

CONTEST AND AGENTS – WHY WE NEED THEM

Entering contests is practice for submitting to publishers and agents; because exactly the same rules apply and only the best work wins or gets published.

Apart from making a good ‘selling’ point on your CV – winning contests is great practice towards getting published.

To get an editor/publisher or agent to read your work: the manuscript layout must be professionally correct, otherwise it stamps the work as amateurish. The premise of the work must meet the criteria of the genre or contest and the hooks must make the judge/publisher/agent want to read on.

You must write best conflict, the strongest motivations, the most unique characters, and the best pacing, tensions, point of view and transitions you can create and you will win and you **WILL** get published.

Publishers use agents and contests to filter their workload and get publishable writers faster without going through the mountains of unskilled writing that arrives daily at their offices. No reputable agent will ruin their reputation by presenting unpolished or unskilled work and contest judges **MUST** find the best entry without favour or they will ruin the reputation of their contest.

Publishers and agents cannot waste money-earning time by reading unskilled work . And the strength of the writing can be judged in the first few pages. The advantage of entering contests is that the judges **MUST** read **ALL** your work and will generally give you a clue to the marketability of your work. You can’t get that feedback from partners, friends or even critique groups. Contest judges have to be fair, honest and judgemental

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