

THE WRITER COMMUNITY'S  
INTRODUCTION TO

# *Editing & Feedback*



# 1

## *Self Editing*

Why is self editing important?

- Nothing is perfect first time round
- We are our harshest critics
- Time is money
- You will still need an editor, but if you get it as good as it can possibly be then you won't waste money on an editor fixing things you could have fixed yourself

# 2

## Self Editing Tips

Self-editing tips:

- Revisions (bigger picture) vs edits (more detail oriented)
- Edit in stages so you're not overwhelmed
- Read dialogue aloud with someone
- Step away from your story for a good amount of time so that you can read it with fresh eyes
- Edit it on another medium (paper/ e-reader), then when you put these edits back into the computer it will feel like it is another edit
- Even if you edit as you go, be prepared to do developmental edits of the plot structure and story at the end
- Important to read lots to learn sentence structures etc. so that you know what to look out for when editing

# 3

## *What to Look out for*

What to look out for when self-editing:

- Plot holes
- Scenes to add (to) or change
- Character consistency
- Character voice
- Timelines
- Is the dialogue natural?
- Symbols & motifs
- Setting - double check for white rooms
- Senses - include 2-3 in each scene and have the character note things they see
- Character development - make sure they have full arcs
- Sentence structure
- Filler words
- Check tenses
- SPAG (spelling, punctuation & grammar) - leave this until the very end

# 4

## RaeLynn's Self Editing Process

- 1st Stage
  - Missing themes, plot holes, tying up the book end to end, check for full character arcs, satisfying ending
- 2nd Stage
  - Consistent character voice, check “white room syndrome”, 2-3 senses at all times, show vs tell, dialogue tags
- 3rd Stage
  - Tenses, perspective, sentence structure, artistic writing
- 4th Stage
  - Read it aloud and don't touch it

# 4

## RaeLynn's Self Editing Process

- 5th Stage
  - Give it to beta readers then add in their feedback
- Wait 1 week to 1 month between stages of edits (Longer for heavier edits)
- Keep a notebook to note symbols, plot holes, & questions you have
- Keep track of quotes for book promos
- Once all 5 stages are complete, then you can feel confident to send to an editor

# 5

## *Critique Partners & Beta Readers*

### Critique Partners

- Long term relationship
- Serious feedback, more specific
- Bounce ideas off of one another
- 1-2 people
- Lots of time and responsibility
- Important for them to be at the same level of writing

### Beta Readers

- They read the story as a reader
- They give general feedback
- You can create surveys for them to focus their feedback
- It can be a short term relationship
- Much easier to get beta-readers
- Try not to take comments and critiques personally

# 5

## *Critique Partners & Beta Readers*

### Beta Readers

- Beta readers can fix plot holes, give general comments and reactions for free before you engage an editor
- Make sure you are clear with your beta readers and you explain what you want from them. Don't be afraid to give ground rules and ask specific questions. Also, tell readers why you wrote it and see if that comes across in the read.

DID YOU FIND THIS USEFUL?

FOLLOW

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& THE FOUNDERS:

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