NOW YOU TRY: CREATE AN ACTION PLAN TO TARGET AGENTS

29.1

1. In the first column, compile a list of ten to thirty potential agents.

AGENT/AGENCY	REASON YOU PICKED THIS AGENT	CURRENTLY TAKING QUERIES?	COMPLAINTS	MEMBER OF AAR?	CONTACT INFORMATION

2. Write down why you picked each agent:
- name of the friend, relative, colleague, or other writer who referred you
- date and event where you met the agent
- published mystery author this agent represents
- the great deal this agent recently negotiated

3. Cut one: Check with the agency's website and eliminate any that are currently not taking queries.

4. Cut two: Notice whether any agency on your list has had complaints against it, and if so, do you see a pattern? Websites with useful information for identifying agents with sketchy reputations include *Preditors & Editors* and *Writer Beware* (hosted by Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America).

5. Check to see if the agent is a member of the Association of Authors' Representatives (www.aar-online.org/). While there are good agents who are not AAR members, it may be something to consider when you prioritize.

6. Sort: Prioritize your list, from most desirable to least.