



# Your First Novel: An Author Agent Team Share the Keys to Achieving Your Dream

By Ann Rittenberg, Laura Whitcomb

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In *Your First Novel*, novelist Laura Whitcomb and seasoned literary agent Ann Rittenberg team up to provide you with the skills you need to write your dream novel and the savvy business know-how to get it published. In this all-in-one resource, you'll discover essential novel-writing techniques, such as:

- How to best structure your research so that you can save time later
- How to card your story before you start writing
- What to consider when developing your cast of characters
- How to adapt classic story structures to fit your own ideas

...and insider information on what it takes to get published, including:

- What agents do at those three-hour power lunches—and how it affects you
- What makes an agent instantly reject a manuscript
- How to correctly translate submission guidelines
- What happens if you get multiple offers—or no offers at all

Plus, learn about the publishing process from the firsthand accounts of such noted authors as Dennis Lehane, Kathryn Harrison, Jim Fusilli, Kathleen George, and others!

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### Editorial Review

#### From the Publisher

"Superb advice on writing a great novel and getting it published." —Harlan Coben, author of *Promise Me*

"The advice in *Your First Novel* rings so true that I found myself sighing through its pages, thinking 'If I'd been told this earlier, what a lot of trouble I'd have saved myself.' This book offers the spark of inspiration that gets a writer both mentally and physically geared for the task. Then it delivers something equally vital: clear-headed, positive advice about the business side of writing a novel. It'll inspire you to create, challenge you to be great, and bolster you with the wisdom of two seasoned professionals." —George Hagen, author of *The Laments*

"This book is essential reading for anyone impractical enough to try to write a first novel and anyone practical enough to do what it takes to get published. Ann Rittenberg and Laura Whitcomb offer just the right amount of encouragement and common sense. And Dennis Lehane's foreword should become to writers what the Breyer's Pledge is to ice cream." —Peter Blauner, author of *Slipping Into Darkness* and *Slow Motion Riot*

#### About the Author

**Ann Rittenberg** has been in publishing for twenty-four years, six as an editor and eighteen as an agent. She's worked on the first novels of Dennis Lehane, Kathleen George, and more, and lives in Brooklyn, New York.

**Laura Whitcomb** is the author of the acclaimed *A Certain Slant of Light*. She lives in Portland, Oregon.

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