

Dear Ms. Gelsomino,

If you're a girl who tops out at 4'11", chances are good you'll never play basketball. And if you were born a preemie with a helicopter mom, chances are even slimmer you'll ever leave your small Southern town to cover the NBA or WNBA. But if you can use your big voice to be queen of the super fans, and your big mind to dig up the best stories, you might just make your mark. **NO SMALL THING**, a contemporary YA novel, is a sports-themed **ALL THE PRESIDENT'S MEN** about those who insist on seeking the truth even when the tribe demands silence.

18-year-old Audrey Powers runs the town's most popular sports podcast, *Powers Posts Up*, which chronicles the dynastic glory of Cameron High School's basketball team and the talents of her best friend T, a blue-chip recruit headed for Division I college ball. She's rooted for him every year of his glorious rise. But when she discovers her beloved team is rife with corruption—sleazy sports agents, tons of tutors, and even fake classes—she has to decide whether or not to expose the scandal—and possibly jeopardize T's future.

After she interviews an injured Cameron alum whose fall from NBA glory is particularly tragic, and once she meets her new and inspirational journalism advisor, Audrey knows she has to pursue the story. She teams up with Emma, a scholar athlete who's ready for some justice considering the boys get all the press while getting away with academic fraud. The farther they go down the investigative rabbit hole, the closer they get to the darkest parts of this most dangerous game where power players don't want anyone digging. As Audrey risks her relationship with T and the fandom for her podcast, she not only discovers who her true friends and mentors are but also what it really means to live the North Carolina state motto: "To be rather than to seem."

I happen to live in the fraught middle of one of the biggest, most tribal sports rivalries in the nation (Duke v. Carolina) while watching the FBI and NCAA investigate some of our local schools. I'm also an Elizabeth George Foundation grant recipient and the author of three indie works of fiction, including **HOW WENDY REDBIRD DANCING SURVIVED THE DARK AGES OF NOUGHT** (a 2011 James Jones First Novel Fellowship semifinalist). In my other life, I run online programs for gifted youth, train secondary educators, and edit the blog *Teachers Workshop*.

My agent of two years, Amy Tipton of Signature Literary, is leaving the business in this month pursue other ventures, and **NO SMALL THING** at 110K words has been on sub to a small list of editors. I'd be happy to provide details. I'm querying you because you represent contemporary YA, because of your editorial expertise, and because you seek works with feminist themes starring "confident, competent, and complicated heroines." I hope to partner with someone whose literary interests intersect with mine: telling the stories of gifted, wise, justice-seeking girls.

I've included the first three chapters, and I'd be happy to send the complete manuscript. Thanks for your time and consideration.

Best,

Lyn Fairchild Hawks