



### **Literary Bequests Instructions**

The Authors Guild Foundation accepts bequests and donations of the rights to your literary properties. It is a wonderful way to keep your work alive after your death and also give back to the Authors Guild. To make a bequest of your works and their copyrights, you should add to your will a statement that you leave to the Authors Guild Foundation all of your rights in your literary properties (you can designate all of your literary property or certain works, but in all events list out the title), including all of your copyrights, trademarks, and other rights therein, as well as all contracts to which you are a party that relate in any manner to those properties, to the Authors Guild Foundation. The Authors Guild attorneys can assist you or your attorney with the exact wording.

The titles of each literary work that you are bequeathing should be listed in the will or on a schedule referenced in the will. We will also need a copy of all of your contracts relating to your literary works; this includes all publishing agreements, of course, and any collaboration or agency agreements, as well as film option, or other agreements to license or otherwise exploit the work. If you have sales agreements that are managed online (such as through an Amazon Author account), we will need a login and password so we can manage those accounts. Likewise, if you have been selling books through your own website, we will need that login and password as well, to manage your sales, as well as your continued online presence, to market your works.

Once the estate is settled, the Authors Guild Foundation will stand in your shoes as owner of the properties and continue to manage them as you would. We will monitor existing contracts and will market the properties for new projects, respecting any particular wishes that you may have for the properties. The Authors Guild Foundation will retain the income from the exploitation of the properties (subject of course to agents' and other fees and commissions). In some cases, we will share income with others, but take a reasonable administrative fee to cover the labor and costs.

Please reach out to us at [donations@authorsguildfoundation.org](mailto:donations@authorsguildfoundation.org) with any questions.