Beyond the Debut: Publisher One-Night Stands vs. Long Term Relationships

AWP Panel Event Outline:

1) Welcome and Intros of Panelist Bios (first 5-10 minutes)

2) Questions for panelists with encouragement to have open discussion: (approx. 50 min)
   
a) How did publishing the first book go? (~5 min each, 20 min total)
      (Did you have an agent, getting a publisher, and how did the literal debut of the first month or so of the book coming out go?)

b) How did you have to manage your expectations with the debut?

c) What did you think would happen next, in terms of the road to a second book? (myth of ascension and myth of “now you’re a famous fancy author”?) What actually happened next?

d) What changed with your second and/or subsequent books?

e) What’s it like to need to change agents or publishers? Where did that happen in your publishing trajectory? For those who went with indie presses, did your agent represent you or did you decide to send out the book on your own?

f) Considering the idea of how there is perhaps an assumption that everyone wants to get famous or be a best selling author…. What do you actually want out of publishing? Are there aspects of being a published author that could be better than fame?

g) What is actually satisfying about publishing? Why publish? What’s driving you?

3) Q&A with audience at the end (10-15 min)