

# Summer Festival Days

## August 8: Publishing and Platform Building

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. PST

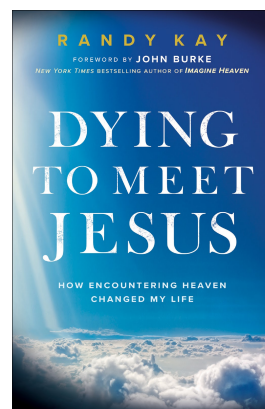
### **AVOIDING THE SLUSH PILE WITH TOP AGENT ELISE CAPRON**

*Tips to Make Yourself Marketable to Agents with Elise Capron of the Sandra Dijkstra Literary Agency*

What does an agent do, and do you need one? How can you find your perfect agent match? What is it like working with an agent? How has the agent's role changed in today's publishing world? Join Elise Capron of the Sandra Dijkstra Literary Agency as she addresses big questions for writers exploring the wide range of publishing options available in today's literary world. Get tips on how to make yourself marketable to agents, and insight on what publishing path really is best for you.

Elise Capron has been an agent at the Sandra Dijkstra Literary Agency for 15 years. Established over 35 years ago, SDLA represents a wide range of bestselling fiction and non-fiction authors, including Amy Tan, Lisa See, Maxine Hong Kingston, Chitra Divakaruni, Diane Mott Davidson, Eric Foner, Donald Norman, Gary Small, and many more. Elise primarily represents adult literary fiction (with an emphasis on multi-cultural work) as well as narrative non-fiction, particularly by journalists and historians. The SDLA team handles nearly every genre, and you can learn more about the agency and other agents' interests at [www.dijkstraagency.com](http://www.dijkstraagency.com)

**Thank you to our generous sponsor  
Randy Kay**



## ELISE CAPRON



Elise is an agent at the Sandra Dijkstra Literary Agency. In addition to handling her own list, she oversees the daily operations of the SDLA office. She is most interested in well-written narrative non-fiction (particularly trade-friendly history, cultural studies, and science) as well as character-driven literary fiction.

A graduate of Emerson College, Elise holds a BFA in Writing, Literature and Publishing. She has been with the Dijkstra Agency since 2003.

Elise is interested in fiction that has unforgettable writing, a distinctive narrative voice, and memorable characters. She loves novels with an unusual or eccentric edge and is drawn to stories she has never heard before. She aims to work with writers who are getting their work published regularly in literary magazines and who have a realistic sense of the market and their audience. Some of Elise's representative fiction titles include Tiphonie Yanique's upcoming *Monster in the Middle* (Riverhead), *Land of Love and Drowning* (Riverhead) and *How to Escape from a Leper Colony* (Graywolf); Howard A. Rodman's *The Great Eastern* (Melville House); Courtney Brkic's *The First Rule of Swimming* (Little, Brown); Rachel Toor's *On The Road to Find Out* (FSG); Jonathon Keats' *The Book of the Unknown* (Random House); Rikki Ducornet's *Netsuke* (Coffee House Press); Maureen McHugh's *After the Apocalypse* (Small Beer Press), which was picked as a "Top 10 Best of the Year" by *Publishers Weekly*; Ali Liebegott's *The IHOP Papers* (Carroll & Graf); and more.

On the non-fiction front, Elise is looking for fascinating true stories told in a compelling way. She is especially interested in working with up-and-coming scholars (particularly historians) who are looking to transition from the academic market to a trade readership, as well as journalists. Some of Elise's representative non-fiction titles include Cynthia Barnett's *Rain: A Natural and Cultural History* (Crown), which was long-listed for the National Book Award and the PEN/E.O. Wilson Literary Science Writing Award; Meera Subramanian's *A River Runs Again: India's Natural World in Crisis, from the Barren Cliffs of Rajasthan to the Farmlands of Karnataka* (Public Affairs); Jack Shuler's *The Thirteenth Turn: A History of the Noose* (Public Affairs); Jonathon Keats's *You Belong to the Universe: Buckminster Fuller and the Future* (Oxford University Press); Leo Braudy's *Haunted*; Jane Vandenberg's *The Wrong Dog Dream: A True Romance* (Counterpoint); Billy Smith's *Ship of Death: The Voyage That Changed the Atlantic World* (Yale); and more.

Please note that Elise is specifically *not* interested in: Young-adult/middle-grade, picture books, romance, fantasy, sci-fi, business books, cookbooks, poetry, religious/spiritual books, screenplays, or self-help. And while she will consider memoir, please note that she is very selective in this genre.