

Become an Insider! Curated links to the best publishing news on the web. Contest listings, conference listings, workshop listings, twitter pitch updates...only the best craft links! Writing opportunities scoured from the web and inside sources. [View in browser](#)



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December 2021

“A word after a word after a word is power.”

— Margaret Atwood

IN THIS EDITION:

- Publishing
- Contests
- Conferences
- Twitter Pitch
- Publishing Opportunities
- ETC.

- Workshops & Webinars
 - Writing Organizations
 - Lit Agent Spotlight
 - **Social Media Insider News [NEW]**
 - Links
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PUBLISHING

[Industry Up 13.7 Percent Year to Date](#) - Publishing Perspectives

[Publishers at Crossroads with Movie Tie-ins](#) - PW

[Oasis Acquires Enclave Publishing, Expands into Print](#) - (PW)

[Twitter hashtag code for publishers, cracked](#) - WNIP

[AG Submits Comments on Press Publisher Protections](#) - The Passive Voice

CONTESTS

- [2022 Minotaur Books/Mystery Writers of America Best First Novel Competition](#). Deadline December 22, 2021.
- [Golden Spur Awards](#). All material published from September 1 through December 31, 2021 must be entered and received by January 15, 2022. (Pub)
- [Reading the West Book Awards](#). Nomination Period: October 1, 2021 - January 14, 2022 (Pub)
- [Selah Awards 2022](#). Open for Entries. Deadline January 15, 2022. (Pub)
- [The Holt Medallion](#). Deadline January 15, 2022. (Pub)
- [FHL Reader's Choice Award](#). Opens around January 1, 2022. (Pub)
- [The Realm Awards](#). Opens January 1, 2021. Deadline January 21, 2022 (Pub)
- [ACFW Genesis Contest](#). Opens January 2, 2022. Deadline March 15, 2022. (UnPub)

- [ACFW Carol Award](#). Opens January 2, 2022. Deadline March 15, 2022. (Pub)
- [National Excellence in Romance Fiction Award \(NERFA\)](#). Opens March 1. Deadline March 31. (Pub)
- [The Christy Award®](#) Submission period is March 1-31, 2022. (Pub)

Concerned about the legitimacy of a contest? [Check SFWA](#) for scam alerts. Or check the ALLi list of contest ratings [here](#).

CONFERENCES

Start Planning for the 2022 Conference Year!

[SCBWI Winter Conference](#). February 11-13, 2022. (Virtual)

[Asheville Christian Writers Conference](#). February 18-20, 2022. (NC)

[Publishing in Color Atlanta](#). March 10-11, 2022 (GA)

[Erma Bombeck Writers' Workshop](#). March 24-26, 2022 (OH) (Virtual & In Person)

[Nebraska Writers Guild](#). Registration coming soon. April 16- 18, 2022. (NE)

[Chicago Spring Fling](#). Registration is open. April 28-30, 2022 (Virtual & In Person)

[Thrillerfest XVII 2022](#). Registration is open! May 31-June 4, 2022 (NYC)

[Blue Ridge Mountains Christian Writers Conference 2022](#)

Registration is open! May 29-June 2, 2022. (NC)

[Killer Nashville](#). Registration is open! August 10-August 23, 2022 (TN)

[ACFW Conference](#). September 7- 11, 2022. (MO) Registration opens soon, but you can click on the conference schedule for a peek at what's coming.

TWITTER PITCHES

From the Insecure Writers Support Group. The next **#IWSGPit** will be in January 26, 2022, 8:00 am - 8:00 pm Eastern Standard Time. Create a Twitter-length pitch for your completed and polished manuscript and leave room for genre, age, and the hashtag. On January 26, 2022, Tweet your pitch. If your pitch receives a favorite/heart from a publisher/agent check their submission guidelines and send your requested query. [More info here.](#)

#FaithPitch is a one-day Twitter Pitch Party hosted specifically for authors looking for representation within the Christian Retail Association (CRA) market, whether with a literary agent or directly with a publishing house. #FaithPitch invites authors to pitch their most complete and best edited fiction AND non-fiction manuscripts directly to industry professionals using #FaithPitch. Faith Pitch is over for 2021. Keep an eye on their website for the 2022 dates. [Details here.](#)

#PBPitch (Picture Book Pitch) The next #PBPitch Twitter event will be Thursday, February 17th, 2022, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. EST. [More info here.](#)

#SFFpit, a twice-annual Twitter pitching contest. This contest is only for works of fantasy or science fiction. All age categories (PB, MG, YA, NA, and adult) are welcome. The next #SFFpit will be in February 2022. [More info here.](#)

#PitchDis was created to showcase pitches from the disabled community, which has been historically underrepresented in the publishing industry. The next #PitchDis event will take place in the summer of 2022 between 8am and 8pm EDT. [More info here.](#)

PUBLISHERS

[Berkley Open Submission Program for unagented authors.](#)

We are inviting submissions from all writers, including those sharing underrepresented stories in regards to race, national origin, religion, age, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, and disability. We hope to discover new talent and share their works with the world. We are looking for full-length adult novels in the following genres: romance, women's fiction, mystery, suspense and thrillers, horror,

Zebra

Submission Guidelines

Kensington's flagship imprint publishes nationally bestselling women's fiction, romantic suspense and bestselling historical, paranormal and contemporary romances

Accepts Unagented Submissions

Entangled Publishing-Bliss

Bliss Submission Guidelines

Romance is in the air at Bliss with fun, fresh, flirty stories of modern women and every-day men finding their happily ever after in sweetest of places. POV should be split 50/50 between the hero and heroine. 3rd person POV is preferred, but we will consider 1st person POV. Small-town setting—whether it's a vineyard in California, a ranch in Montana, or a pub in England, the setting should be somewhere outside of a city. The community/setting should be a part of the story.

Clean heat level. Bliss books have lots of sexual tension, but closed-door (or no) sex scenes.

Unagented Submissions

ETC.

- **Imagine if you had \$1,500 to put toward your writing goals.** What might you do with that kind of money? The 2022 Good Story Grant aims to help two writers reach the next step in their creative journeys. This grant is open to writers of all skill levels, and working in all genres and categories. This year's award is two grants. One open to all writers and one open to writers who identify as BIPOC, with the aim of championing underrepresented voices. [Apply here](#). Deadline January 22, 2022.

- **The 2021/2022 Erma Bombeck Writing Competition is now open! Competition closes Tuesday, January 4 at 8 P.M. (EST).** Capture the essence of Erma's writings and you could win \$1,000 and a free registration to the Erma Bombeck Writers' Workshop to be held March 24-26, 2022 at the University of Dayton! Honorable mentions will receive \$100. [Details here.](#)
 - **Free Guide - [2022 Winter Guide to Writing Contests](#) from The Writer Magazine.**
 - **Heads Up! The sequel to Newsletter Ninja by Tammi L. Labrecque is available for preorder.** *Newsletter Ninja 2: If You Give a Reader a Cookie: Supercharge Your Author Mailing List with the Perfect Reader Magnet* releases on December 27, 2022. [Here's the link.](#)
 - Author Kristy Cambron is now a literary agent with [Gardner Literary.](#)
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WORKSHOPS & WEBINARS

- FHLCW presents **Dave Chesson on Atticus.** Tuesday, January 18, 2022 7:00 pm ET, Zoom Webinar. Join Dave Chesson as he dives into the ins and outs of Atticus, the new all-in-one writing and formatting software. Atticus combines all the tools you need to go from planning to formatting in one place. Say goodbye to all the other apps you thought you needed to create a beautiful book. Non-member registration (\$15 fee) [Registration information here.](#)
- **Join the Authors Guild Foundation** and an array of authors and publishing experts for this FREE series of webinars on the path to publication and the business of writing! This is part of the **Business Bootcamps for Writers** webinars, which are free and open to the public. [See all the webinars in this series here.](#)
- **Cow Cops, Fish Fuzz, and Tree Police: Alternative Law Officers for your Crime Stories.** Park rangers, game wardens, deputy sheriffs, small town cops, and overlooked feds like Forest Service law enforcement officers and U.S. Fish & Wildlife agents have made recent appearances in successful novels. Would one of these work for your next novel? January 3-28-Kisso of Death COFFIN Workshop. With Wesley Harris. Four-

week classes are \$20 for KOD members, \$25 for RWA members, and \$35 for non-members. [Details here.](#)

- **Mystery Characters: Who They Are and How They Work in Your Story.** 90 Minute Zoom Workshop January 8, 2022 (90-minute Virtual Class 9:00am Pacific, 11:00am Central, 12:00pm Eastern). Did you know your mystery characters can add to the mystery puzzle? A mystery's plot leads readers through a puzzle to a final reveal, but characters are the lifeblood of your story, no matter how complicated the plot.. Learn how each character role adds to the mystery: sleuth, victim, suspects, opponent, sidekick, love interest, and the villain. \$5.00 for Kiss of Death Members, \$10 for all others. [Details here.](#)
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WRITING ORGANIZATIONS

[SCBWI.](#) The Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization, is the only professional organization specifically for individuals who write, illustrate, and translate for children and young adults. Our mission is to support the creation and availability of quality children's books in every region of the world.

[Emerald City Romance Writers.](#) (Not Affiliated with RWA) Located in the Seattle/Puget Sound area of Washington state, Emerald City Romance Writers is dedicated to promoting excellence in romantic fiction by helping writers become published in the romance genre and providing a place where writers — both published and unpublished — can come for growth, support, inspiration and education. We are proud of our authors and the fact that the Northwest continues to be a hotbed of talent.

[NINC. Novelists, Inc.](#) The professional network for career novelists. NINC brings our many voices and talents together for one purpose — to help each of us manage our writing career throughout a lifetime. Applicants must have published two novels to be considered eligible for membership.

[Oklahoma Romance Writers Guild](#) (Not Affiliated with RWA) OKRWG is a non-profit formed in 2019 for ALL Oklahoma writers age 18+ who write romance into their stories whether it's the main plot in a romance novel or simply the subplot in a novel of another genre. We meet monthly to hear from a professional in our field, read and critique each other's work, plot and brainstorm new ideas, and/or simply write! Our meetings are free and open to the public.

LIT AGENT SPOTLIGHT

Kim Lionetti

[@BookEndsKim](#)

[BookEnds Literary Agency](#)

Kim is hungry for unputdownable commercial women's fiction, and is actively seeking marginalized voices in this space and all of the genres listed here. Whether dramatic and dark, or fun and quirky, she enjoys page-turners that pack a lot of emotion. As an avid romance reader, she's also on the hunt for hilarious voices in romantic comedy that feel fresh and unique enough to stand out on what has become a rather crowded bookshelf. Combining those interests, she's eager to find big, sweeping love stories that will appeal to book club readers, and straddle the romance and women's fiction markets. Please note: Kim is currently closed to YA submissions, and only accepting adult fiction at this time.

SOCIAL MEDIA INSIDER NEWS **[NEW]**

[Hashtag holidays that need to be part of your content strategy in 2022](#) (Sproutsocial)

[6 Instagram Marketing Trends You Need to Know in 2022](#) (Later.com)

[How to Prep for Content in the New Year, Tips for 2022](#) (Planoly)

[How to get back to posting after an Instagram break](#) (Your Social Team)

[How to BookTok! | Guide to Getting Started on TikTok](#) (Beautifully Bookish Bethany- YouTube)

LINKS

[Don't Pants Your Career: Career Plotting For Mid-Level Authors](#) (NINC)

[The Best BookBub Ads of 2021](#) (BookBub Partners Blog)

[How to Properly Introduce Your Protagonist](#) (Kill Zone)

[Book Contracts: Let's Talk Money](#) (Catapult)

[Writing Hooks and Improving Your Fiction Book Description](#) (The Creative Penn)

Thanks for being an Insider!

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