

Datlow-ElIen-20050227090003

To: Julie L. Sigall
Associate Register for Policy & International Affairs

Date: 02/27/2005

From: ElIen Datlow

Comment:

I spent two years trying to track down the copyright holder for a writer long dead. Well, it turns out there is none. So after much angst, frustration, and annoyance, a well known writer acquaintance took responsibility for our warranty clause and signed a contract so that we could publish the dead author's stories. And put money aside should any copyright holder ever step forward.

This problem has become increasingly common for literary estates where there is no heir or no designee and important works of literature are therefore in limbo--not in public domain and not represented by an agent. I urge a change in policy.