

TIPS FOR MY CLIENTS

After I do my edits, my responsibility for my client's book ends. What happens next is all up to you, which is why I put together this document of tips. I honestly and truly want to see my clients and their work do well. Getting your book edited is a great start and a big step, but you will still have work to do. Editing can be tricky business for a writer. Let these tips guide you so you will have the best book you can offer readers.

- Don't accept my changes right away.

I use Track Changes in Word to markup anything I do to your story. It would seem that the easiest thing to do would be to accept all the changes I make, but I really want you to go through each page to see what I did.

- Don't rush your edits.

After I send back your document with my edits, please take your time with it. Go through it to see what I did, read the comments in the sidebar, and work on the things I suggest need fixing. When I make suggestions on how to make a scene or chapter better, you especially need to take your time. If you're only adding a sentence or two to fix these things, you're not doing your story justice. It needs more than a sentence or two, so sit back and brainstorm. Even if I'm doing a second round, don't rush to get it back in a few days.

- Read through your revisions.

Every time you make revisions, you need to carefully read through your story. Sometimes during extensive edits words can get left in that should've been deleted, so after I do my edits and you fix what I suggest, read your manuscript for errors.

NOTE: Editors are human. They have a big task with editing a book, especially if they do critiques on the story, as I do. Since editors are human, sometimes we can miss things. This doesn't mean we are inadequate. Most books I edit require extensive edits, which means the pages are marked up a lot. These markups can make it hard to spot everything. With that said, I catch most errors and fix them, but every once in a while a few may slip past me. This shouldn't worry you. Even my editor and I have missed a few things in my published works. It's normal, and no book is completely error-free.

- Beta readers are a MUST!

A beta reader is a friend, writer, or reader who will read your book for free and offer feedback on it. Even if you had beta readers before I edit your story, if I implement a lot of edits and you have to fix scenes or chapters, I STRONGLY suggest getting another beta reader or two to look it over and give you feedback.

Join the Insecure Writer's Support Group's Critique Group on Facebook. After you give genre information, you'll be added to a group of 2-4 people who write in the same genre. Message these individuals asking them if they are available to critique your book.

- Don't rush to publish.

If you're self-publishing, please don't rush the process because you're anxious to get it out there. Don't take shortcuts because you want to be published NOW. If you have no money at the moment, it's a better time than any to go slow until you do. Take each step of publishing at a time.

- Self-Publishing:

Go through my edits carefully, read through it, and then get a beta reader or two.

If you can, get someone to proofread it. Proofreaders can help spot small errors that came about due to extensive edits, such as a word that should've been deleted.

Get a cover artist or create your own. If you do your own, research, look for images you can freely use or pay for, use a good program to add text to the cover, and get feedback. A cover is the first thing readers see. It can't be amateurish, and it needs to reflect your story.

Hire a professional formatter to put together your ebook and print book correctly. They will give you copies in every format you'll need. A properly formatted ebook will have the same tab throughout and the right side will be aligned so the text will be in a perfect box.

Finally, research publishers. Be very careful what companies you give your book to. Not all of them are equal. Smashwords (for ebooks) and Amazon's Createspace (for print) are usually the best way to go.

Know how to promote it. Your job isn't done after you publish your book. Now you need to promote it. Check out [my blog](#) for many tips on promoting a book for free.

- Traditionally publishing:

Having an editor edit your book before you send it to an agent is a good idea. It increases your odds of being accepted. After you get an agent they may edit it too. And so will your publisher. No...you're never really done editing until you publish.

Even though you're not self-publishing, I still want you to take your time with the edits and to get a beta reader or two before you start submitting it.

Now that you've read through these tips, I wish you the best of luck!