

ARE YOU THE NEXT TED DEKKER?

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES | SEPTEMBER 15, 2009

My name is Kevin Kaiser and I'm a literary brand manager and agent in search of the next novelist for our agency, Creative Trust. It could very well be you. Before you go any further I suggest you read my 9/15/2009 blog post, "Are You the Next Ted Dekker Pt. 2", for full details of what's happening here. You can find it at <http://kevinskaiser.com>. What you now have in front of you are the rules for this experiment I'm conducting.

Because of the large number of submissions I am expecting, you must follow the guidelines detailed on this one-sheet. If you do not follow these instructions, your submission will *not* be considered. *No exceptions*. It's not that I don't like you; I just need some guidelines to help make the process smoother for both of us.

So, let's get started, shall we?

Right now I'm interested in, and will only consider, submissions that meet the following criteria:

- Full length, adult works of **Fiction**. That means novels with a word count of 80,000+ No short stories, short story collections, anthologies, young adult novels, or blog entries stapled together or delivered in a Trapper Keeper will be considered. I am *not* interested in non-fiction works at this time, so please no business, self-help, 7 Steps to (fill in the blank), spirituality books, etc.. They will not be considered.
- Works that can be described as **Suspense** or **Thriller**. I am *not* interested in children's books, romance tales, or Amish stories. Other than those limitations, you may mix genre as long as your story has strong suspense elements. Remember, I'm looking for the next Thriller writer.
- Works that have not been previously published. Goes without saying, but I'm just saying.

If you were able to check all three boxes then continue reading. If you were NOT able to check all three, you stand at a fork in the road. You can either change your plan or wait until next time to see if you're what I'm looking for, but please do not try to slip through with something that I don't want. It'll only make me grumpy.

For those who are on to the next step, here's the "what I want" and the "how I want it" part. Please read this next section very carefully.

All submissions must include the following elements delivered as a PDF via email to kevin.kaiser@creativetrust.com on the deadline (11/15/2009). Please do NOT send hard copy materials unless I specifically request them. Here's what I want:

- A cover letter**, which describes who you are, why you want to be a published writer, and what you are doing/have done to make that ambition a reality. I also want to know how far along you are with your manuscript (i.e. "40,000 words are written"). Your letter should also include all of your pertinent contact information, including: address, phone, email, and any online links (i.e. blog, website, social network sites). Your cover letter will be my first impression of you.
- A synopsis of your story**. The synopsis should encapsulate the story arc, theme(s), character(s), and plot of your novel. It should also include the estimated word count of your manuscript, if your story isn't already complete. The synopsis should not be more than two (2) typewritten pages, 1.5 spaced. I'm not looking for a chapter by chapter outline. I want to see that you know how to talk about your story in broad brushed strokes. Remember, no more than two (2) pages.
- The first 10,000 words of your story**. Self explanatory. I'm not concerned with the format as long as you don't get weird on me. Personally, I like 1.25" margins all around, 1.5 spaced, and in a 12 pt font. But that's just me.

I will accept all submissions on one day only. **That day is Sunday, November 15th beginning at 12:01 a.m. and ending at 11:59 p CT**. Any submissions that are sent early will be deleted and not considered. All right, rock and roll.