

Literary Agent Comparison

Literary Agent	No Literary Agent
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