




QUERY REPORT

Author	
Title	
Genre	Upmarket Thriller
Initial Review	<p>Hi </p> <p>Thank you for sharing a bit of your story with me and allowing me the chance to offer my opinion. I hope this will be of great help to you.</p> <p>You have a great concept here, and I'm looking forward to offering my feedback on your opening chapter, but first let's focus on the Query. As I mentioned, this idea is high-concept and the type of story that has potential for a wide commercial audience. You only need to sell it.</p> <p>The point of a query is to first introduce the agent to a book idea worth selling, but also to pitch why only <i>you</i> can tell it. This is the first opportunity to let your writing shine. Sell that you're a great storyteller with an epic story to tell by showing off your use of voice, tone, style, and overall creativity. You just need to use the query to whet the agent's appetite and make them crave more. I hope that some of the notes I've provided will help with this.</p> <p>Also, your life experience is a great hook for this query. I think it was wise to put some of that in your intro paragraph to add to that "Why I'm qualified to tell this story" element.</p> <p>If you have any questions or need any clarification on the details and suggestions below, feel free to let me know.</p> <p>~Kim V.</p>
Format	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is a fairly good length for a query. (Standard is: 1 page, 3-5 paragraphs, 300- 500 words) Straight to the point. You have some wiggle room for personalization and a few more details, so don't be afraid to get creative here. • Open the letter with "Dear [Agent name]" • Queries are single-spaced with 12-point, Times New Roman font. A space between paragraphs is expected.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-inch margins. Left alignment, not justified, is also standard. • Note: The standards I follow are what I've seen for most US-based agencies, but to be on the safe side, be sure to check for examples of any agencies you might be considering in the UK or elsewhere.
<h2>Intro / Personalization</h2>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address the agent at the top with "Dear [Agent's Name]". • As I said, your mention about your life experience is a great way to intrigue agents on your expertise over the type of story you're telling. • Rather than jumping straight to those details, it's a good idea to open with why you are seeking this specific agent for representation. Here's an article with tips on how to do so. This will also assist with enticing the agent to read more.
<h2>Comp Titles</h2>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "[REDACTED]" sounds great, but is it accurate? At the moment, the blurb doesn't seem to imply a magic system, so I'm wondering if it's leaning more in a dystopian direction. Maybe transhumanism? A line like this also works better in your intro paragraph to hook the reader. • Seek recent comps (published in the last 5 years) with similar elements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Thriller ○ Military espionage ○ Government intelligence ○ Genetic Enhancement / Transhumanism • Here's a vid on how to find great comps.
<h2>Hook</h2>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I think your expertise is a great hook here. Linking your life experience more directly to the story will pique agents' attention more and reveal how your expertise more organically. • You say, "I bring a wealth of real-world experience to my writing." How does that experience apply to [REDACTED] specifically? Ex. "Like Emma, the protagonist of [REDACTED] I've experienced..."
<h2>Synopsis</h2>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This section might need the most attention, but it's nothing you aren't capable of. 😊 As I mentioned, at the moment, your blurb reads more like a detailed synopsis than a pitch. You need to immerse the agent into the story as quickly as possible, and this is typically done by writing in third person, present tense in 2-3 paragraphs. You can get a rhythm for this by reading book blurbs on the back of books or in Amazon descriptions. Studying other Queries also helps. Here's a link for that. • Basic query synopsis structure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Give us a setup and hook: ("When sixteen-year-old Emma [surname] is forcibly abducted from her life in a sleepy North Wales town to attend a military finishing school, she doesn't understand how her parents could consent to signing her freedom away—let alone three years of service to the government...") Then you could go in to how her genetic enhancements were the exchange her parents made. ○ Next, you want to hint at the basic premise of the novel (the reason readers will want to read the book. Show us how it's like [REDACTED] (or whichever comp you choose) Show us what type of adventure Emma will be on. What is her goal is throughout the novel, and what's at stake if she doesn't achieve it? ○ Then, leave us on the edge of our seats, wondering if she will or won't succeed. • Names do not always have to be mentioned. You don't want to confuse the agent with too many details that aren't pivotal to the basic premise. The main idea is to get the point across and whet the reader's appetite for more. • Also, note: It's often said that you should avoid rhetorical questions in your query when you can.
<h2>Metadata</h2>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first line of your 2nd paragraph (" [REDACTED] is the first book in a planned trilogy called [REDACTED] ") should be part of your metadata paragraph. This is typically at the end of your synopsis. Ex: "[REDACTED] is the first book in a planned trilogy called [REDACTED] and is complete at [word count] words." • To answer your question about age bracket, I would focus on this first book to keep the pitch simple. That would place this book in the Young Adult genre, but your agent/editor could guide you on what's best once you have representation. You may end up moving



	<p>into the New Adult bracket as the series continues. This is one of those things we writers stress about that ultimately doesn't matter when we have a strong pitch.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I've also heard that it's best to pitch your book as "part of a series but can also work as a standalone" so that agents know the plot is complete
Bio	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A good amount of the rest of your bio can be placed in the final paragraph as part of your conclusion, reminding agents of why you're the only one qualified to tell this story.
Sendoff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always sign off with a "Sincerely" or "Thank you for your time" with your name. A common courtesy. • Another option is, "I look forward to hearing from you."
Final Thoughts	<p>Strong Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good length • Smart strategy placing some of your expertise in the intro paragraph • Excellent concept • Creative hook: "████████████████████" <p>Next Steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reformat for standard query structure • Address agent by name and personalize • Make your genre clear • Seek 2 comp titles published in the past 5 years with similar elements • Hint at magic system (if keeping "██████████" hook) or revise "██████████" hook to match story elements • Immerse reader with a pacy, creative, well-voiced synopsis, written in third person, present tense. • Split up bio in opening and final paragraph. • Consider placing metadata at end of synopsis • Sign off with name (or pen name, depending on agent's preferences) • Capitalize titles and proofread <p>Again, if you need any clarification or have any other questions, I happily welcome them. All the best on your publishing journey!</p> <p>~Kim V.</p>

