fest Passholders

BEFORE MEETING WITH AN AGENT OR EDITOR

Make sure you're really ready for this. Writing is a competitive business, and agents are direct about their reactions to your work. Have you had a professional read of the work you're submitting? Is it reasonably edited? If not, we'd recommend attending Lit Fest's business panels first and then reaching out to agents and editors at a later date. Poets, short-story writers, and essayists without complete manuscripts are recommended to meet with an editor to discuss how their work fits into the current marketplace.

For those who opt to take a meeting, submit your top three agent/editor preferences via the [Agent/Editor Preferences Form](#) by **May 4**. Within the following few days, writers will be matched with agents/editors and by **May 9** you will know who you're meeting with. You can then submit your meeting documents, in one file, via the [Agent/Editor Meeting Submission Form](#). We'll then confirm your meeting time and let you know if additional meetings are available for purchase.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES–AGENTS/EDITORS

In your submission, please include a one-page query letter and the first 15 pages of your manuscript *in a single document* in .pdf or .doc/docx format. Please use a 12-point, legible font, double-spaced, and 1-inch margins.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES–LITERARY MAGAZINE EDITORS

Four of our visiting editors represent the literary magazine community and can provide feedback on your submission, where your work may or may not fit in the literary world, and suggestions for publication: Cass Eddington (formerly) of *Denver Quarterly*, Anna Gazmarian of *The Sun Magazine*, Wayne Miller of *Copper Nickel*, and Juan J. Morales of *Pilgrimage Press*.

For submissions to these four editors, please follow the below guidelines:

Poetry: Please submit up to five poems formatted in a single file (.pdf or .doc/docx).

Prose: Submit up to 6,000 words of fiction, nonfiction, critique, or translation. Please use a standard (ex. Times New Roman, Arial, Calibri) 12-point font with double spacing, page numbers, and 1-inch margins.

IMPORTANT DATES

- **May 4 (midnight MDT):** Submit your top three agent or editor choices via [this form](#)
- **May 9:** We'll confirm your meeting time and open up additional meetings if space allows
- **May 11 (midnight MDT):** Deadline to submit your meeting submission document via [this form](#)
- **May 15:** You'll receive final confirmation of your meeting schedule

HOW MATCHES ARE MADE BETWEEN AGENTS AND PASSHOLDERS

First, we'll do the best we can to make sure that writers are matched with agents who have a professional interest in their genre. Ideally, they'll be actively seeking the type of work you do, so they can give you direct feedback on how your work presents in the marketplace. Once we've made your match, we'll confirm the time and date. Due to limited space and high demand, we can't guarantee that you will meet with your first choice.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Important: While several writers have secured agents and even book deals at Lit Fest, we encourage you to think of this more as an opportunity to educate yourself. The publishing landscape is vast, and we don't often get a chance to hear a professional reaction to our work.

It's best, then, to think of this meeting as more like an informational interview than a job interview.

HOW TO PREPARE FOR YOUR 20 MINUTES

Familiarize yourself with the agent or editor who you are meeting with and have questions prepared to ask them about your submission and the publishing world in general. Some agents/editors will have specific feedback about your submission, and some agents/editors' feedback may be more general; having questions prepared can better ensure you leave the meeting with useful information. Be prepared to verbally pitch your work.

ADDITIONAL MEETINGS

By May 9, we'll open up additional meetings for Lit Fest pass holders for \$110 members/\$130 non-members each. We'll let you know if this option is available.

QUESTIONS: Contact Torin (torin@lighthousewriters.org).

Schedule on next page

Schedule

Send us your top three agent or editor choices by **May 4**, and we'll confirm your meeting before you submit your final query letter and writing sample on **May 11**.

Agents are available to take meetings virtually. Kirby Kim and Melissa Rechter are available for virtual meetings *only*.

Colors are only to differentiate between names and have no meaning.

June 9	June 10	June 11	June 12	June 13	June 14
Malaga Baldi	Malaga Baldi	Malaga Baldi	Nora Gonzalez	Nora Gonzalez	Nora Gonzalez
Yuka Igarashi	Yuka Igarashi	Yuka Igarashi		Mariah Stovall	Mariah Stovall
Melissa Rechter (V)	Kirby Kim (V)	Kirby Kim (V)	Kirby Kim (V)	Cass Eddington	Lauren Abramo
Kristin Nelson				Kristin Nelson	
		Kate Garrick	Kate Garrick	Kate Garrick	
			Amelia Atlas	Amelia Atlas	Amelia Atlas
				Lizzie Davis	Lizzie Davis
				Wayne Miller	Monika Woods
June 15	June 16				
Mariah Stovall	Mariah Stovall				
Lauren Abramo	Lauren Abramo				
Melissa Rechter (V)					
Maggie Cooper	Maggie Cooper				
Monika Woods	Monika Woods				

*Subject to change.

Agents

Lauren E. Abramo joined Dystel, Goderich & Bourret in 2005 after getting degrees in English at NYU and Irish Studies at NUI Galway. As VP and Subsidiary Rights Director she maintains a small and focused client list in addition to selling foreign and audio rights for the agency. She represents fiction and nonfiction from middle grade through adult with an emphasis on authors from communities not well represented in publishing. In fiction she is most interested in accessible literary fiction and both upmarket and commercial suspense, romance, and women's fiction. She's also interested in narrative nonfiction and occasional prescriptive nonfiction, primarily in areas that intersect with social justice, including contemporary culture, psychology, popular science, and media. Her bestselling and award-winning client list includes Rabia Chaudry, Jay Coles, Mason Deaver, Dylan Marron, Anthony Oliveira, Ijeoma Oluo, Erica Ridley, and Samantha Young, among others.

Amelia Atlas is a literary agent at CAA, where she represents both fiction and nonfiction, with a particular interest in literary fiction and narrative nonfiction in the areas of history, current affairs, science, investigative journalism, and cultural criticism—think “idea” books that still have a great sense of narrative and style. In fiction, she's looking for bold voices and writers with a strong point of view and an inquisitive intelligence on the page. Her clients include Mieko Kawakami, Joy Williams, Andrew Martin, Afia Atakora, Chris Bachelder, Anelise Chen, Azareen van der Vliet Oloomi, Lisa Hsiao Chen, and many more. Authors she represents have appeared on the *New York Times* bestseller list and have been short- or long-listed for the National Book Award, the International Booker Prize, the NBCC Awards, the NBA “5 Under 35” Award, and the Center for Fiction First Novel Prize, among others.

Malaga Baldi has worked as an independent literary agent since 1986. The Baldi Agency is an eclectic agency specializing in literary fiction, memoir, and cultural history. She worked as a cashier at Gotham Book Mart, in the Ballantine Books Publicity Department, as an associate at Candida Donadio & Associates, and the Elaine Markson Agency before going out on her own. Baldi believes the strength of the author's voice and the heart of the story to be key when considering new work. Baldi graduated from Hampshire College and lives in NYC.

Maggie Cooper is an agent with Aevitas Creative Management, representing adult fiction and select nonfiction projects. Based in Boston, Maggie joined Aevitas in 2018. She holds a degree in English from Yale University, attended the Clarion Writers Workshop, and earned her MFA in fiction from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, where she served as an editor for *The Greensboro Review*. Maggie is actively seeking adult literary and book club fiction, vacation reads and romance, creative nonfiction, and select reported and prescriptive nonfiction projects, with an emphasis on queer voices, non-white perspectives, and writers from communities traditionally not centered by mainstream publishing. She loves imaginative writing, language that makes the reader pause over its peculiar specificity, and books that embody a sense of humor, tenderness, or joy.

Kate Garrick (she/hers) joined Salky Literary Management in 2021, after two decades as an agent at The Karpfinger Agency and DeFiore and Company, where she also served as contracts manager. Kate is drawn to strong narrative voices, and she has successfully represented a wide range of award-winning and bestselling fiction and non-fiction projects in her career. Originally from Orange Park, Florida, Kate earned her B.A. in English literature at Florida State University and her M.A., also in English literature, from New York University. She lived in New York City for more than twenty years, but is now based in Portland, Oregon. Kate looks for projects that demonstrate a clear confidence of intention and a willingness to engage with our changing world with humility and curiosity. She is particularly interested in literary and upmarket fiction, memoir, and narrative non-fiction that endeavors to contribute to the conversations that will move our society forward.

Nora Gonzalez, originally from New York City, graduated from the University of Chicago, where she majored in English Literature with a focus on modernism. She joined The Gernert Company in 2020, after working as a book scout at Del Commune Enterprises. Nora is interested in representing narrative nonfiction, cultural criticism, memoirs, cookbooks, select illustrated works, poetry, literary, and upmarket fiction. As a member of the foreign rights team and a Spanish reader, she has a particular interest in translation, and is also seeking Spanish-language authors, as well as other international writers.

Kirby Kim got his first job in publishing working for Charlotte Sheedy Literary, at that time an affiliate of Sterling Lord Literistic. He then moved to Vigliano Associates where he gradually started representing his own projects. In 2008, he joined Endeavor which the following year

merged with William Morris. He stayed at WME for five years before joining Janklow & Nesbit. Kirby represents both fiction and nonfiction. In fiction he usually seeks out literary genre and commercial authors as well as some literary fiction. In nonfiction he works with leaders and journalists in the areas of science, business, culture and current affairs. He's also known for representing pop culture, in particular music and comedy. Kirby is currently a board member of the Asian American Writers Workshop. He lives in Phoenix, Arizona with his wife and two kids.

Kristin Nelson established Nelson Literary Agency, LLC, in 2002 and over the last decade and a half of her career, she has represented over fifty *New York Times* bestselling titles and many *USA Today* bestsellers. Her goal as an agent is simple: she wants every client of hers to make a living solely from writing and 90% of her clients do just that. Those clients include Shelby Van Pelt, Jamie Ford, Marie Lu, Stacey Lee, Ally Carter, Josh Malerman, Hugh Howey, Richard Chizmar, E.R. Ramzipoor, Swati Teerdhala, Scott Reintgen. She is currently looking for literary/commercial novels that tackle timely issues or complicated relationship dynamics, high concept, character-driven novels with one foot squarely in genre, absolutely delightful and emotional engaging novels that can be read over and over again, character-driven novels in the thriller, speculative or science fiction and fantasy realm, historical novels that feature a narrative voice and story that is under-represented in history, young adult novels that pack a serious or a delightful emotional punch. When she is not busy selling books, Kristin plays tennis, pickle ball, and golf. She also enjoys playing bridge (where she is the youngest person in her club), and can often be found hiking in the mountains with her husband.

Mariah Stovall joined Trellis Literary Management upon its founding in 2021, after previously working at Howland Literary and Writers House, on the other side of the business at Farrar, Straus and Giroux, and at Gallery Books. Across genres, she's drawn to books that break new ground in content, style and point-of-view. She's actively seeking socially conscious nonfiction rooted in research or journalism, and on the topics of sociology, cultural criticism, world history and geopolitics, and science and technology. She's selectively seeking literary and upmarket fiction that features any of the following: heady, darkly funny outsiders; surrealism grounded in reality; and formally playful but accessible structures. Her favorite topics include linguistics, food systems, media studies, and the stories behind everyday objects and ideas. She's not seeking memoirs, prescriptive nonfiction, or YA/children's books.

Monika Woods is a literary agent, writer, editor, and founder of Triangle House. She is a graduate of SUNY Buffalo and the Columbia Publishing Course, a board member of the AALA, and has worked closely with leading voices in contemporary literature over her decade-long publishing career. Her interests include literary fiction and compelling non-fiction in cultural criticism, food, popular culture, journalism, science, and current affairs. Monika is particularly excited about plot-driven literary novels, non-fiction that is creatively critical, unique perspectives, a great cookbook, and above all, original prose. She lives in Brooklyn and Springs, NY with her husband and son.

Editors

Lizzie Davis is a senior editor at Coffee House Press and a translator from Spanish and Italian to English. She is passionate about championing writing that subverts, challenges, and broadens narratives available to readers and has worked with writers including Valeria Luiselli, Alia Trabucco Zerán, Mónica Ojeda, K-Ming Chang, and Aurora Mattia. Among her translations are Juan Cárdenas's *Ornamental* (a finalist for the 2021 PEN Translation Prize) and *The Devil of the Provinces*; Elena Medel's *The Wonders*, cotranslated with Thomas Bunstead; and work by Pilar Fraile Amador, Daniela Tarazona, and Aura García-Junco. Her co-translations of Daniela Tarazona's *Divided Island* and *The Animal on the Rock* with Kevin Gerry Dunn are forthcoming from Deep Vellum in 2023 and 2024.

Cass Eddington is a poet, teacher, and editor originally from Utah. They are the author of the chapbooks *Vernal Hurt* (Magnificent Field) and *Transit* (Spiral Editions) with recent work in *Annulet*, *Deluge*, *DREGINALD*, *La Vague*. They are a PhD candidate in the University of Denver's Creative Literary Arts Program and former *Denver Quarterly* Poetry editor. Cass received their MFA from Colorado State University where they also teach for their online Creative Writing Minor. Cass has also taught ESL/ELL to adult learners, facilitated creative writing workshops with incarcerated youth, and worked in community arts organizing. In their teaching, they encourage writers to draw on duration-based acts of meaning-making and facilitate writing rituals toward the process of creative self-sovereignty, as well as community.

Anna Gazmarian works as a freelance book coach and developmental editor. Her book *Devout: A Memoir of Doubt* is forthcoming from Simon & Schuster in April 2024. She holds an MFA in

Creative Writing from the Bennington Writing Seminars. Her essays have been published in *The Guardian*, *The Sun*, *The Rumpus*, *Longreads*, and *Quarterly West*. She works for *The Sun Magazine* and lives with her family in Durham, NC.

Yuka Igarashi is an executive editor at Graywolf Press, where she acquires fiction and nonfiction titles, both in English and in translation. Before joining Graywolf in 2021, she was editor-in-chief of Soft Skull Press, founder and editor-in-chief of *Catapult* magazine, founding editor of the *Best Debut Short Stories* anthology series, and the managing editor of *Granta* magazine. She is interested in short stories, essays, interdisciplinary work, and formal innovation. The writers whose books she has published include Hiromi Kawakami, Lucy Ives, Wayne Koestenbaum, Lynne Tillman, Dorthe Nors, James Hannaham, Yukiko Motoya, Aoko Matsuda, Chloe Caldwell, Sam Pink, and Chelsea Martin.

Wayne Miller is the author of five poetry collections, most recently *We the Jury* (Milkweed, 2021), which won a Colorado Book Award, and *Post-* (2016), which won a Colorado Book Award and the Rilke Prize. He has received awards and fellowships from the NEA, the Poetry Society of America, the Poetry Foundation, *Poetry*, and the US-UK Fulbright Commission. His co-translation of Moikom Zeqo's *Zodiac* (Zephyr, 2015) was shortlisted for the PEN Center USA Award in Translation, and he has co-edited three books, most recently *Literary Publishing in the Twenty-First Century*. He teaches at the University of Colorado Denver, co-directs the *Unsung Masters Series*, and edits *Copper Nickel*.

Juan J. Morales is the son of an Ecuadorian mother and Puerto Rican father. He is the author of three poetry collections, including *The Handyman's Guide to End Times*, winner of the 2019 International Latino Book Award. Recent poems have appeared in *Crazyhorse*, *The Laurel Review*, *Breakbeats Vol. 4 LatiNEXT*, *Acentos Review*, *Collateral*, *terrain.org*, *Pank*, and *Poetry*. He is a CantoMundo Fellow, a Macondo Fellow, the editor/publisher of *Pilgrimage Press*, and Professor of English and the Associate Dean of the College of Humanities Arts & Social Sciences at Colorado State University-Pueblo.

Melissa Rechter joined Crooked Lane Books in 2019, after graduating with a BA in English Literary Studies from York College of Pennsylvania and a MS in Publishing from Pace University. For Crooked Lane, she is looking for cozy mysteries, suspense and thrillers, horror, historical and traditional mysteries. She'd love to find the next Lucy Foley, Alyssa Cole, or

Jennifer Hillier. She loves books that deal with cults, complicated family dynamics, poisonous plants, small town secrets, and locked room mysteries.