

**“How to Sell Your Book to an Agent: What to Do, What Not to Do”  
Presented by Tessa Emily Hall**

**Fiction Query Letter Example**

May 11, 2017  
Hartline Literary Agency  
123 Queenston Dr.,  
Pittsburgh PA 15235-5429

Dear Mr. Name-of-Agent,

Does breaking free require breaking the rules? **[tagline or hook]**

In UNWRITTEN MELODY, my 70,000-word YA contemporary romance novel, a sheltered young girl longs to break free from her grandmother’s overbearing ways and pursue her songwriting dreams. When she’s paired with a risk-taking and famous musician in a school project, she’s faced with one choice: take a chance on love, even if it means breaking the rules, or live the rest of her life in bondage. **[manuscript specifics + brief summary]**

With the rise of edgy contemporary novels, such as *The Fault in Our Stars*, it’s obvious teens want to read about characters they can identify with, stories that help them cope with reality. Being a recent teen myself, I know what today’s youth culture experiences and the questions they wrestle with. UNWRITTEN MELODY deals with the longing teens experience for freedom, independence, a sense to belong, pursuit of dreams, as well as a purpose for their lives. I interwove these threads into UNWRITTEN MELODY, a book that will sweep teens away in a romantic read and leave them with a glimpse of hope for the circumstances around them. **[market potential + audience]**

I am a member of ACFW and previous student of Christian Writers Guild. My debut novel, PURPLE MOON, was published by LPC Books and was a 2014 Selah Award Finalist in YA Fiction and Debut Novel. My teen devotional, currently untitled, is contracted with Bethany House. I am the Founder and Editor of PursueMagazine.net, a magazine that encourages teens to embrace their God-given purpose, and I enjoy speaking to teens regionally. My work has been published in various magazines, including *Devazine*, *Guide Magazine*, *Girlz 4 Christ Magazine*, and *Temperance Magazine*. **[publishing history + credentials]**

The proposal for UNWRITTEN MELODY is attached. Thanks for your time and consideration. **[closing]**

Sincerely,  
Tessa Emily Hall

**Connect with me**

For submissions, follow Hartline’s proposal guidelines posted on HartlineLiterary.com. Include “Conference Submission” in the subject line, then write your query in the body of the email and attach your proposal. Send to [Tessa@HartlineLiterary.com](mailto:Tessa@HartlineLiterary.com). To request the slides from this presentation, email me and include “Presentation Slides” in the subject line.

For updates on my personal writing career, you can find my writing blog, social media accounts (@tessaemilyhall), and mailing list on my website at [www.TessaEmilyHall.com](http://www.TessaEmilyHall.com). Visit the writer’s tab on my blog for a list of books, blogs, and podcasts for writers.