

## Dos and Don'ts of Query Letters

By Karen Fox

**Do not** mention who has rejected your book before.

**Do not** include people's recommendations, such as, "My children loved this story."

**Do not** discuss rights or payment.

**Do not** mention more than one project at a time (except when stating you have other finished projects).

**Do not** give out your social security number.

**Do not** include superlatives. Editors don't want to be told your book is the greatest ever written. They will judge for themselves.

**Do not** ramble, prod, or threaten.

**Do** enclose an SASE (self-addressed, stamped envelope).

**Do** be professional.

**Do** be brief.

**Do** proofread.

**Do** ensure you're addressing and sending the letter to a specific individual with the correct title who currently works at that agency/publisher.

**Do** keep to one page, if possible.

*—Karen Fox has always enjoyed adventure and the paranormal, and it shows. Her first two books were futuristic romances for Leisure--the second, Somewhere My Love, was a RITA finalist for Best Paranormal. She followed these with a contemporary fantasy set of four books for Berkley and a time-travel romance and historical romance with a hint of paranormal for Zebra. Following her Air Force husband, she's lived in Tacoma, Charleston, Biloxi and Belgium, while raising three children and working full-time. She has volunteered for the annual Pikes Peak Writers Conference since its inception and is a member of the Pikes Peak Romance Writers and Pikes Peak Writers. A member of the Romance Writers of America Association, Karen spent four years serving on the National Board of Directors. This piece originally appeared as part of a larger article in the January, 2003 issue of the Pikes Peaks Writer NewsMagazine.*

*Originally appeared as part of a larger article in The Pikes Peak Writer January 2003 issue.*