KATE O'DONNELL, Editorial Practice

Manuscript Assessment/Reader's Report

This is a read of and response to the entire text, and takes the form of sparse margin queries and a short (5- to 10-page) report. The report includes a detailed synopsis. The fee for this service depends on the length of the manuscript. (For example, a 130,000-word manuscript will cost $AU2000 and an 80,000-word manuscript will cost $AU1300.)

The manuscript report might give you some ideas about the areas on which you should focus during your next rewrite. It is intended as a springboard for your creativity — I want to inspire you rather than direct you. I function as 'a first reader', and I hope to provide an insight into the experience of reading your work that will help you edit yourself and improve your writing.

Developmental support

I provide guidance and feedback to selected authors as they write or self-edit their work. I charge a day rate of $AU600 (or $120 per hour) so that it's possible for an author to book me to read and respond to a new draft of a work I've read before. My response comes in the form of annotations on the manuscript and a conversation, usually via telephone or Zoom. This is also a good way to access follow up once you've had a reader's report or structural edit, and it's how I charge for taking in copy-edits as well.

Structural report

This is an in-depth read of and response to a manuscript prior to an author's final draft. It comes in the form of margin queries on the page of the manuscript and a report, the length of which will be dictated by the amount of work that needs to be done — this will be confirmed prior to commencement and it will affect the price of the report. Reports start at $AU2400 for short, straightforward, full-length novels.

A structural report addresses plot, character, relationships, flow, continuity and, in a general way, voice.

Copy edit

This is a line-by-line edit of your manuscript. It covers basic fact-checking, spelling, grammar, punctuation, and voice, as well as everything above — plot,

character, etc. When I copy edit a manuscript I also prepare it for typesetting, using either Word's inbuilt style tools or embedded instructions. This means that headings and other different text elements are organised and clarified for the typesetter or designer, meaning that your product — the printed or electronic book — will be more easily made to look professional and polished. Copy edits of full-length novels (70,000+ words) start at $AU2800.

Please note that the fee for any work I do for you includes one telephone or Zoom debrief, once you have had time to process my response to your writing. I am happy to reschedule your booking, as long as you request the change at least two weeks in advance. Cancellations with less than two weeks' notice will incur a 10% kill fee.

Generally I do not proofread — which is the final read of the book once it is laid out by a typesetter for printing and ebook conversion — other than for trade publishers. I can refer you to proofreaders, however.

Book doctoring and ghostwriting

Contact me for more information about scheduling and fees for these services.

Marketing support

To write and polish synopses, blurbs and biogs I charge a standard copy-writing rate of $250 per hour.

Corporate editing and writing

I am available for corporate and government editing and writing. My editorial rates are $400 per hour or $1200 per day; writing fees are negotiated on a case-by-case basis.

Late fees and cancellations

- I am happy to reschedule or cancel your booking, as long as you request the change at least two weeks in advance.
- If a MS is delivered late without notice, you will be charged $200 for every day past the scheduled start date on top of the agreed edit fee.
- Cancellations with less than two weeks' notice will incur a 20% kill fee. Cancellations with no notice at all will incur a 100% fee.

  Now that all that unlikely unpleasantness has been dealt with, you can read testimonials and see details of my experience elsewhere on this website.