

Pen the Perfect Nonfiction Book Query Letter
Rancho LaPuerta
September 2009

Dear Danielle:

Several months ago as we worked on *Will This Place Ever Feel Like Home?*, we talked about the need for people, particularly women (and especially ourselves), to indulge and find ways to be good to themselves, to have fun. In fact, it is your memories of “Pink Elephant” parties that originally sparked my idea to write a book that would reach into our collective pasts and then rekindle those moments that once held meaning and joy.

In the proposed *Ice Cream for Breakfast: If You Follow All the Rules, You Miss Half the Fun*, these memories are, in fact, brought to life. As you will read in the Overview, I am a firm believer in creating a life that is not limited by some unofficial prescribed set of rules. I think people have the power to infuse joy in their everyday by writing their own rules and, in many cases, forgoing them completely.

Ice Cream for Breakfast is my own personal antidote to life’s unpredictable and somewhat uncontrollable forces. We all seem to sleep more peacefully when we have some sense of control over our lives. In *Ice Cream for Breakfast*, I offer readers easy and accessible ways to take the reins and move toward a more fulfilling and joyful life. The text is light and void of heavy-handed lingo. The book warmly invites readers to look in their own backyards for what before might have seemed illusive and unobtainable. *Ice Cream for Breakfast* puts their joys and their fun at center stage.

You’ve asked me to include the amount I would like to be paid as an advance. Based on the time it would take to complete the project, I think a fair amount would be . . .

I look forward to discussing the book in more detail and, naturally, would be delighted to work with you again.

Very best,