

Tex Thompson's death-or-glory guide to...



**EDITING LIKE A BOSS**

# Divide and Conquer

I. Content/Developmental Editing

Macro-level, big-picture revisions

II. Line/Copy Editing

Micro-level polish and stylistic improvements

III. Proofreading

Grammar, punctuation, and formatting

IV. Gathering and Interpreting Feedback

## Best Practices:

- work big to small
- let each draft rest between editing passes  
(Stephen King says at least a month)
- pack as much into each pass as possible  
(minimize re-readings)

# Five Hot Tips for..

## Content/Developmental Editing

#1: Print out your draft

*You will feel so accomplished! (And you will notice more)*

#2: Make a to-do list as you read

*Notice / list FIRST. Fix LATER.*

#3: Target accidental repetitions

*Make them deliberate or delete!*

#4: Sharpen relevant contrasts

*Between characters, scenes, settings, chapters, etc*

#5: Multitask relentlessly!

*A good page will advance the plot, build/reveal character, or develop the setting. A great page does at least two at once.*

# Five Hot Tips for..

## Content/Developmental Editing

Scene chart – useful during first major revision

#	What happens	Why I need the scene	What readers want to know
1	Prologue	External plot Intro the world set up Bertie's voice and dilemma	will she get away from the bulls?
2	Walking down the hill on the way to the depot.	External and Internal plot Intro the world. Her problem and challenge	what kind of world is this? Is she actually going to go through with the marriage?
3	The tribe pulled from the train/ confronted by Manfred.	External plot. 1. The tribe is the catalyst – nothing in her world changes unless they show up. 2. Shows Manfred's brutality	who are these kids and what's going to happen to them? What do they have to do with Birdie?
4	Alone with Manfred on the platform	External plot. shows their relationship is not normal. Overhear Manfred's convo on phone—involved in something. Internal <u>plot</u> : she is already resisting.	Will Birdie get the bag without Manfred noticing? What is Manfred looking for? Is it the bag?

Try doing this for one of your favorite books!

# Five Hot Tips for..

## Content/Developmental Editing

### Story writeup —an as-long-as-you-want synopsis

#### PART THREE

Hidden inside a double-decker animal freight out of Louisville (livestock cars have priority and are more direct), the Tribe snuggles in on the upper deck. Trance spends most of the morning puking over the side. Eva is curled into a ball and won't speak. In one corner, Bean and April whisper about their concerns that Peaches is more than she appears. Birdie fusses over Gilly, who is getting sicker, and reflects on being semi-hostage again. But the thrill of riding a fast train across open country overcomes her fears. When Trance recovers, he regales them with stories of California and the sea, renewing his promise of getting them there soon—just one more job. Moods lift in the wide open spaces under blue skies.

Welcome to New Orleans, a permanently flooded anti-Venetian nightmare. Skirting the Quarter where the Zeros live high and dry, the Tribe arrives by pirogue at the Super Dome--now a refugee center for the hundreds of thousands of migrant Americans misplaced by both hurricanes and hard times. New Orleans may be drowned but the carnival atmosphere lives on. Everything imaginable is for sale or barter. Video screens everywhere flash ads and alerts for missing people. Barkers try to lure desperate refugees into tents to sign up for the IZs, Indentured Zones where corporations promise food and

A great way to 'test' revisions first!

# Five Hot Tips for..

## Line/Copy Editing & Proofreading

#1: Change format for every pass

*Screen to print. Visual to audio. Times to Arial. Etc.*

#2: Consider buying a professional edit of ONE (middle-ish) chapter

*Make sure it comes with notes explaining relevant corrections.  
Teach yourself your own most common mistakes!*

#3: Target accidental repetitions

*Make them deliberate or delete!*

#4: Do at least one "fast pass"

*Read the whole thing in a day - best way to find overused words/phrases*

#5: Leave something unsaid

*What is too important to say directly?*

*What is so obvious you don't need to say it?*

# Five Hot Tips for..

## Gathering & Interpreting Feedback

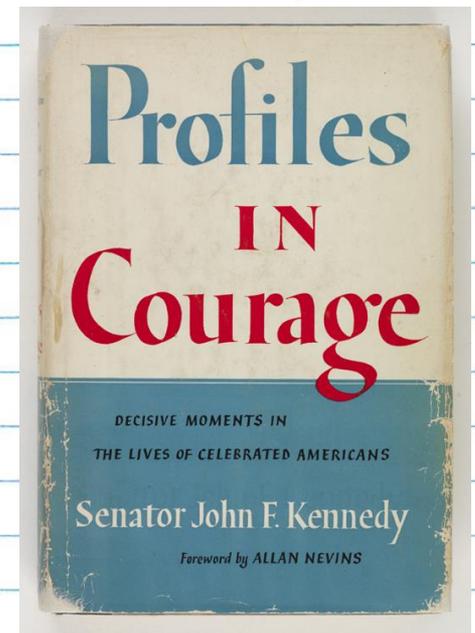
Time



Money



Remember: where you set the slider matters less than the total size of your investment!



Are you more able to invest time (by trading critiques with other writers) or money (by hiring a professional editor?)

# Five Hot Tips for..

## **Gathering & Interpreting Feedback**

#1: When you don't have personal connections/references to draw on, look for a guild, group, or organization

*This filters out A LOT of shady characters*



TYPE OF WORK	ESTIMATED PACE	RANGE OF FEES
<b>EDITING</b>		
Basic copyediting	5–10 ms pgs/hr	\$30–40/hr
Heavy copyediting	2–5 ms pgs/hr	\$40–50/hr
Website copyediting		\$40–50/hr
Developmental editing	1–5 pgs/hr	\$45–55/hr
Substantive or line editing	1–6 ms pgs/hr	\$40–60/hr
<b>FACT CHECKING</b>		\$30–40/hr
<b>INDEXING</b>		\$35–65/hr \$5.50–\$12/pr ind pg
<b>LAYOUT</b>		
Books	6–10 pgs/hr	\$45–85/hr
Newsletters	1–4 pgs/hr	\$40–100/hr
Websites		\$16–20/pg
<b>MANUSCRIPT EVALUATION</b>		\$45–55/hr

[HOME](#)[MAP](#)[CALENDAR](#)[VOLUNTEER](#)[JOIN US](#)[DONATE](#)[SPECIAL EVENTS](#)

## Find Your Tribe

Looking for a North Texas writers group? You've come to the right place! Click any of the pins below for more information about our member organizations.

### MAP KEY

**RED:** Critique groups. Writers submit pages and/or read their work aloud to receive feedback.

**BLUE:** Program groups. Writers attend to hear special presentations from local authors and experts.

**PURPLE:** Groups that offer both presentations and critique opportunities.

**YELLOW:** Discussion groups. Writers meet to discuss best practices and solve problems.

**GREEN:** Writing classes. Writers attend one or several consecutive sessions to learn a specific skill.

**NOTE:** some groups fall under multiple categories – be sure to visit their websites for full details.

← Dallas Area Romance Authors

name  
Dallas Area Romance Authors

description  
MEETS: Fourth Saturdays, 9:30AM to noon  
DUES: none for RWA members; \$10 per meeting for visitors  
WEBSITE: dallasarearomanceauthors.com  
ADDRESS: Spaghetti Warehouse - 1517 N Central Expy, Plano 75075

Map showing various colored pins (red, blue, purple, yellow, green) indicating writer groups across the Dallas area, including locations like Sanger, Denton, Grapevine, Irving, Dallas, Fort Worth, Arlington, Burleson, Mansfield, DeSoto, and McKinney.

# Five Hot Tips for..

## Gathering & Interpreting Feedback

#1: When you don't have personal connections/references to draw on, look for a guild, group, or organization

*This filters out A LOT of shady characters*

#2: Try giving single chapters first

*Screen for flakey friends and unhelpful readers*

#3: Find your beta readers' superpowers

*And deploy them accordingly - each reader is only fresh once!*

#4: Look for points of convergence

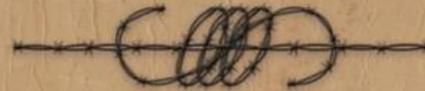
*What comments do you keep getting?*

#5: Sensible advice makes sense

*People who notice a problem are usually right.  
People who suggest a solution are usually wrong.*

**Bonus Tip:**  
**if you need help, hit me up!**

**TEX THOMPSON**



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Professional Extrovert

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