



## The 7 Question Interview with Jennifer Weltz

The Jean V. Naggar Literary Agency, Inc.  
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Please let us know who you are, your company, and some of your clients:

Jennifer Weltz, VP of JVNLA, Inc. (The Jean V. Naggar Literary Agency, Inc.) Agency Clients include Jean Auel, Donna Cross, Phillip Margolin, Mary McGarry Morris, Christopher Gortner, Iza Trapani, The Roger Duvoisin Estate, Carl Safina, Wendy Webb and many more.

So our readers may fully understand the role of an agent, please tell us how you make contact with an editor at a major house once you have a manuscript you are interested in.

Most of the time, I research who would be the best fit for my submission and call that person to discuss the project. I then send an e-mail describing the book and author and attach the materials.

When reviewing a submission, what do you look for:

A strong voice and story that captures me and doesn't let go until the end!

Any suggestions or comments on how a writer can break into the publishing industry:

1. Make sure your work is the best it can be BEFORE submitting it out.
2. Research the agents you want to submit to and send your query in the form they requested.
3. Write a query that clearly describes your book and then yourself.
4. Be open to constructive feedback if and when you get it.

Aside from excellent writing skills, what are the literary factors that make an author successful?

There has to be a story as well! Beautiful words only take you so far.

Be savvy about the web. Build a readership even before looking to get published by

blogging, publishing stories...

What are your feelings concerning traditional publishing houses versus smaller vanity press houses or self-publishing?

Everything has its place in the book world. Traditional houses tend to have great strength in distribution.

Are there any upcoming releases associated with your agency that you would like to tell our readers about?

The Last Bridge by Terri Coyne  
No Right to Remain Silent by Lucinda Roy  
Wondrous Strange by Leslie Livingston  
First Come the Zebras by Lynne Barach  
Night Navigation by Ginnah Howard  
Slob by Ellen Potter  
The Last Queen by CW Gortner  
Travel Therapy by Karen Schaler