

Dear Ms. Agent:

Time for a break from 2018. Let swashbuckling diva Ella Shane take you back to Gilded Age New York for mystery, misadventure, and just a little romance. There's even a wicked Duke.

Diva in Trousers (Mystery, 75,000 words) finds Ella, a singer who specializes in male soprano roles, trying to figure out why her last Juliet dropped dead onstage -- after the unfortunate young lady's cousin, our Duke, comes looking for answers. Ella and a colorful cast of Old New York characters pitch in to find the truth, and maybe a murderer. Along the way, we'll meet everyone from Ella's manager, Cousin Tommy, "confirmed bachelor" and retired boxing champ; to her wisecracking parrot Montezuma; to fellow diva Marie De l'Artois, the former Maisie Maserosky of Poughkeepsie. We'll also find out if an Irish/Jewish girl made good from the Lower East Side can look at a Duke, or if she'd even want to. And about the swashbuckling: Ella defeats all comers (including His Grace) with her foil.

It's a fun change for me too, after a career in news. I trained as an historian first (BA, British History, Phi Beta Kappa) and still voraciously read social history. With more than a decade anchoring weekend mornings at 1010 WINS New York, I have a little built-in platform, and more importantly, the working journalist's comfort with deadlines, critiques and revisions.

Opening pages are pasted below. Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Respectfully,

Kathleen Marple Kalb

Mystery Author Kathleen Marple Kalb and the Headline I Can't Actually Use

Mystery Author Kathleen Marple Kalb joins Queries, Qualms, & Quirks this week to discuss querying in high school, getting rejections while sitting in a hospital waiting room, debuting in a pandemic, how Law & Order helps our writing, how working in news rooms has influenced her writing, writing headlines, and the importance of knowing your genre.

Kathleen Marple Kalb describes herself as an Author/Anchor/Mom...not in that order. A weekend anchor at 1010 WINS Radio in New York, she writes mysteries for Kensington and

Crooked Lane Books as well as short stories. She, her husband and son live in a Connecticut house owned by their cat.

Kathleen: [Query](#) | [Website](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Amazon](#) | [Bookshop](#) | [IndieBound](#) | [Libro FM](#)

Aka Nikki Knight: [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Amazon](#)

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