

Dear Agent,

At 80,000 words, MOLLY BRIGHT is an historical family saga that follows the paths of Chloe, Thomas, James, and their descendants as they navigate the racial landscape over the last two hundred years. Like *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi or *Blackbird House* by Alice Hoffman, *Molly Bright* is a novel-in-stories where each chapter tells a complete story while also contributing to the overall story arc.

On an ordinary summer afternoon in 1809, Patty Cannon, the infamous leader of the Cannon-Johnson gang, kidnaps twelve-year-old Chloe Opher, a free black, in broad daylight. Chloe's little brother, Thomas, sees the whole thing from his hiding place in the bushes. Their young white neighbor, James Golt, also sees Chloe's abduction but can do nothing to rescue her before Cannon's affiliates smuggle her out of Maryland and sell her into slavery. Their lives take three radically different trajectories. Chloe lives *most* of the rest of her life enslaved in Georgia. Thomas's family sends him to New York, where he eventually "passes" as a white man before returning decades later to avenge his sister. James, haunted by his inability to save Chloe, becomes a shipbuilder who assists runaways on the Underground Railroad through Maryland. Thereafter, their descendants occasionally intersect in unexpected ways until all three storylines converge in present day.

My short fiction has been published in *The First Line* literary journal and in the September 2017 issue of *The Grief Diaries*. I also recently advanced to the semi-finals in the 2017 NYC Midnight Short Story Challenge. My essay on writing, "The tao of the Three Pigs," was published in the October 2017 issue of *The Writer* magazine.

I hope that in addition to being entertained, you find that the characters and storylines in *Molly Bright* challenge stereotypes and bring to light some overlooked pieces of American history. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

H. Dair Brown