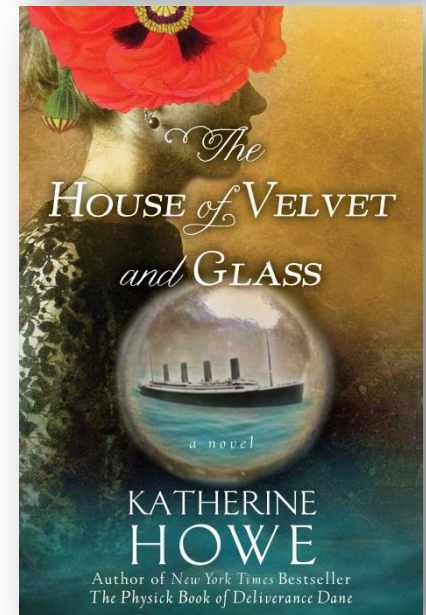
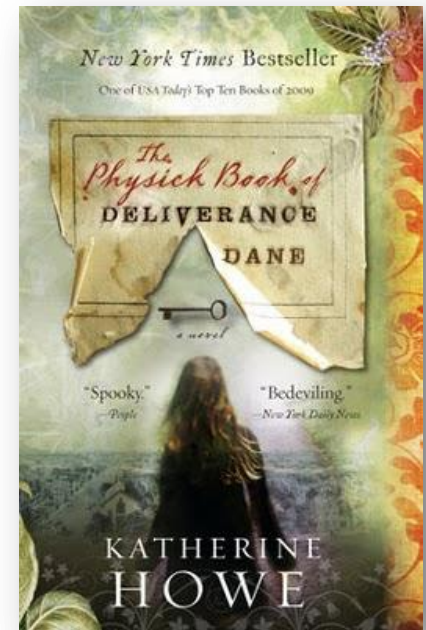


Writing as Work

Katherine Howe

Novelist

Lecturer, American Studies Department
Cornell University



Writing is as much business as art



Writing

- Sit at the desk
- Outline the project
- Finish it

Publishing

- Research the genre
- Query the right people
- Sign the contract

The biggest challenge is sitting down



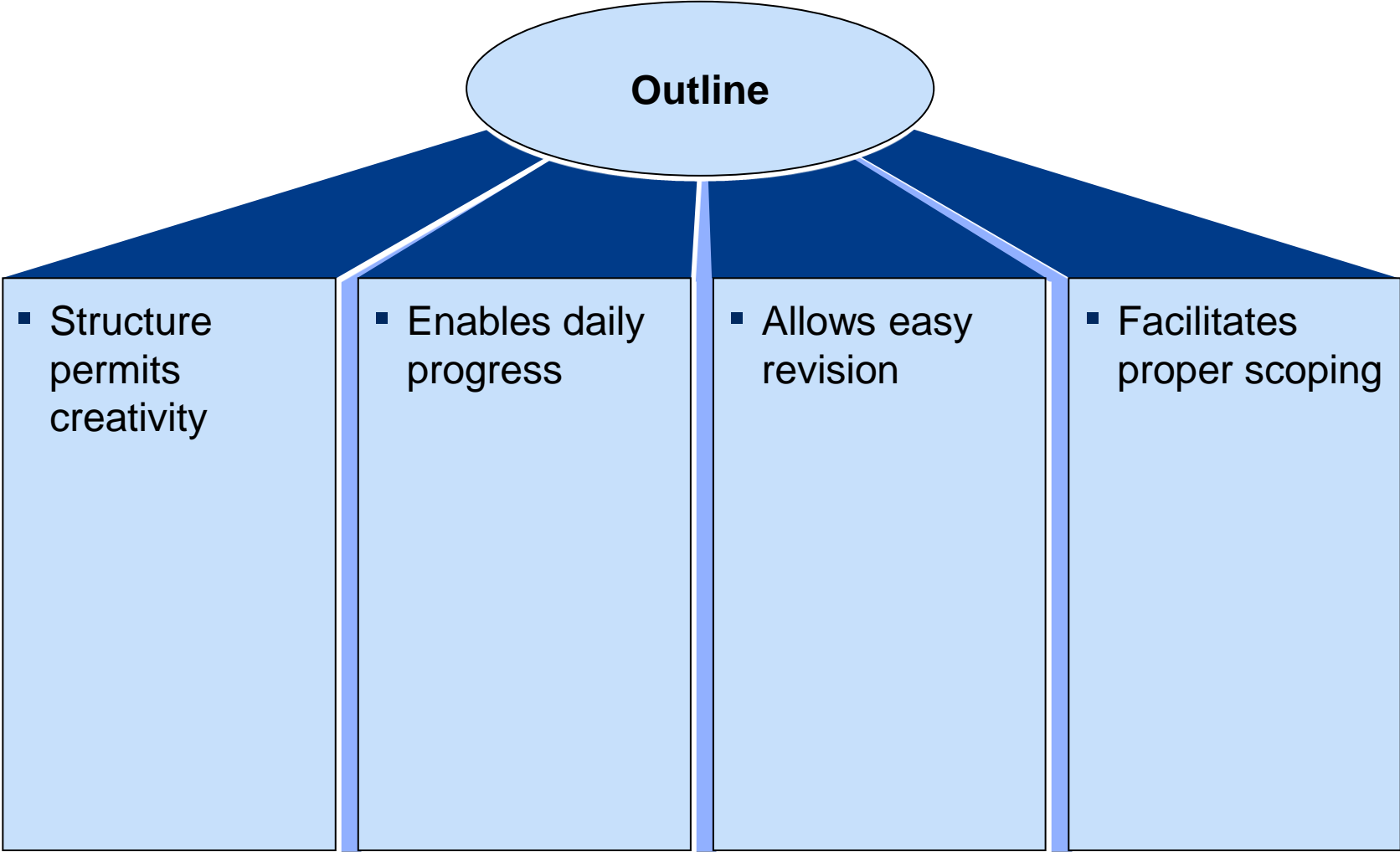
Nora Roberts



William Dean Howells

- There are no rituals
- “Being a writer is like working in a bank”
- “Ass in the chair”

Novels need outlines



Finishing is more important than perfecting

- Writing is only the first step in the process...

- ...and editing is just as important...



Be a Finishist!
Not a Perfectionist!

...but the process can go on forever.

I got my deal through ridiculous luck

- Procrastinating
- Gambling
- Drinking

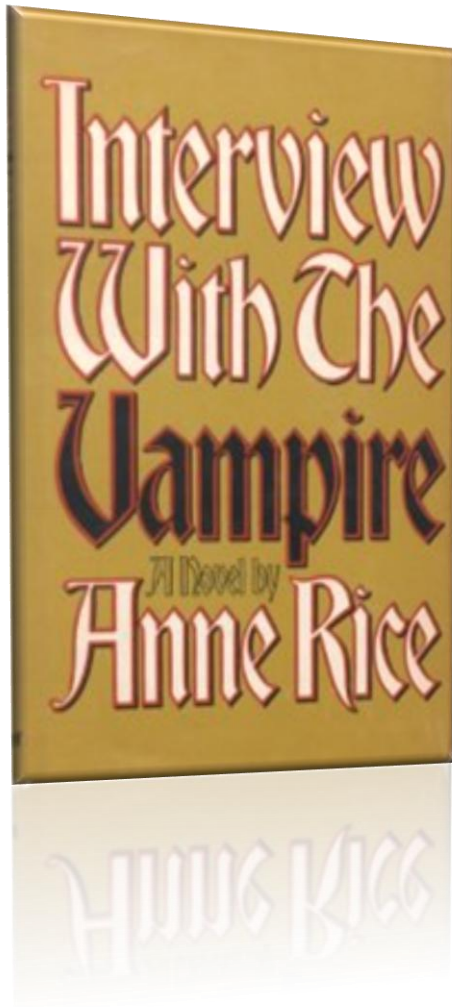
But there is an easier way!

The best way to find an agent is to do some research



Find an agent who works in similar genre

Send a query letter to the agent, not to the publisher



- The slush pile is a myth
- You are not as good as you think you are
- Percentage of what?

Sign the contract with the publisher



RANDOM HOUSE

BERTELSMANN

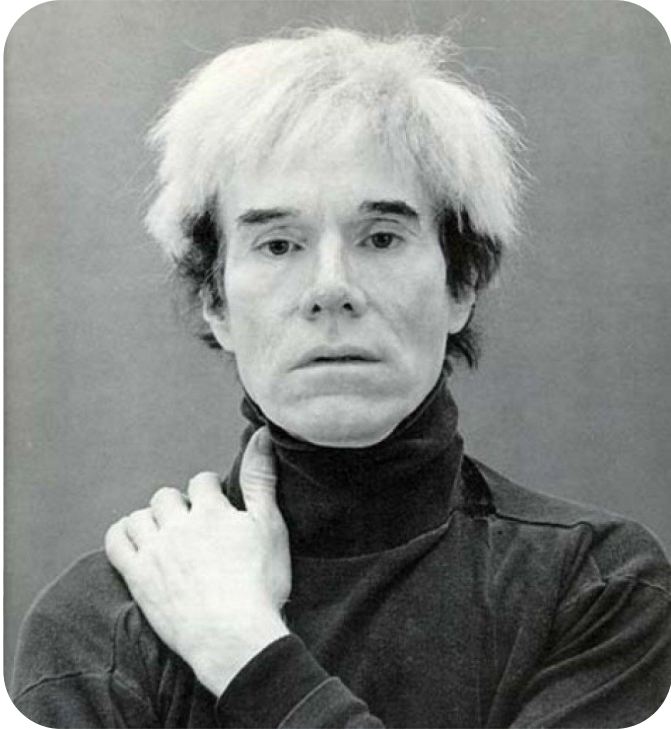


W. W. Norton & Company, Inc.
INDEPENDENT PUBLISHERS SINCE 1923



- Be prepared to revise with the agent
- Know when you are ready
 - Fiction requires a full manuscript
 - Non-fiction needs a detailed proposal
- Be prepared to revise again with the publisher

Writing is easier when thought of as “business art”



“

“When I stopped *doing* things and started *producing* things, I did want to know what people were saying about them because it wouldn't be anything personal.”

-Andy Warhol, *The Philosophy of Andy Warhol*

”



Thanks!



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