

Dear [AGENT]:

Complete at 90,000 words, THE PROFESSOR'S LIST is an adult contemporary romance novel that will appeal to fans of Mariana Zapata's relatable characters (Dear Aaron, Wait for It), the hurt and resilience in Kennedy Ryan's Long Shot, and the heat and banter of Christina Lauren's Wild Seasons Series.

Professor Naya Turner's life is her work and she's avoided dating for years. Now, her flailing department is on the university's chopping block and she's in danger of losing her job. In an attempt to reclaim some part of her social life in the midst of professional turmoil and rejoin the dating pool, she adds 'sex with a stranger to her to-do list.

Jake, a sexy, charming, out-of-town visitor is the perfect opportunity for Naya to shed her inhibitions without consequences. He makes her laugh, shows her the best sex of her life, and helps her find her confidence. After a few days, he doesn't feel like a stranger at all and she can't believe her luck. Except for one problem. That chopping block? He's wielding the axe.

To make matters worse, Naya's abusive ex returns, threatening to reveal her darkest secrets and ruin her professional reputation. She's reminded why she shied away from intimacy for so long. Naya must choose between the cold comfort of her self-imposed walls and risking all she's worked for in order to be with Jake, whose axe still hangs precariously close to her career. For Naya, sex with a stranger was easier to cross off the to-do list than truly trusting someone new.

New to fiction, I have worked at colleges and universities for fifteen years and have a Ph.D. in education. My published works are academic (three journal articles and a forthcoming book chapter) and about military students in college. I look forward to hearing from you and I have attached the first 10 pages of the manuscript below. Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
[contact info]

Denise Williams wrote her first book in the 2nd grade. I Hate You and its sequel, I Still Hate You, featured a tough, funny heroine, a quirky hero, witty banter, and a dragon. Minus the dragons, these are still the books she likes to write. After penning those early works, she finished second grade and eventually earned a PhD.

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