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Literary Agent Finds New Writers at Killer Nashville...Year After Year

International attendees come to the [Killer Nashville Writers' Conference](#) for numerous reasons: to network with U.S. law enforcement and forensic personnel, to find an agent or publisher, to learn new marketing and writing strategies, but uber [literary agent Jill Marr](#) returns to Killer Nashville every year to find new clients to pitch to publishers.

When literary agent Jill Marr's son was born, she took a five-year-hiatus from the business, but after he entered kindergarten, she was ready to jump back into the literary pool. She found a job with the esteemed Sandra Dijkstra agency and began the search for new clients. Since she knew she wanted to focus on [mysteries and thrillers](#), and recognizing writers' conferences as ideal places to meet aspiring writers, she fired up her computer and began a search for conferences that specialized in crime fiction. One caught her eye: Killer Nashville, the most written about writers' conference on the web.

Marr says, "An especially appealing part of Killer Nashville was that it takes place in the South. I love the southern voice. Lots of great writers come from there."

Since then, Marr has attended every Killer Nashville conference. Founder [Clay Stafford](#) says, "We don't like to have the same agents over and over; we like to provide a variety, but we keep bringing Jill back because she keeps signing our people." Most of those she has signed now have publishing contracts.

Being in the Jill Marr stable is a great place to be. [The Sandra Dijkstra Literary Agency](#) handles such bestselling authors as Amy Tan, Lisa Lee, Kate White, Diane Mott Davidson, and Janell Cannon. Killer Nashville authors know they are in great company.

Asked why she keeps coming back to Killer Nashville, Marr says, "Because I keep meeting people there who are incredibly talented, and I know people who attend that conference are really serious about their writing. There is so much hands-on learning, so much networking, that goes on there. That's what I ask my writers to do anyway, and to find a conference that's already doing it is amazing."

"Our job," says Stafford, who heads the volunteer-driven event, "is to connect writers with readers, connect writers with other writers, and connect writers with those who can advance their career. Jill Marr does just that. She is incredible. That she comes every year to Killer Nashville to find new writers tells us we are living up to our mandate. Nothing makes us happier than connecting authors with agents and publishers."

When asked if she would be back for [Killer Nashville 2014](#), Marr smiled broadly, “Are you kidding? I look forward to it all year.” Stafford added, smiling even broader, “And we will have plenty of new authors we want to introduce to her.”

The Killer Nashville Thriller, Mystery, and Crime Literature Writers’ Conference, held annually on the fourth full weekend in August, was created in 2006 by author/filmmaker Clay Stafford to bring together forensic experts, writers, and fans of crime and thriller literature. The conference draws attendees from as far away as Portmahomack, Scotland; Rome, Italy; and Hadano, Kanagawa, Japan. For interviews or more information: www.KillerNashville.com, www.ClaymoreAward.com, Contact@KillerNashville.com, 615-599-4032.