

Literary Agent Comparison

| Literary Agent | No Literary Agent |
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| Acts as a buffer between you and potential publishers, and will (hopefully) let you down easy if a rejection comes through | You deal directly with the publisher – any news, whether good or bad, will come straight to you |
| Already has well-established contacts | You might have contacts at all the major publishing houses...or you might not |
| Agent takes a commission on all royalties | All royalties go to you |
| Can offer guidance and editorial advice | ...but so can a potential editor |
| Might be a better negotiator and secure a more lucrative contract | All contract negotiations are up to you, which may or may not work in your favor, depending on your experience and comfort level |
| One more person on your team | ...just make sure it's the right person |
| Agent may or may not follow through in a timely manner | You can move forward with submissions at your own pace, and because you're in charge, you know exactly what has been sent where |
| Agent may or may not accurately present your book | No one can explain your book better than you |
| For certain publishers, having an agents adds a great deal to your credibility as a writer | Might be tough (or in some cases impossible) to get the attention of certain publishing houses and editors without an agent |
| Handles all queries, proposal submissions and communication with publishers | All those details are managed and coordinated by you |