

## PREMISE TO PROPOSAL

Series Summaries

By Mary Griffith

Morning all,

Though I don't think anyone outlined a series, for the sake of future projects and those saving these lessons, we'll discuss the series summary. For this, I use a page description of each book in the series. (If you're using Randy Ingermanson's snowflake method, you'll already have this too. Seeing a pattern here? :) Though the first three chapter and synopsis will be for the first book that I include with the proposal, I also include a summary on book one so the committee or editor can see how the books tie in together. This type of summary also works well for novella collections where different people are writing a story based on the same premise.

I've pasted my summary of Book one in my Garments of Praise series below:

[Series Proposal](#)

Book One:**STRENGTH BY DESIGN**

### **TITLE**

The title of each book is the first thing I include and something I usually spend a lot of time on. I try to incorporate spiritual themes, as well as give an idea of something about the story. In this case, the hero and heroine are a personal trainer and a fashion designer, both seeking to put their trust in God instead of relying on their own strength. It also lines up with the four components of the wedding dress: design, patterning, cutting and sewing the finished product.

### **TEASER**

I'm not sure if this is the correct term, but "teaser" is what I call the short sentences often used in ads for books or on back covers. This gives a snapshot of what the conflict is between the hero and heroine and what type of book it is (romance in this case). I think my favorite all time teaser is from the back of one of Linda Windsor's books, Riona if I'm not mistaken. Mayhem. Murder. Marriage? That totally drew me in! LOL This is the kind of thing you're shooting for if you use this technique, but it's not necessary, nor will it necessarily be used later. Publishers have writers who do this sort of thing. I just like to throw it in.

She's a loner.

He's a team player.

Will they let God even the score?

### **SHORT SUMMARY**

Since most of you are writing one book, this would be comparable to your overview, but

a little longer. I usually do a paragraph about the heroine and one for the hero in romance. Here, I try to show the goals, motivation and conflict (what they want, why they want it and what's stopping them from getting it) for each of them. I also try and show a little of the external plot (in Raya's case, the design of the dress) and the internal plot (recovering from the hurt of her last relationship and learning to trust--both God and man). Flex likes for everything to be done a certain way and for everyone to fall in line. Structure keeps him in control, but of his job and his heart. When free-spirited Raya comes along, he's forced to challenge everything he knows about himself, about God and about love. It's a lot to ask from a couple paragraphs, but it's doable.

Now the real question? Is this guy alpha or beta? LOL

As Raya Chatfield struggles to blend into her new job as head designer at Garments of Praise Fashion Design, the biggest account adds to her burden--designing a wedding dress for the woman who stole her fianc  . . . then dumped him.

If that wasn't enough, now Raya's falling for her only other account, a coach for a charity basketball team whose big heart and confident humor leaves in her in stitches-literally. Are Flex Dunham-and God-worth Raya's trust? Should she open up? Or will she play it safe . . . and solo?

Flex Dunham works hard in his personal training business to help others succeed, seldom thinking of himself. Until lately. His clients seem to be marrying off faster than he can train them. He's been waiting on the Lord, but now Flex wonders if the right woman will ever come along until he's introduced to a brown beauty who makes even his strong knees buckle. Can a freespirit like Raya teach him to color outside the lines? Or is love out of bounds again?

I hope this has been helpful in showing how a series proposal can fit together. It doesn't look much different from a proposal for one book, but it does take more work, because each book must fit together, yet be strong enough to stand alone. Many people have had success with writing fiction in series, but it's not for everyone. I like to build a world and hang around a while, so I think it will work for me. We'll see... LOL

If you have questions about proposing a series or anything else we've discussed so far, post it to the loop and let's talk about it. Tomorrow, we'll cover the Comparative Market Analysis, then a little graduation party on Saturday and we'll be clearing our dust for Susan Warren's great class.

Blessings,

Mary

