

## **GREAT BEGINNINGS**

### **Outline**

- I. The Importance of a strong opening
  - a. Your first reader may be an agent or editor
  - b. New writers only have 15 seconds to hook a reader
  - c. Opening sets the tone for what's to come
  - d. Tells readers what and who book is about
  
- II. Get into action of story immediately
  - a. Backstory and long passages of exposition don't belong in the first chapter
  - b. Edit ruthlessly
  
- III. Opening should be appropriate for type of story you're telling
  
- IV. Opening should accomplish six things
  - a. Get the reader hooked
  - b. Establish a bond between the reader and the lead character
  - c. Set the scene
  - d. Get the conflict going
  - e. Describe the protagonist
  - f. Surprise the reader