

## Pitch Craft

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### Examples of Winning Bios

*A.D. Sherman*

This Undertaker's Apprentice  
fiction

In 5th grade, I got a "D" in my reading class because Alfred Hitchcock and Edgar Alan Poe weren't on the approved reading list. I used to have a mullet and wear Wrangler jeans so tight that my voice is a permanent high tenor. My only claim to fame is a second-place ribbon I won in a short story contest in high school, although I am often selected to receive a free room at a Marriott hotel. My favorite writing research was an in-depth tour of a mortuary and crematorium.

*Chani Barlow*

Seeking Solace  
nonfiction

When I was 7 years old, I planned a neighborhood wedding for my 5 year old sister, which didn't last despite an abundance of Rice Krispie treats. My plans for an athletic scholarship changed when, at 16, I was struck by a car. As I rebuilt my life and my body, I realized that God had other plans for me. I married my sweetheart and, together, we have adopted three miracle children. My mama bear instinct compels me to foster extremely abused and traumatized children. My life's mission is to show that light is still there, sometimes right in front of us.

*Cherise Dahle*

A Message for Caregivers  
nonfiction

Music is my self-expression and my motive for healing. As a reflexologist I'm weird and I know stuff. I am a caregiver to my two young daughters and to my husband who has endured Hodgkin's Lymphoma Cancer, not once, but TWICE.

*Heidi K. Allen*

Where Madness Lies  
fiction

I've spent my whole life buried in books and they helped shape who I am now, a strong, smart, problem-solving, fantasy-loving, all-around nerd who believes in the power of words and storytelling. I am raising two little girls to be strong, smart, nerds as well. I loved archery long before Katniss Everdeen made it cool, and have tried to channel a blend of Artemis and Athena my whole life. I write so women, especially my daughters, see that we are strong even when we struggle and that strong women have the power to change the world.

*Lee Schwartz*

Sing Me No Songs  
fiction

I always say I popped out of the womb with a potato and a pencil—one because I love potatoes, two because I love writing. That’s why I wrote Bella Sara horse fanfiction at age 8 and warrior cat fanfiction when I was 10. Now at eighteen, I hope to write about things that change the social conversations of my time. If it just so happens potatoes, horses, or cats are in these stories, that’s just an added bonus.

*Linda Marie Cloud*

Beyond the cage  
nonfiction

My name is Linda Marie Cloud and I am not a good human. By that I mean I’ve never really taken to being on planet. I gave it my best. I made it through childhood and moved into adulthood as a force with prestigious scholarships, national internships and a Master’s degree in Nutrition. As it turned out, my fast track to joy was rerouted. As a young mother of three, I was facing my second divorce. I couldn’t check out of life, so instead, I dug in. There is so much chaos in the world. People are so busy making demands upon others and “the system.” But making demands does not solve the problem of unrest. Peace is a personal journey. I’ve spent the last 25 years living lifetimes, finding a solution for my pain. I call it MeWe. And, as it turns out, it is a solution for peace that is useful for all of us.

*Michael J. Richards*

One Life  
fiction

I have spent my life battling severe social anxiety and feelings of inadequacy. Writing has given me a voice and has been an empowering force in my life. I believe that every life has value and every person has something special to offer. I want to use my talents to give a voice to those who often go unheard.

*Ryder Hunt Clancy*

Mystic Invisible  
fiction

The inspiration for this story came after I visited my husband’s homeland of Scotland. It didn’t take long for the magic of the country to send my brain twitching. After graduating with a Bachelor’s in Psychology from Brigham Young University, I vowed I would never write another research or comparative analysis paper again. I was done. Yet here I am...Now, I’m a stay-at-home mother scribbling notes between diaper changes or racking up the word count on my laptop while my little ones sleep. I often find that I have just as much trouble keeping up with my teenage characters as I do my own kids!