Query Letter

## Version 1

"Midnight Slumber" is a compelling collection of short stories, each a standalone story, yet intricately connected by the profound themes of family, loss, love, and legacy. Born from a series of writing exercises, this anthology not only showcases a range of emotional and narrative depth but also weaves together these individual tales to present a message that is complex and resonant. As readers journey through each story, they will find themselves enveloped in the intricacies of human connection, the pain of loss, the warmth of love, and the weight of legacy, all converging to leave a lasting impression far greater than any single narrative could aspire to achieve.

"Midnight Slumber" finds its place in a literary landscape that appreciates the timeless yet contemporary exploration of human emotions and relationships, much like the works of Alice Munro and Penelope Lively. These authors, with their keen observations on the complexities of life, provide a foundational backdrop for understanding the nuanced tapestry of family, loss, love, and legacy. Recently, Danielle Evans’ collection, "The Office of Historical Corrections," reflects a current thirst for well-written short story collections that delve into similar themes with a contemporary lens. Together, these authors demonstrate the enduring appeal and necessity of short stories that articulate the human condition with depth, precision, and empathy, positioning "Midnight Slumber" as a contemporary addition to a tradition of storytelling that explores the vast, yet intimate territories of personal and collective experiences.

This collection intricately weaves together themes of love, legacy, and the minutiae of human connection, as vividly illustrated in stories like "Nick and Anne Hammond," where modern love unfolds in the quiet mundanity of life, revealing the depth of connection through small, shared moments. This narrative thread of interconnected stories offers a poignant look into the essence of relationships. Meanwhile, "A Man in a Pub" critically examines the 'Male Gaze,' challenging readers to scrutinize the dynamics of how women are perceived and positioned within societal narratives. "Amritsar V Southall" further enriches the collection by confronting and challenging preconceived notions of love and cultural identity, urging readers to navigate the complex interplay between personal affections and the broader societal fabric. Together, these stories encapsulate the collection's exploration of the subtle yet profound forces that shape our interactions and understandings of love and connection in a contemporary world.

This carefully crafted anthology, standing at approximately 40,000 words, has undergone rigorous professional editing and refinement over several years. Its author, originally hailing from Italy but having spent the majority of her life in Britain, brings a unique cross-cultural perspective to the narrative. Now retired, she infuses her writing with the compassion, wisdom, and insight gleaned from a rich tapestry of experiences. This collection represents not just stories, but a lifetime of observations and understandings, meticulously woven into themes that are as timeless as they are contemporary.

## Version 2

My name is Cristina, a polyglot and semiretired teacher of foreign languages with a rich background in creative writing and screenwriting, acquired from courses in Rome, Paris, and at the City Lit in London. My diverse life experiences across Europe have fueled my passion for storytelling, leading me to dedicate my time to writing, a juvenile passion of mine.

I am excited to present my latest work, "Midnight Slumber," a compelling collection of short stories that intricately weaves together the profound themes of family, loss, love, and legacy. Each story in this anthology stands alone, showcasing a range of emotional and narrative depth while being interconnected to offer a message that is both complex and resonant. As readers journey through these tales, they are enveloped in the intricacies of human connection, ultimately leaving a lasting impression far greater than any single narrative could aspire to achieve.

"Midnight Slumber" aligns with the literary tradition of authors like Alice Munro and Danielle Evans, whose works explore human emotions and relationships with depth, precision, and empathy. This collection finds its place in a literary landscape thirsty for well-written short stories that articulate the human condition in contemporary settings. The stories, such as "Nick and Anne Hammond," "A Man in a Pub," and "Amritsar V Southall," challenge readers to confront notions of love, family, and cultural identity, enriching the narrative tapestry with critical examinations of societal dynamics and personal affections.

This anthology, totaling just over 42,000 words, has benefited from professional editing and refinement over the years. It is formatted to offer windows into moments in time, providing glimpses into the unfolding intimacy of its characters' lives. Through stories like "Leontine and Adeline," I explore the emotional struggle of adult monozygotic twins to separate from their identicalness, and in "A Man in a Pub," I examine societal perceptions of women, challenging the 'Male Gaze.'

My first publication was included in the Daily Telegraph ‘Mini-Saga Competition in 1999, and I have since self-published a cross-genre novel, "Dancing with Hitler," in 2020. With "Midnight Slumber," I aim to infuse my writing with the compassion, wisdom, and insight I've acquired through a lifetime of extensive experiences and observations. This collection represents not just stories, but a lifetime of understandings, meticulously woven into themes that are as timeless as they are contemporary.

Thank you for taking the time to read my cover letter and considering my work. I believe "Midnight Slumber" will resonate in today’s literary landscape and eagerly await your feedback.

Warm regards,

Cristina

## Version 3

My name is Cristina, a polyglot and semiretired teacher with a background in creative writing and screenwriting. My experiences across Europe, particularly in London, have fueled my passion for storytelling.

I'm excited to introduce "Midnight Slumber," a collection of short stories exploring themes of family, loss, love, and legacy. Each story stands alone but connects to deliver a complex, resonant message. This anthology aligns with the works of Alice Munro and Danielle Evans, reflecting a thirst for well-written short stories that articulate the human condition.

"Midnight Slumber" challenges readers with stories like "Nick and Anne Hammond," which explores modern love, and "A Man in a Pub," examining societal perceptions of women. "Amritsar V Southall" confronts notions of love and cultural identity, urging readers to navigate the interplay between personal affections and societal fabric.

This anthology, totaling just over 42,000 words, has undergone professional editing. It offers glimpses into the characters' lives, exploring themes like the emotional struggle of adult monozygotic twins in "Leontine and Adeline" and challenging societal norms in "A Man in a Pub."

My writing journey began with a publication in the Daily Telegraph’s ‘Mini-Saga Competition in 1999, and I've since self-published "Dancing with Hitler" in 2020. "Midnight Slumber" represents a lifetime of observations, woven into themes that are timeless yet contemporary.

Thank you for considering my work. I believe "Midnight Slumber" will resonate in today’s literary landscape and eagerly await your feedback.

Warm regards,

Cristina