

# BOOK PROPOSALS THAT WORKED!

**REAL BOOK PROPOSALS  
THAT LANDED  
\$10K - \$100K PUBLISHING  
CONTRACTS**



Angela Hoy, Publisher

# WritersWeekly.com

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In these pages, you'll find real book proposals that landed contracts with these publishing houses: Simon & Schuster, Random House, Prentice Hall, Osborne/McGraw-Hill, MIRA Books, Music Sales Corporation, Berkeley Books and many more!

## **BOOK PROPOSALS THAT WORKED!** **Real Book Proposals That Landed \$10K - \$100K Publishing Contracts**

by Angela Hoy

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# **WHAT AUTHORS ARE SAYING ABOUT BOOK PROPOSALS THAT WORKED!**

***"I've been reading through your book. I'm going to recommend it everywhere I can. There's nothing on the market like this. Also, the book -- physically -- looks fantastic. Congratulations."***

- Doug Clegg, author of more than 20 novels and winner of the Bram Stoker Award, the International Horror Guild Award, and the Shocker Award

***"A wealth of information, guidance and direction only a true friend and master of the craft can provide. I am engaged in a work that may very well change the course of my career because of this book she has compiled."***

***"I want to thank Angela Hoy for her endearing fortitude and unwavering commitment to the craft. And, I want to encourage all of you to read Angela. She is formidable, if not the best I've ever had the privilege of knowing."***

- RJ Peters, author of Rules of THUM: The Human User's Manual

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# Introduction

Every week at WritersWeekly.com, we receive emails from authors requesting advice on how to land a traditional publishing contract. While we're always happy to give free advice, there's a much better way to learn - by studying and emulating real, successful book proposals!

In these pages, you'll find copies of real book proposals that landed lucrative publishing contracts for their authors worth \$10,000 to \$100,000 in a variety of genres, including:

## **Fiction**

## **Non-Fiction**

- Astrology
- Biography, Celebrity
- Business
  - Community Development
  - Internet
  - Employment
  - Women
- Medical
- Memoirs
- Nutrition
- Sports
- True Crime
- Writing, Freelance

## **Ghostwriting**

- Sample Manuscript Evaluation
- Sample Ghostwriting Contract

From a "pitch sheet" to a professional "manuscript evaluation" by a ghostwriter, to full-blown proposals that look like books in themselves, you'll find it all right here.

Along with seeing the actual book proposals in their original formats, you'll also learn about the history behind each proposal, and receive advice from traditionally published authors. While you can't copy these book proposals word-for-word (they're copyrighted), and submit them to publishers, you can emulate their style, and use the advice contained herein to improve your own book proposal(s).

## **WHAT WE'VE REMOVED**

Since acquisition editors occasionally jump around from publishing house to publishing house, we have removed their names from the book proposals. Since publishing companies move as well, we have removed addresses and other contact information. If you wish to contact a publishing house featured in this book, you can find their current contact information, and perhaps even the names of their current editors, at their website.

In some cases, we have removed names to protect the author's sources or clients.

## **WHAT WE'VE INCLUDED**

We have retained the original formatting of each proposal as closely as possible so you can see how they appeared on paper. Some are fully justified and others are left justified; some use a large font, others a

small font; some authors like Times New Roman while others may prefer Courier or Arial, etc. To save trees, we have changed double-spaced book proposals to 1.5 spacing. Most book proposals are sent on 8.5 x 11 paper, which is why we have published this book at that size.

Chapters include the author's bio, actions the author took to land that particular contract, details about the final, published version of the book, a brief breakdown of the sections the author included in the book proposal, and the book proposal itself.

You may find the occasional error in a book proposal. Sometimes, proposals are so enticing that publishers overlook the errors. However, I would encourage every author to have a professional editor review your book proposal before sending it to literary agents or publishers.

As with any book that offers hints from numerous professionals, you're going to read conflicting advice. However, each method mentioned worked for each author.

You'll also notice that, in some cases, the final published book title is different from the one proposed by the author. It is not at all unusual for publishers to give books new titles after they are complete.

I encourage you to click on each author's website, where provided, to see how they present their professional writing business to editors, publishers and corporate writing clients online. You'll find examples of résumés, writing samples, online clips, and more to help you create and/or improve your own website, résumé, and presentation of clips. You are welcome to contact the authors with questions through the contact information provided on their websites. They'll be very happy to hear from you!

**BONUS – SAMPLE GHOSTWRITING CONTRACT!**

Don't miss Anton Marco's sample ghostwriting contract at the end of this book. It provides an example of what he charges and the payment terms he requires from each client.

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