



Early Feedback

Your first readers are sometimes called “beta readers,” but really they’re just people who can help you see your book with fresh eyes.

Why This Step Matters

Once you’ve tidied your manuscript, it’s helpful to let a few trusted people read it before you move on. They’ll spot things you can’t see anymore, confusing moments, slow chapters, characters who don’t quite land, or scenes that shine more than you realised.

Beta readers are free – if they are charging then you should have higher expectations.

Who to Ask

Choose readers who:

- enjoy the kind of book you’ve written
- will be honest but kind
- won’t try to rewrite your story for you
- can read within a reasonable timeframe

You don’t need many, three to five is plenty.

What to Ask Them

Give them a few simple prompts, such as:

- Which parts did you enjoy most
- Were there any moments where you felt lost
- Did any characters feel unclear or inconsistent
- Was the pacing too fast, too slow, or just right
- Did anything feel missing or unnecessary

Keep it light. You’re looking for impressions, not line-by-line edits.

How to Use Their Feedback

You may get different opinions, that's normal. Look for patterns. If several people mention the same issue, it's worth addressing. If only one person mentions something, treat it as optional.

Once you've made any changes you feel are helpful, your manuscript will be in a much stronger place for the next stage, whether that's professional editing, formatting, or preparing your cover.