

# Let's just write! An Uncommon Writers Conference

## PITCH SESSIONS

Find the best representation for your work. Below is a list of the agents and publishers participating in pitch sessions, and the genres and/or nonfiction topics they represent.

Make it a point to seek out someone who represents your kind of book. Do your research. What agent/publisher wouldn't appreciate it if a writer knows something about them, their company and what they represent?

Below is a rundown of what our team is looking for.

Visit their websites for more information. You'll find easy access on the CWA conference presenter page: <https://www.chicagowrites.org/conference#agents>

## AGENTS

### **Lauren Bieker, FinePrint Literary Management**

Lauren is looking for commercial and upmarket women's fiction and some well-crafted and differentiated YA novels. She is also open to select science fiction, as well as high concept and literary fiction works. She appreciates great storytelling and is a "sucker" for outstanding writing and convincing characters. While primarily interested in fiction, she will consider nonfiction proposals. She is looking for #ownvoices stories, Feminist lit/#MeToo stories, and LGBTQIA+ authors in both fiction and nonfiction. Her goal is to "hold the mic" for authors to tell their stories and be a helpful support system.

Lauren is NOT looking for religious fiction, horror, fantasy, or political/military fiction.

### **Joelle Delbourgo, Joelle Delbourgo Associates Literary Agency**

**Nonfiction:** History, science (especially physics and neuroscience), mind/body/spirit backed by a strong platform, "big think" books that shift our perspective on a given subject, memoir but very selectively (prefer "hybrid" memoir that focuses on a subject through the lens of personal experience), career books that empower (must have a strong platform), narrative nonfiction, true crime, media studies, current events and politics (but not conservative).

**Fiction:** Voice-driven fiction or fiction in which setting plays a big role, becoming a character, historical fiction, women's fiction (both literary and commercial), mystery (especially cozy) and suspense (including psychological suspense)

Both nonfiction and fiction: quality of writing, fresh voices, diverse voices

**What I'm *not* looking for:** most sf, fantasy (no urban fantasy), YA, middle grade fiction, screenplays, no experimental work

**Doug Grad, Doug Grad Literary Agency**

Fiction: Mysteries and thrillers of all types including psychological suspense, romantic suspense, cozies, procedurals, espionage, etc.; historical fiction.

Nonfiction: True crime; sports, music, history, military, narrative nonfiction, business.

**Peter Rubie, FinePrint Literary Management**

I currently do more nonfiction than fiction, and specialize in journalists and journalistic material. Some memoirs (though not many), biographies, history, pop-science, current affairs. Anything that is written by a recognized expert in their field that has a fresh take on the familiar.

**Fiction:** Children's books, particularly very young through middle grade. Adult history, thrillers, crime, women's fiction, SF and fantasy.

**Literary fiction** if it actually tells a story.

**Tina P Schwartz, The Purcell Agency**

YA non-fiction, novels aimed at children (chapter books), middle grade readers and young adults. Women's fiction, romance, LGBTQ, coming-of-age.

## PUBLISHERS

**Leticia Gomez, Kensington Publishing Corp., Dafina Imprint**

Multicultural fiction and nonfiction of all genres including literary fiction, commercial fiction, historical fiction, romance, mystery, and narrative nonfiction of all genres with a focus on authors of color as well as specific nonfiction projects for marginalized communities.

In addition to acquiring projects for DAFINA, Leticia is able to scout and acquire projects for other Kensington imprints which include: Kensington Books, Kensington Cozies, Citadel Press, John Scognamiglio Books, Pinnacle Books and Zebra Books.

**Samantha Keating, Wild Rose Press**

All romance and fiction. No memoirs, children's books, poetry, or nonfiction.

**Kara Rota, Chicago Review Press**

Narrative nonfiction with personal as well as cultural, social, and researched threads and with a feminist or social justice bent; true crime with a victim-centric and unusual perspective; pop culture, music, and entertainment (especially 90s and 2000s nostalgia), and some witchy nonfiction too as long as it's not 4-color or too prescriptive.

Please contact Samantha Hoffman with questions – [samantha@chicagowrites.org](mailto:samantha@chicagowrites.org)

