

Therese Arkenberg
The Manuscript Doctor: Prescriptions for Strong Storytelling
Service Descriptions and Fees

To arrange an edit, please email me at tarkenberg199[at]yahoo.com with the details of your project. It's best include the length of your manuscript in words, not pages, as the same number of words can fit on more or fewer pages based on font choice, paragraphs, and spacing.

You can also hire my services through Fiverr and Upwork (formerly Elance).

Timeline: I'll offer a specific timeframe based on my current schedule and the needs of a particular project. Short stories can take as little as 48 hours (pieces of writing under 2,000 words usually receive a 24-hour turnaround), and novels between one week and two months.

It is not advisable to receive edits within three days of a submissions or publishing deadline—both you and I need time to read carefully, process, advise, and revise—but it can be done if circumstances require. I know how life happens.

To guarantee *same day* turnaround, a surcharge will be added depending on the length of the story. This is to secure your slot in my schedule and cover any “overtime” I put in to execute rush work on top of my regular clients’ orders.

Line-by-Line Copyediting

Copyediting (or copy-editing or copy editing) ensures that your manuscript contains correct grammar and consistent style, but that's just the beginning. I also analyze your work's goal and message, offering suggestions to tailor each phrase for a clear, vivid flow of ideas and elegant expression. My feedback evaluates pacing, content, and word choice. Throughout the process, I offer advice and techniques to develop your writing talents even further.

Beginning writers appreciate my thorough yet encouraging and educational feedback style.

Experienced writers know they can count on me to meet a tough deadline and to respect their unique authorial voice.

A certified copyeditor through the University of San Diego, I'm experienced in revising manuscripts to be compliant with the Chicago Manual of Style, while remaining flexible to accommodate different house styles or author preferences.

My suggestions are made with inline comments and tracked changes using Microsoft Word's review features. We can also use Google Docs or other file formats—just ask.

See **proofreading** to arrange a second review of manuscripts that have been revised after my feedback.

Copyediting fees range from 0.5 to 2.5 cents per word. If contracted hourly, I budget 7-20 hours for most book-length manuscripts and 1-4 hours for short stories and novelettes.

I'm happy to provide a free sample edit on up to 1000 words (about 3 pages) of your story to see if we're a fit. This promotion is available for prospective manuscripts of 30,000 words and up.

For very short stories of 1,500 words or less, I ask a flat fee of \$20. Pricing per word for less than this amount does not fully account for the time required to arrange the logistics of the edit.

Satisfied clients:

I can't say enough about the timely and thorough manuscript evaluation I received from Therese. Her detail-oriented critique not only provided me with invaluable suggestions with regards to the overall structure of my story but, just as important, also touched upon how to fine-tune the subtle aspects of my novel to create a more superior read. I look forward to utilizing her skill set again during the editing phase. –Alex F.

I have had the luxury of working with Therese on three manuscripts. Two of my manuscripts she was assigned to me by my publisher. Therese's ability to navigate my science fiction novel was amazing. She not only did line edits that were far superior to her contemporaries, she managed to inject useful and thoughtful comments to help improve the story along the way. Because of her outstanding work, I sought her out for an independent novel I wrote. Again, her work was amazing. My manuscript came back dosed in a familiar red, and I knew it would be better for it. Her suggestions made it obvious she spent time looking up facts and helping me flesh out some shaky areas of my story. Each edit was money well spent and I would highly recommend her for anybody looking for a thorough, efficient, and in-depth editor. – Jeremy Flagg

Therese copy edited my novel and did a great job. She offered many helpful suggestions and continues to respond to questions in a timely manner. I highly recommend Therese Arkenberg if you need fast and accurate editing. –Michael E. Kmiotek

My line-by-line editing Gig has earned 75+ five star reviews on Fiverr.

Developmental Editing

My line-by-line comments include feedback on plot and character development. For an even deeper evaluation of plot, character arcs, and overall style, I provide 3-8 page Developmental Memos.

These can be delivered alongside a copyedit, though authors may prefer to have the developmental edit done beforehand, since a story can change substantially between drafts. I sometimes offer light copyediting as part of a developmental edit to bring the author's attention to style, grammar, and word choice. I have also provided memos with copyediting for novels that are close to publication as a final pre-release "beta reading" package.

If you'd like to know more about this service, I can share an example memo upon request (from a previous client's novel, with her gracious permission).

Developmental editing is \$35/hr. A book-length manuscript takes between 8-15 hours.

When developmental editing is combined with line edits, to the copyediting rate, add \$100-350 for a novel (about 3-10 hours) or \$35-95 for short stories and novelettes (about 1-3 hours).

Satisfied clients:

The memo alone is like a writing seminar targeted at my particular story. Therese Arkenberg's insights and editing skills were nothing short of remarkable. She seemed to know my characters better than I did. I was most fortunate to have found her. –T. Hahm

Therese was one of the beta readers for my new novel Spheria. The depth of her analysis and feedback were invaluable. She caught some very subtle continuity issues that I had not even thought of. Her love of sci-fi and technology also helped me in particular since this book was heavy on science. Last, the detail of her notes was amazing, nearly a paragraph by paragraph analysis of what worked and what didn't. I already asked her if we could working together again on my future projects (and if you use her as a result of this recommendation, I get first dibs!). – Jeff Jorczak, writing as Cody Leet

Therese is a talented writer and editor. I highly recommend her for manuscript review. She provided essential big picture suggestions for my novel with excellent ideas for conflict and character development as well as a close read with page by page comments to improve the draft. She made excellent and specific suggestions that improved my novel—and helped me strengthen my craft as a writer. –Zahara Hecksher

Proofreading

Proofreading removes remaining errors from a text that has already been edited. No matter how meticulous the edit and thorough the author's revision, there are often stray "typos," homonym confusions, and missing or extra punctuation. Having another look at the manuscript ensures that it's as clean as possible.

Proofreading fees range from 0.25-.5 (one-fourth to one-half) cent per word.

Query Letters/Book Pitches

Query letters are short—ideally less than 400 words—but editing them is an intense process. Every word must be chosen for the greatest accuracy and effectiveness. It's not uncommon for a query to be completely reorganized from draft to draft.

Many authors find it helpful to look at the query as a miniature version of your story. Each has a beginning, a middle, and an end (though that end is often a cliffhanger). Each provides an evocative emotional experience.

I give line-by-line feedback for query letters aimed at either literary agents and acquisitions editors. I also can offer feedback on the book blurb/back cover copy for self-published titles, which has a slightly different focus. In both cases, I provide grammatical corrections, questions to clarify the story, suggestions for more vivid word choice, and techniques to trim superfluous words. The final product will be concise, effective, and targeted to the agent or audience of your choice.

My fee to review query letters or book pitches is \$5 per draft. The average query sees 3-4 drafts, though some are completed in 2 or only need a round of polishing, and others may undergo several reinventions as we hone their focus.

I can also write the query letter or book pitch for you; please ask for details or see **copywriting**.

Satisfied Clients:

They should have a 6th star for people like [Therese]. She has an uncanny ability to sniff out weak writing, and suggest how to improve it. –Douglas Esper on Fiverr (Note: he received a proposal request 15 minutes after sending off a query we edited together!)

Very fast and efficient work. Trimmed down 69 words and made my query a lot smoother. She helped clarify a few key points too that would have had the agent guessing. –User Swedishfish89 on Fiverr

Formatting for Print-on-Demand and Ebooks

Prevent unsightly margins, wonky headers, or ugly and illegible fonts! Spare yourself the stress of trying to figure out file upload requirements, and leave your manuscript in my hands with confidence.

I can convert your book into an attractive format for paperback or hardcover print-on-demand publication through printers like Createspace and Lulu. Clean, simple design puts

your words in a professional package. Because POD companies charge by the page, my work can also save you some money by avoiding wasted space without causing crowded or cramped text.

Ebook authors, I'm also at your service in formatting files to be compatible for Kindle, Smashwords, and other distributors.

Your book will look the way you've always dreamed, with the font choice, page size, headers, and chapters you want. If you're unsure about a design choice, I can guide you through your options.

- I can provide custom headers and footers for individual chapters or stories in a short story collection, different headers for left and right pages, or the same throughout.
- I can dress up section breaks and chapter openings with symbols and drop caps.
- Your Table of Contents can be hyperlinked in an ebook and will include accurate page numbers in the printed version.
- Footnotes and endnotes can be provided upon request.
- Images can be included, such as a black and white author photo, but you may wish to seek a different, more specialized formatter for heavily illustrated books.

Satisfied clients:

I am happy with the results. I was on pins and needles because of the changes for my book[']s interior, plus working with someone I don't know. Glad I stepped out on faith. A great job, was VERY patient with this first time author and delivered results in great time. I will be using this one again! –User Livingoutloud10 on Fiverr

Excellent service! I'm very pleased and so glad I found this seller. She's prompt and professional and does quality work. I'll be back. –User Wmdctp on Fiverr

Market Research

As a talented, creative storyteller, you want to earn money from your work and share it with the largest audience you can.

After eight years of professional writing and editing with 100+ publications, I have extensive knowledge of markets for indie and genre work. I also have experience researching grants, subsidies, and fellowships for writers as well as filmmakers and visual artists.

I can find you opportunities based on your genre, location, demographic, and more.

- I research magazines, webzines, and anthology calls for short fiction.
- For longer work, I research literary agents and/or small presses and publishers who accept unagented submissions. I will *never* suggest a vanity publisher!
- I prioritize markets that pay professional rates of 6+ cents per word or advances + competitive royalties.
- I won't suggest nonpaying or "for the love" markets unless you're willing to work for exposure or publish in charity anthologies that donate proceeds to a cause.
- If you're seeking leads for grants, subsidies, fellowships, or residency programs, get in touch with the details!

Satisfied clients:

Yep, hands down one of the top people operating on fiver and you owe yourself to hire her. –Douglas Esper

Fast, thorough and extremely helpful! –User Lonestar2 on Fiverr

Self-Publishing and Marketing Strategy

After editing your work, I can help self-publishing authors through the process of bringing their book to life. I'll:

- Assist in the interior design and formatting of the book
- Help authors find and hire cover artists and other book production experts
- Prepare a book blurb and metadata for online sales at Amazon, Smashwords, BN.com, iBooks, and other stores
- Select sales channels and upload the book files for distribution
- Build a marketing plan that plays to your strengths

Marketing strategy brainstorming can also be helpful to authors published with a small press, or any author who wants to ensure they're doing the most they can to sell their work.

My fee to advise on self-publishing and marketing strategy is \$35 per hour. Preparing and executing a plan may take 4-8 hours over a series of sessions. I prefer to use email in my consultations because it provides an automatic written record, though Skype and in-person sessions may be arranged in certain circumstances. We can also set up a chat through Skype, Google Hangouts, or Facebook or LinkedIn messages.

Satisfied clients:

We began last spring after uncovering a story which our mother wrote for her grandchildren and our children. She had put a note on the cover of this manuscript; please try to publish this for all children to read. In honor of our mother, my sister and I began the process of trying to get this manuscript published. We really didn't know where to begin.

Meeting Therese was a God-send. She has prompted, helped and encouraged our efforts to get Mom's story out of our boxes and hands....Without Therese's editing help and direction on how to submit work for publication, this story, Shadow: the True Story of a Sandhill Crane, would still be a hidden manuscript in a box in one of our basements or attics...

Therese helped us decide what our market audience would be. What age group was this book going to reach? Were there environmental groups that would be interested in marketing such a book? What publishers should we submit the draft to? What would a contract look like with a publisher? What time lines do they use?

Therese gently and logically took us through all the steps we needed to think about when trying to find and publish Mom's book. My sister and I did not know how to start or complete the process of making the story into a real children's book.

Our Mom's book has been accepted for publication and both my sister and I know this would not have been possible without Therese's expert help. - Sue Wood & Alice Lundstrom

Copywriting and Revising Sales Copy

Together, we'll ensure that your product or service description is clear, concise, and vivid. By the time we're through, I'll have convinced myself to buy it! Your target audience will be captivated.

I can draft or revise product descriptions and brand information for your website, online stores like Amazon.com, eBay, or Etsy, brochures and catalogs, crowdfunding campaigns, or anywhere else you might market yourself.

Rewriting and Copywriting

Along with more than 80 fiction publications, I also have extensive experience writing articles, blog posts, ebooks, web content, instructions, FAQs, biographies, fliers, presentations, and much more.

I conduct in-depth research to create the most accurate, informative, and finely-crafted texts. Wordsmithing is my pride and joy, and I'll spin out sentences—simple and straightforward or fancy and frilly or downright silly, as you wish—on just about any topic, incorporating your directions and feedback on each draft. The results will be interesting, informative, and original.

Although I am a fiction writer, ghostwriting fiction or long-form nonfiction is not a service I offer. It requires a very specific skillset. However, if you would like to commission a story from me or send me information about your call for submissions, I will happily take a look.

My price for research and copywriting is \$35 per hour. The time required varies. With a good outline and detailed notes, I can write a short text in a quarter hour. Longer or more in-depth pieces, or a series of articles, could require 4 to 8 hours.

Outlines and Summary

Organization can be a pain. Luckily, my analytic mind and agile typing fingers are at your service!

I will prepare an outline, summary, abstract, logline, synopsis, or framework for any piece of writing you send me. Whether it's a story, blog post, article, or report, I'll select the significant details and present them in clear, concise, logical fashion.

Let me know:

For outlines—what information you want included in your outline (wordcount of section, content, names, dates, titles, and more) and in what order (chronological, alphabetical, other).

For summaries—what the purpose of the summary is and where it will appear (advertising, publishing, academic, book report), preferred tone of the summary (authoritative, lively & engaging, humorous), and level of detail.

Also let me know the minimum and/or maximum desired length for the outline or summary. I can describe 2500 words of content in just 25 if necessary!

Outlining and summary work is \$15 per hour.

Get in Touch

Please email me at [tarkenberg199\[at\]yahoo.com](mailto:tarkenberg199@yahoo.com) with the details of your project for a specific estimate of timeframe and fee.

I accept funds through PayPal or by check, usually half upon receipt of the manuscript, the remaining half upon delivery of completed review. For your convenience, I am happy to negotiate alternative payment plans or methods on an individual basis, including Western Union money transfers for international clients.

You can also hire my services through Fiverr and Upwork (formerly Elance).