

## Trust Your Instincts.

### **AUTHOR & NEW YORKTIMES BOOK REVIEWER:**

**Ned Vizzini**, author of three books, *It's Kind of a Funny Story* (in the works to be turned into a movie by Focus Features), *Teen Angst ... Naaah!*, and *Be More Chill*. He also writes book reviews for the *New York Times*.

“I advise that each one start a database of everyone they know in publishing. It can start out with just one or two names. Then, as they move forward in their career, they should update the database with people's names, positions, organizations, contact info, and the last time they spoke to them (and what the gist of the conversation was). That helps immensely. Then, during the holidays, they can send a note to everyone in the database to stay in touch. – **Ned Vizzini**

### **LITERARY AGENT:**

**Jeff Kleinman**, co-founder, *Folio Literary Management, LLC.*, New York  
Represented: *New York Times* bestsellers (and Starbucks pick) *The Art of Racing in the Rain* by Garth Stein, *The Widow of the South* by Robert Hicks, *Mockingbird* by Charles Shields, and *The Memory of Running* by Ron McLarty.

*Jeff Kleinman was a featured literary agent in Poets & Writers, I asked him for his advice, from a literary agent's perspective on getting published. Below was his response:*

“The biggest downfall I find is that writers don't take enough time to really learn the craft. To develop a distinct, unique voice; characters who are both believable and compelling; to write great dialogue – in short, to tell a great story. Writers try shortcuts – they feel that because they can write in English that they can write a book. In reality, though, writing **\*great\*** books requires very strong writing muscles, and I find that most of the writers who contact me don't go that extra mile to really learn the craft.

Once the writer has really developed her craft, the next thing she needs is a story worthy of her talents. A story with a great, compelling, surprising, intriguing premise – something that we haven't seen a million times before.

**The first thing a writer really needs is a book that *delivers*.** Delivers on all the promises that I just mentioned above. If the book is really terrific, the publisher can go out to the booksellers (and the booksellers go out to the public) and say, “This book is *amazing* – you're going to *love* it” – and people actually do. If your book delivers, then it also is wonderful when the writer really acts as a publishing partner – coming up with unique promotional ideas, doing her own marketing, having great connections that help pass the word along about the book.” – **Jeff Kleinman**

## EDUCATORS:

*Christopher Merrill, director, International Writing Program, University of Iowa*

*Among his accomplishments: Four collections of poetry published. His expertise is nonfiction, poetry and translation.*

“Write and write and write. The more you write, the better your chances of discovering something on the page that others will want to read. And you can't worry about how long it may take: writing is a long-term investment.” - Merrill

*What makes a writer successful in the publishing world?*

“My books have not sold enough for me to offer a very good answer. But I will say this: good writing inevitably finds its way into circulation.” – **Christopher Merrill**

*Hugh G. Ferrer, associate director of the International Writing Program, University of Iowa*

*Among his experience: He is the fiction editor for the Iowa Review. Hugh received his AB in Philosophy from Princeton and his MFA from the Iowa Writers' Workshop.*

My advice for student writers who want to get their fiction published comprises several old staples:

- Always continue to read and to engage in the great dialogue of literature. Literature is not monadic, but an ongoing conversation between authors.
- Write the best work you can, the work you'd enjoy reading, and forget trying to serve the market or meet the perceived taste of a specific journal or editor (but then, having written what you want, find the appropriate outlets). Believe in the motto, if it's good, it will get published.

– **Hugh G. Ferrer**

**PIPER NICHOLE** presents “Getting Published” at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Studio School. She is the author of “The Everything Homebuying Book, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition,” part of the best selling “Everything Series” by Adams Media, “The For Sale By Owner Handbook,” published by Career Press and “Buying a House on a Shoestring.” She has been featured in CNBC, The Chicago Tribune, Wall Street Journal, AOL Real Estate, ABC Radio and more. For more information, visit [www.pipernichole.com](http://www.pipernichole.com).

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