

Memorandum

From: Joseph Hardy

To: Richard Zimdars

Re: Developmental Edit: Chapter 13

Introduction

This memo will serve the purpose of analyzing the copyedit I completed on chapter 13 of your manuscript, *Mother's Night*. I will identify the errors made and give insight on how to approach them. I will also generate queries for the text for the things that I found confusing or unclear.

Grammar Revisions

There are certain instances where the number/subject agreement is incorrect. For example, a sentence on page 8 reads "They were four games into the season and he couldn't get anywhere near a television set when one of their games *were* televised." Here the word used should be "was" because the text is referring to *one* of their games and not just their games, which is when "were" would be used.

There are multiple times where a sentence runs for an entire paragraph. My suggestion would be to consult the highlighted sections of the manuscript and then consider how it would be possible to split up these run-ons into separate sentences. Having four to five clauses separate by commas will be exhausting for the reader in comparison to having three to five sentences that say the same thing.

Punctuation Revisions

There are several instances where I would suggest removal or replacement of exclamation points. The plentiful use of exclamation points in this story gives the impression that everyone is yelling at each other all the time, and the tone seems very monotonous at these moments. If everyone is yelling all the time, it makes it harder to portray exclamations at other points in the story. With exclamation points, less is more.

Word Choice

At times, the word choice in the text reads to a much more adult reader than your intended audience. Phrases such as " aptly subdued", " we'd take in some of the *amenities* of her 'penthouse' since *our* rooms aren't as *accommodating*", and " Jedda gave the last man a quizzical look" seem a little too mature for your target audience, in my opinion.

Your word choice and vivid descriptions really bring your characters to life. However, your use of adverbs on page 4 at Q14 and Q18 is an example of how these adverbs can be bordering on excessive. Removing some of these adverbs will strengthen the descriptions you already have. When you use your adverbs judiciously (I've marked certain strong points in the text), your characters will jump off the page.

Queries

Q1: Are the first two paragraphs which give exposition in the season's scores essential in your narrative? And if so, is there a way to edit down or portray the scores/stats of four basketball games more effectively?

Q2: Is your use of the ellipse on page 6 a reflection of Ryan's thoughts, or a reflection of the narrative itself?

Q3: When are the times that do you go inside of the characters mind and narrate their thoughts? It seems disjointed and I can't tell if some things are being said by the characters minds, or by the narrator. If you don't narrate from a first-person perspective then ignore this query. If the first person narrative is used, it would be easier to comprehend if quotes, italics, bolds, or something similar were used to identify this switch. I've identified these points of confusion at various points with track changes.

Conclusion

This novel depicts a vivid fantasy world with a unique twist on Earth. The narrative is very descriptive, but at times could use shorter and more concise sentences. Keeping consistency with the voice you use, which targets a younger audience, will make the manuscript easily accessible by your target demographic. Overall, a very good chapter that I believe will benefit from the suggestions in this memo.