



Hiring An Editor – Or Not

Once you've completed your own self-edit, you'll reach a crossroads: do you hire an editor, or do you publish without one? There's no single right answer. It depends on your budget, your confidence in the manuscript, and the kind of book you're creating. This page is here to help you make that decision with clarity rather than pressure.

A Quick Prompt to Get You Started

Ask yourself: *What would I want an editor to improve?*

If you can answer that clearly, you're already halfway to knowing whether you need one.

Why You Might Hire an Editor

A good editor can help you:

- spot issues you've become blind to
- strengthen structure, pacing, and clarity
- tighten language and remove repetition
- improve character consistency
- catch errors before they reach readers

Editors don't rewrite your book. They help you see it more clearly.

Why You Might Choose Not To

Not every book needs a professional edit. You might decide against it because:

- your budget is limited
- you've had strong beta feedback
- the book is short or straightforward
- you're confident in your self-editing
- you're publishing for a small, personal audience

Self-publishing gives you the freedom to choose what's right for your project.

Types of Editing (If You Do Hire)

If you decide to bring in help, it's useful to know the main types:

- **Developmental editing** – big-picture story, structure, pacing
- **Line editing** – sentence-level clarity, tone, rhythm
- **Copyediting** – grammar, consistency, accuracy
- **Proofreading** – final polish before publication

You don't need all of these. Choose the level that matches your needs.

Working With an Editor

If you hire someone, make sure to:

- ask for a sample edit
- check their experience with your genre
- agree on scope, cost, and timeline
- be clear about what kind of feedback you want
- remember: you stay in control of the book

A good editor is a collaborator, not a director.

A Simple Exercise

Write a short note titled: **“What I want help with.”** List three things you'd like an editor to improve. If you struggle to fill the list, you may not need one.

A Final Thought

Hiring an editor isn't a sign of weakness. Not hiring one isn't a mistake. It's simply a choice, and the right choice is the one that helps you publish a book you're proud of.

An editor costs money so using one needs to be proportionate to the likely outcomes for your book.