

[REDACTED]
FREMANTLE 6160
Australia

Wednesday, May 6, 1998

[REDACTED]
New York, NY 10019

Dear [REDACTED],

The field of marketing (or the *art*, or the *science*, depending on which cocktail party you're at) is possibly the most powerful, insane and corrupt industry in the world. It's the back alley where art meets business, where *perception is reality* and the technicality of truth is stretched until it cries. I work there, and I love it.

So take this world and throw characters into it. Scat, a marketing graduate who has a multi-million-dollar idea, but is too achingly naive to hold on to it. 6, a cold-blooded political assassin who annihilates her opposition in the corporate patriarchy. And Sneaky Pete, a close friend of Scat's fresh from the boardrooms of Tokyo, except he isn't really from Tokyo and definitely isn't a friend of Scat's.

Pitch these characters against the corporate monoliths of the soda industry, ensnare them in the whimsical hell of Hollywood--Madison Avenue's latest weapon--and give them every reason to betray each other, and you get "Syrup": a compulsive corporate satire.

Syrup is a blend of commercial grunt and literary style. It has a fast-paced, exciting story to tell and a highly likable protagonist to tell it. It's an original, sardonic, cinematic thriller in an Armani suit. In January, it was short-listed for the Wakefield Press Prize, a national competition for unpublished writers.

I'm 25, and unpublished if you don't count "The Proceedings of the 7th Bi-Annual World Marketing Congress", ISBN 0-7326 06209, and "The Proceedings of the Conference of Marketing Telecommunications and Information Management", ISBN 0-9659440-0-X (these are pretty big deals in marketing, trust me). I have a very flattering letter from Penguin, who rescued my previous novel from their slush pile, but eventually decided against publication. Syrup is better.

So I have this exciting new manuscript and I'm looking for the agent it clicks with. I'm going to risk breaking the rules to enclose the first three pages: then at least you'll know if you love or hate the style.

Thank-you very much for your time and consideration.

Max Barry