



Query Letter

Recently homeless, rain-soaked, and buffeted by hurricane winds, Chas seeks shelter at the abandoned Palmtree Resort.¹ He meets a fragile community of survivors, each clinging to their own version of control, hope, or denial. *Sleeper Cell* is a 78,000-word novel² that explores the pain of exile from society, the shifting nature of trust, and the potential rebellion of outcasts fueled by hunger and desperation.³

Chas, once a clean-shaven Finance Intern at a theme park, entertainment, and shopping complex, finds that most of the people sheltering at Palmtree had worked at the same vacation destination.⁴ Horace, resourceful and confident, infuses his leadership with a quiet menace. Deidra is attractive yet emotionally guarded, and her teenage sister, Morgan, tests the boundaries of autonomy.⁵

As resources dwindle and tensions rise, Chas participates in actions he would have once condemned.⁶ Growing hunger and dwindling salvage resources fracture the group's fragile

1 This sentence is vivid and atmospheric, immediately placing the protagonist in a dire situation. It's compelling, though it could be strengthened by hinting at stakes or urgency beyond physical discomfort.

2 For greater appeal to agents and publishers, the letter should specify a genre and identify the readers most likely to enjoy the book.

3 You have revealed multiple strong themes for *Sleeper Cell*. Consider specifying the *type of pain* that exile brings. For these outcasts, is it frustration, bitterness, resentment, or something else?

4 The novel is set in a fictionalized yet easily-envisioned setting that would be attractive to readers.

5 This reveals a potential character arc for Chas and distinctions indicating potential conflict between the supporting characters.

6 The actions that Chas participates in are hinted at, but could be shared in just a few words.

Author: Ward Rangler
Genre: Survival fiction with social allegory
Title: Sleeper Cell



cohesion, revealing desperation that drives increasingly bold and felonious crimes.⁷

The psychological suspense in this novel is tempered with dry humor that echoes the tonal palette of Emily St. John Mandel and the structural intimacy of *Station Eleven*. It will appeal to readers who appreciate character-driven survival stories with philosophical undercurrents and a touch of irony.

Ward Rangler is a former theme park executive turned novelist, with a background in corporate publications. *Sleeper Cell* is his debut novel.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I'd be happy to send the full manuscript upon request.⁸

⁷ As the plot progresses, the threats and obstacles increase. The reader of this letter will know that you are a storyteller!

⁸ This polite and professional closing could be made more assertive or emotionally resonant. Consider inviting the agent or publisher to experience the events at Palmtree firsthand by reading the complete manuscript or a 20-page partial.