

Author's street address
City, State Zip code
Email address
Telephone number

Agent name
Address
City, State Zip code

Date

Dear Agent name:

How do the lives of three very different men—an aging beggar, a canine-phobic actor, and a murdering bandit—connect? In the historical novel, “Cave Canem (Beware of Dog),” ancient Rome acts as the backdrop to this epic tale that unfolds over forty years, bringing together the lives of these distinct men.

Coponius is a beggar by trade who travels through several towns making a meager living from the kindness of strangers. His aristocratic beginnings have armed Coponius with an intellect that allows him to converse with people of all stations. It is Coponius' generous nature that leads him to assist a young convict named Bomilcar who has survived a sinking ship. An uncomfortable union develops between Coponius and Bomilcar, when the latter becomes the leader of a dangerous gang of bandits. As a result, Coponius suffers with the guilt of his kind act into his old age. In the midst of Coponius' travels, he learns of an actor, Pollio, whose patron is the man who will hunt Bomilcar even after death. Pollio's unusual “illness” becomes the catalyst for the collision of these three lives.

“Cave Canem” is my first literary endeavor. The book is 391 pages and was written over a twenty-year period. The idea for this story surfaced while I was incarcerated in Folsom Prison during the early 1970's. Exposure to the classics during my sentence inspired my interest in the details of Roman history and the culture of its people. The book focuses on the complexities of human nature and the gamut of good and evil traits that exist in all people.

I self-published the novel in 2004, and I am now seeking representation for mainstream publication. May I send you the complete manuscript of “Cave Canem”?

Sincerely,

Author's name

Copyright 2011-2012 Melissa Brown Levine