



MYSTERY COACHING QUESTIONNAIRE

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I'm excited you're writing a mystery, and I look forward to partnering you make it the best it can be. This is a list of questions that will help me get a sense of how much you've thought this through, what your goals are, what writing experience you have, and what you might be struggling with. Ignore any questions that you feel don't apply to you. Or if it's something you haven't worked on yet, just tell me that.

Please re-type the questions with your answers on a separate page in Word.doc that you can attach to an email or download as a PDF when you place your order. If you have questions or don't understand anything, don't hesitate to send me a quick email.

Note: I don't ask for a brief synopsis of your plot here because writers often include unnecessary information while leaving critical information out. Instead, I have asked you to answer key questions I'll need to understand your work. If you don't have answers to all the story related questions yet, don't worry. We can work on that.

1. Name:
Email:
Location: (State/time zone)
2. What is your writing experience? What training have you had? Are you published? Traditionally or self-published.?
3. What is your writing situation? You're retired and can write at any time. You work full-time and have a family and can only write for a couple of hours a day. What life barriers get in the way of your writing?
4. What would you like me to help you with? The crime. The clues. The characters. Story arc. Climax. Other.
5. How does your story open? For instance, do you open the story with the crime? Or perhaps the first scene involves the lead detective in the midst of an argument with his/her spouse.

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6. Describe key points about your lead character that make them interesting and good at their job.
7. What's the revealing clue in your story?
8. What happens at the climax of the story? Where is it set?
9. How does the story end?
10. Who is the villain? Why did he/she decide it was necessary to kill someone?
11. Who is the victim? Why were they killed? In the wrong place at the wrong time? Overheard something? Other?
12. What creates the main tension in the story?
13. Please *briefly* describe three scenes (or ideas) that become obstacles the lead character must overcome in order to identify the killer.
14. What are you struggling with in your writing, and how can I help?
Specific topics, skills, writing techniques, story arc, plotting clues, etc.
15. What is your timeline (or time constraints)?
16. How will you know if we've succeeded in our time together?
17. Please write a brief synopsis or short outline of your story (no more than half a page), giving me a sense of what will make this mystery exciting and/or compelling.

Thanks so very much. I look forward to working with you.

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Email me at Lildog67@icloud.com with questions.