

## Booknote Literary Services - Sample Developmental Edit 2

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1. Here you have two men talking back and forth. Yet I couldn't help wondering what the location was as I tried to visualize it. I suggest putting in a few lines right before their dialogue about where is 'Hal'. We know they are loading a truck but we don't get any indication of the scene. Always try to start a scene with touch/taste/smell/sight/sound – to draw the reader in.

Something like: "Life is good, sun's out," Captain Chambers, the old fart who managed seaplane traffic, helped him load the truck as a cruise ship blasted a ripping "Love Boat" tune with its horn. "Just think how much money you'll make."

2. The ship didn't trail people off. The people *trailed off of the ship*. Try, "A flock of tourists shuffled down the plank like whooping and hollering red ants."
3. The spray sent a surge? Try something like, "The impact of the plane sent a violent surge against the dock."
4. Why ignore the southern accent? Unless maybe, "Hal ignored the annoyingly chipper southern accent" etc.
5. Spent a good thousand or more a pop where? In the plane? Maybe, "Spent a good thousand bucks a pop at his store each time."
6. This really isn't needed. But if you keep it, add it to the line above "cash – with tip."
7. "Everywhere" is one word
8. You wrote "Small as it was, so did the town and old Hal loved it." So did the town what? Have smallness? For clarity, maybe try something like, "Small as the town was, it offered the best of the best. Old Hal loved it."
9. This floater line could use tweaking. "But the competition." Try perhaps, "Yet the competition was a bitch."
10. Saying, "not much to compete with" implies there is not much about Wal-Mart that can compete with Hal's. Yet it sounds like you are saying that Hal cannot compete with Walmart. Try something more clear such as, "Impossible to compete with" or "what man could compete with that?"
11. You need a transition from Hal's thinking about his town, history and Wal-Mart, before jumping into the young man stepping from the plane. Break this up with, "Stepping out of his memories, he spotted the young man..."
12. A shawl? Even in Alaska in the summer it's pretty cool. She'd need a jacket or heavy sweater. Hal was wearing gloves earlier in the scene, and this woman is wearing a rain hat. A shawl doesn't match this weather.
13. Pay special attention when you are talking about two people of the same gender. Or, one person of a gender as the narrator perspective seeing/talking about another. You said prior, "A large child crabbed around his body," then the next line, "Well, you don't say," he muttered...It sounds like the same 'he' for both lines. Should be "Hal muttered while watching the scene" etc.

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- 14.** If Hal can read people, what specifically is he reading about what Mr. Blake just did that was out of the ordinary? What is his interpretation of the behavior? After the “no time for questions”, you could say, “The man clearly was trying to distract him from the woman” or something of that nature
- 15.** He should probably say something about how it is illegal and may draw sheriff attention
- 16.** Into. Let them into
- 17.** Not sure I like this ending considering how many red flags Hal had. What would the ‘that’ stand for? You could just end it, “Hal scratched his old shag of white hair with all warning bells flaring.”
- 18.** Who is ‘she’? Use a name here.
- 19.** So in this line where she is defending herself, keep in mind short, tidy sentences. You don’t need to have them explain away or the cat’s out of the bag part. Remember that every word costs money with printing your book
- 20.** Since she’s so mad and to add emphasis, I would italicize the “see it” at the end of the sentence. To indicate her snippy tone, that is
- 21.** This first sentence is a little long on the tongue. You could always take off the “she held there”.
- 22.** Just saying ‘Hal’ is sufficient
- 23.** She pulled down the sun visor to get a look in the mirror. In the sentence above you said “get a look at you.” Try to catch when you use the same phrases or wording in multiple sentences. You could say “to peek in the mirror”
- 24.** Both of these sentences are a tad long which interferes with coherence. You could just say “colorful buildings” which incorporates both houses and business, etc.
- 25.** Separate these into two sentences. End the first one at ‘wanted felons’
- 26.** Italicize ‘living’ to make him emphasize his point here. Maybe also italicize ‘think about them’
- 27.** Yikes. I love the words and concept but it is a mouthful. Consider breaking it up into shorter separate sentences
- 28.** So if he was her bodyguard and was following her, why previously had the uncle been able to feel her up and manhandle her without interference by him?
- 29.** You can just say ‘provided’ instead of ‘tended to provide’
- 30.** I suggest taking out everything after this up to ‘too late’
- 31.** Italicize the shop name
- 32.** If these are her thoughts, italicize them
- 33.** You already used the word ‘crash’ above. Choose another for variety
- 34.** Italicize to emphasize his anger
- 35.** Why a hiking boot? Wilderness type boots wouldn’t be worn for a trip to town. Google men’s shoes!

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- 36.** Don't worry about things like "at his left / behind him / at his right." The reader can imagine where it is
- 37.** Perhaps too much description. "Shaking his head" already implies the man doesn't agree with things. You don't need to state that it shows concern since that is already apparent. Save your word count!
- 38.** Italicize *Alice in Wonderland* and *Aladdin*
- 39.** Daniel's reply was to Yelena. She said "this nice man was showing..." and he interrupted with "I know what he was doing." This implies he is talking to Yelena. Yet the next words seem directed toward the man, yet it was clear he is talking to Yelena. He continues, "...any more than I am interested in seeing your..." You may want to add a beat such as "Daniel turned to the man" and then continue with what he says
- 40.** This is perhaps too obvious of a run-on sentence. Add a period after "Flushed her body"
- 41.** If Daniel noticed the man was getting suspicious, would he really continue with this controlling harsh tone?
- 42.** I suggest omitting this line about eye on the violin. Start it with Daniel grabbing her elbow. It seems a bit too hefty in the description
- 43.** Simplify this to "that will never happen" by itself