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July 7, 2009

Jane Jones, Literary Agent
100 Wondrous Street, Suite 500
New York, NY 10000

Dear Ms. Jones,

THE DREAMING is the first novel in my adult historical trilogy, THE FOX CREEK PLANTATION SAGA, set in antebellum Louisiana. Together with books two and three, THE WAKING, and THE FINDING, it tells an epic tale spanning a quarter century of the most turbulent times in America. It is the story of Monette and Cyrus, two slaves whose love transcends sorrow and adversity, and whose spirits triumph over the people who would own them. It is a literary work, with crossover into the commercial market.

I am querying you for multiple reasons: you are specifically looking for “a great historical novel,” your online presence is positive (your clients hold you in high regard!) and because you also represent young adult literature, which I also write.

I began writing THE DREAMING (172,430 words) in the late ‘90s, following three years of research. In 1999 it won first place in the Pacific Northwest Writers’ Association (PNWA) Literary Contest. One of the judges, editor Duncan Murrell of Algonquin Books, wanted to see the manuscript upon its completion. However, I had to forgo writing THE DREAMING to finish eight other books on contract.

I am the author of ten books for children, including the DOYLE AND FOSSEY: SCIENCE DETECTIVES series (Dutton / Sterling), and the CHRONICLES OF COURAGE seafaring series (Knopf). I am a two-time Thurber House Residency in Children’s Literature nominee, plus a two-time winner of PNWA’s Zola Award. Among other honors, my books have received starred reviews from “Publisher’s Weekly” and “Kirkus,” been chosen by the Junior Library Guild, nominated for numerous state medals, and are taught in Vermont College’s MFA program. I am a member of the Author’s Guild, the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators, and PNWA.

Please let me know if I may send you sample chapters or the entire manuscript of THE DREAMING. This is a simultaneous query. Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Michele Torrey