

Marian Wisberg
203 Jefferson
Sandpoint, Idaho 83864
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Dear Wendy,

When I read your Christmas note and heard that your writing had ground to a halt just because Jim Landis didn't like your wonderful novel, part of me laughed and the other part cried. (Jim didn't like my book either.) How can you stop trying after only three rejections? Surely you know that many of the most successful novels were rejected ten, or twenty, or more times before finding the right editor.

What you need is an agent. A WOMAN agent. (Your novel probably is the kind that will appeal primarily to women.) When Jim turned down my manuscript (the first time I submitted it to Morrow) he suggested I try Elizabeth Pomona, an agent in San Francisco. When I submitted the manuscript to her she turned it over to her partner, Michael Larson, because he handles the non-fiction and she handles the fiction. When Mike resubmitted my book to Morrow (after I had rewritten it once more) he chose a woman editor to read it. She liked it and that's when Morrow decided to take a chance and publish it.

Agents know most of the editors in the different publishing houses so they can give your manuscript to

an editor who will be the most likely to respond to your particular style and story. Agents are well worth their ten percent. They can often get you a better contract than you could yourself. But most important, agents take care of the discouraging process of submitting your manuscript over and over until they hit the right editor in the right publishing house. This frees you to get busy on your next book.

What's the worst that can happen if you ask an agent to read your manuscript? She can read it and tell you she doesn't want to handle it. But she will also give you an opinion of what, if anything, might be done to make the book more saleable. She might also charge you a nominal reading fee.

What's the best that can happen? She will accept your manuscript. The fact that a professional is willing to put time and money into promoting your manuscript should restore your self-confidence and your faith in yourself--in your talent. That should give you enough encouragement to start working on another book. Working on another book will help your boredom problem. (If it's boring it isn't Zen Buddhism.) You sound like the kind of woman that needs the kind of intellectual and artistic challenge working on

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another book will give you. Your first novel is ready to send to nursery school where an agent can direct it into the right channels. I wouldn't be surprised if you are already pregnant with your second book and the boredom is intellectual morning sickness.

Here's Elizabeth Pomona's address:

1029 Jones
San Francisco, 94109

Phone (415) 673-0939

Wouldn't it be interesting if your manuscript was submitted to Morrow by an agent who submitted it under a pen name and it was accepted? Karma works in mysterious ways.

Have Faith
Marian

P.S! We don't plan to use our ski boat to water ski. We use it to get to the remote beaches where we spend the afternoon lying in the sun.