



The Editor's Eye: A Practical Guide to Transforming Your Book from Good to Great

Stacy Ennis

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Editing is integral to the writing process, but its role is often misunderstood. What if editing could make writing less stressful and more enjoyable? What if it could help you write sharper, more compelling prose?

'The Editor's Eye: A Practical Guide to Transforming Your Book from Good to Great' shows you how editing can help you write your best book. In this no-nonsense guide, book coach and editor Stacy Ennis takes you through the ins and outs of the often bewildering book-editing process. As you begin to understand how writing and editing complement each other, you'll become more confident as a writer, finish your book faster, and move toward the ultimate goal: publication.

Seasoned and would-be authors will discover how to:

- * Master the basics: Understand the four core editing stages and when they should take place.
- * Write with an editor's eye: Streamline your writing with self-editing tips.
- * Hire and work with editors. Learn where to look, what you can expect to pay, and how to collaborate.
- * Revise painlessly. Implement editor and reader feedback with ease.
- * Learn from the pros. Get advice from 20 publishing experts, fiction and nonfiction authors, and editors.

To learn more about 'The Editor's Eye' and to download free resources, such as a sample style guide, sample letter of agreement, manuscript review form, editing checklist, visit www.stacyennis.com.

The Editor's Eye: A Practical Guide to Transforming Your Book from Good to Great Details

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Nichole Macdowell says

This book is essential for anyone thinking of writing a book, and even for those who already have. Taking Stacy's advice to heart will greatly improve the writing and editing process for anyone. It's also a must-read for rookie editors. The book offers invaluable and no-nonsense tips on how to find and work with an editor to create the best possible product. The Editor's Eye even has a bonus collection of practical tools, working documents and checklists at the back, which are simply the icing on the cake.

W. Whalin says

In a world with traditional publishers cutting back on editors and editing combined with the explosion of self-publishing, where “anyone” can write a book and get it into the market, Stacy Ennis has written a timely book for every writer which touts a missing detail in many books: every book needs an editor.

In the second chapter, Ennis explains why every writer needs to read THE EDITOR'S EYE saying, “The relationship you have with an editor can be the most important element of your book-writing experience. In our ever-disconnected (or virtually over-connected) society, “relationship” seems to be the overused catchphrase plastered across billboards, websites, buses, and television commercials. But in the craft of writing and the business of publishing, the word is a perfect description for the connection between writers and editors. This relationship is the cornerstone of the writing and editing process....With that in mind, here's my formula for success: compelling and relevant story + skilled editor + good author-editor relationship = great book. It's that simple.” (Page 20)

After writing more than 60 books for traditional publishers and working with hundreds of authors on their books for publishers, the wisdom of her words leaps out of every page of this book. She details the entire editorial process in detail. And helps writers understand the importance of each type of editing—developmental, substantive (content), copyediting and proofreading. Her tips and insights into the editorial process are excellent and will help many people. For example in Chapter Five on Hiring and Working with an Editor, Ennis covers three reasons for why: 1) An editor can sharpen your writing and ideas. 2) An editor can save you time and money. 3) An editor can help you do your book right the first time.

In addition to her own insights, Ennis includes interviews with other publishing professionals in the final pages of each chapter. Finally the appendix includes several valuable forms: Manuscript Review Form, Editing Checklist, Sample Letter of Agreement and Sample Style Guide. These resources are free for the reader to download and use repeatedly as a valuable resource.

From my review, I hope it is clear that I love this book and believe it is a valuable addition to the publishing community. So why did I give it four stars and not five stars?

THE EDITOR'S EYE has a strange, ugly and unprofessional cover. Throughout my reading I wondered why take such a wonderful book and wrap it in such an unattractive package. Cover design is a key element and sells many books. The copyright page (which most people don't read) gave me the answer when it said, “Cover Design by Stacy Ennis.” How ironic in a book which encourages writers to be excellent and hire

outside help to produce excellence—the author designed her own cover. Thankfully most books are spine out on our bookshelves so you don't have to see it.

I applaud Ennis and her excellent work on crafting THE EDITOR'S EYE. I believe it will be a valuable resource for many writers in the publishing world and hope it will become a classic. I recommend this book.

Nina del Arce says

Provides a good walkthrough on the process of participating in the editing process from a client's point of view, but would have benefitted from providing more of the editor's perspective. While I found some sections very helpful (particularly the parts regarding qualities to look for in a potential editor, editing agreements/specification of deliverables and style guides), on the whole the behind-the-scenes activities involved in editing remained vague.

At times the tone struck me as somewhat patronising. While the need for writers to hire an editor is figuratively *hammered* in, it could have been done with a little more finesse and less repetition. Further, the condescending tone towards self- and indie-publishing was uncalled for, particularly given that these authors are most certainly part of the target audience for a book such as this one.

If you are looking for a book to describe the editing process from an outside point of view specifically, you've come across the right title. If you truly want to see through 'The Editor's Eye', however, I regret to say this book may not help you much.

Kim Foster says

As an editor, I am always interested in books to help me grow in my field. Even though this book is targeted to writers, I discovered that it's definitely a great resource for editors. Ennis strongly shows the value and necessity of hiring an editor if authors are serious about producing a quality book.

Ennis promotes a collaborative relationship between author and editor, which I agree with entirely. She clearly explains everything you want to know about the publishing process and paints a clear picture of what to expect—lining out what the different levels of editing are and what each entails. She gives great insight into how writers should approach communication with editors, as well as wonderful examples of questions to ask--things I can use to prepare myself as an editor. I appreciate the valuable tools she presents to the writer. She freely shares resources that I will use as I compose proposals and prepare for what to communicate to potential clients.

Definitely a worthy read!

Gabe Snell says

As a newbie author, I found The Editor's Eye to be invaluable. Understanding the different types of editing and what each is looking for gives you an entirely different approach to your writing. I highly recommend

this to anyone working in or toward a career in writing/editing.

Al says

Regular readers of my reviews or ramblings elsewhere, primarily at Indies Unlimited, know that where copy editing and proofreading are concerned, I tend to come down hard on indie books that are deficient in this area. If a book falls short here, I see it as an unambiguous indication that the author or publisher failed to put the proper polish on their product in a way that is easily measurable and has nothing to do with personal taste, other than how forgiving a reader's inner editor is. If I start picking apart a book with lots of specific examples of shoddy writing, plot holes, or scenes that did nothing to move the story forward, the book has even bigger problems. All of these are indicative of less than adequate editing at some point in the writing and preparation of the book. All of this is a lot of words (that with proper editing would be many fewer) to say that I believe every author needs an editor (and a copy editor and a proofreader). Being indie doesn't give anyone a pass.

In this book (well edited, BTW) Stacey Ennis explains for the current or wannabe author (or the interested reader) each stage of the editing process, what is involved, and how each will make your book better. In her words, how to take your book from good to great. She also tries to straighten out some misconceptions associated with editors, what they do, and gives advice on finding and hiring the right person (bad editing might be worse than no editing).

Although I had a basic idea of what each phase of editing involved, I felt like I came away from reading this book with a deeper understanding of the details. The only complaint I have is minor, that at times it felt like the fine line between informing about editing and making a hard sell might have been crossed, at least for some people. However, the discussion of the various modes of publishing (self-publishing, small press, Big 6, and variations) largely made up for it in its evenhandedness in explaining the pros and cons of each, while including an appropriate disclaimer to beware of and steer clear of the predatory vanity publishers.

**Originally written for "Books and Pals" book blog. May have received a free review copy. **

Mark Polino says

There are plenty of good things in here about editing, but with a title that includes "Transforming your book" I wasn't prepared for quite so many "hire an editor" pieces of advice.
