



B&H Publishing Group, the publishing arm of LifeWay Christian Resources, the largest supplier of Christian Resources in the world, has been about the business of quality publishing since 1743. What began as America's first Bible publisher has now grown to a publishing house committed to supplying the world with innovative, beautiful Bibles, church supplies, and high-quality, God honoring books. B&H publishes in a number of categories, including Christian Living, family, devotional, academic, and, in recent years, fiction.

B&H Fiction is a new and growing division of B&H Publishing Group. Our tagline, "Pure Enjoyment," promises both retailers and readers (1) an eminently satisfying reading experience and (2) content free from imagery, language, and substance that can leave unwanted residue on the mind and spirit. B&H Fiction will celebrate that which is true, compelling, noble, and beautiful, which means every novel will be a praiseworthy work of outstanding storytelling and moral excellence. It is our goal that consumers and booksellers alike can purchase our books with confidence and anticipation of a great, uplifting read.

B&H Fiction publishes 14-20 fiction titles annually in the following categories: contemporary, suspense, thriller, romance, and cozy mystery. We also keep two slots open for "wild cards," novels that don't fit into our specified categories, but that are so strong we *have* to publish them. We accept proposals (no queries) through established literary agents, from recognized manuscript services, and from writers conferences attended by B&H Fiction editorial staff. We are interested in both series and standalones.

Before you consider sending us a proposal, though, here are a few secrets for successful submissions:

1. **Please, do your homework.** Be sure your proposal has everything listed in the Fiction Submission Requirements. Also, make sure we're publishing the kind of book you want to write (genre, time period, topic, etc.), and that we haven't just recently published something similar to your book.
2. **Send no proposal out before its time.** It can't be said enough: Hone your craft. Not sure if you can say that? An excellent reference for fiction writers is *Self-Editing for Fiction Writers* (Browne & King; Writer's Digest Books). The best step, though, is to consider attending a writers' conference. Not only will you find great instruction there on both the craft of writing and the business of publishing, but you'll have face-to-face time with editors. And that's your absolute best foot in the door at any publishing house: getting to know the editors and helping them to know you.

Fiction Submission Requirements

When you submit a proposal to B&H Fiction, please make sure you include:

1. A cover letter
2. A one- to two-page, single-spaced synopsis (no longer, please! Just do your best to give us the heart of the story so we know what will follow the sample chapters)
3. Author bio with (if applicable) publishing history and first-year sales figures

4. Christian/Spiritual theme/issue addressed in the book
5. Two sample chapters.
6. Promo blurb—think movie-poster, those one or two lines that get you hooked
7. Back cover copy, 50-75 words (written to engage readers without giving the story away)

Successful B&H novels include:

- ∞ an intriguing, well-written story with well-developed characters, a compelling plot, colorful description, a woven in spiritual thread, and a strong authorial voice
- ∞ a coherent, identifiable spiritual theme and/or particular characters who reflect Christian values or teachings without being preachy
- ∞ historical/geographical/social accuracy
- ∞ relationships that portray the true meaning of love—commitment and responsibility rather than merely emotional and physical attraction
- ∞ clever, original ideas and use of words
- ∞ approximately 85-100,000 words (no shorter)

For snail-mail submissions, mail to:

Fiction Submissions, MSN 164
127 9th Ave., N.
Nashville, TN 37234

Due to the number of submissions we receive, please allow 1 ½ to 3 months for a response. And thanks so much for considering B&H Publishing Group as a possible publisher for your work!