

Editing Sample

PLOT AND PACING

While there are some good reveals in this draft, I felt that the pacing of the book was quite slow after F and K leave the city without much of a sense of urgency or danger for them. I didn't really get the sense that F was actively looking for N or trying to find the machine and instead was just waiting around playing house with K. I have to admit that when it got to the point where they were playing cards I did get discouraged that things were moving far too slowly.

One of the main reasons that I didn't get any sense of danger for them is that they nearly effortlessly go in and out of the city throughout this book. While it is implied that the city has become too dangerous for them to stay there, they are still going in everyday to visit I and run errands. This took a lot of the tension out of the story for me – I wasn't worried that someone was going to get killed or captured or really even hurt seriously.

At this point, there is still no strong villain for readers (or the characters in the story) to really be afraid of. While there is one sighting of G where he *****, this doesn't have a follow through. There is no chance to see how vicious or how formidable an enemy the antagonists will be for F. While they might have influence and power and have turned F and K into criminals, they haven't even managed to find the cottage where our heroes are hiding, which is said to be right outside of the city. And, the group seems to get out of encounters with G's goons quickly and easily every time.

There needs to be a strong villain who is actively putting increasingly difficult obstacles in the group's way and is consistently forcing them into things that are challenging both physically and emotionally/psychologically. There could also be more complications added by characters like the *** or even between each other. For example, maybe *****.

Each characters needs to have that “no turning back now” moment where they decide to join this journey. Right now, for a lot of them, there is no choice and they are just following along with the events that happen to them. Readers need to be able to see how and why each makes that decision, as it will define how they are seen as characters.

I wanted there to be more to F's transformation into E and of K taking on his new role. This is something that is huge for their character arcs for this book and something that affects their relationship with each other. One suggestion that I have is to *****. They can concentrate on training, growing and changing. This would also present a great opportunity to add a bit of tension. What if they had to sneak away or F had to *** in order to go back to get I and L? What if someone was left behind on a trip back to the city and then they had to fight to convince *** to help them with a rescue mission? Each trip into the city should be crucial to them reaching their goals and should be more high

stakes and dangerous than the last. And things should go wrong for them every once in a while! This is what creates great conflict and forces them to adapt and grow.

As I have mentioned before, I felt that this book was a little lacking in action for a story that is based around a group of fighters. I wanted more chances to see them do what they have trained themselves to do for most of their lives. The one moment when I think there needs to be action the most is in the ending. The last chapter of this book should be EPIC and what is on the page right now, I am sorry to say, was a let down.

The last impression of this book needs to be something that affects readers so much that they can hardly wait for the next installment of the series to come out and I didn't get that from this ending. There should be something in the ending that raises the stakes and assures readers that there is something great to come in the remaining books. Also, even though there is more story to come, the ending should feel like a real ending. This felt like it could have been the end of any chapter. I would suggest that you carry the story forward and start them on their journey to *** in this book. I wanted to see them function as a team within this installment and that didn't happen.