



Reliability, Timeliness, and Quality.

SAMPLE: Heavy Copyedit (Fiction)

This editing sample is from a single chapter of a 26,000-word fiction novella. Overall, the chapters needed a refining of sentence fluency and mechanics, but there was also a concern (communicated by the author) to adjust unclear metaphors and storytelling. Before any editing took place, the scope of the project was discussed in an in-depth conversation between the author and the editor. Each project is unique, and in this particular case, the author wanted the editor to have a bit more authority in editing creative aspects of the novella. Be sure to identify your concerns (and nonconcerns) with your editor prior to undertaking a project, but be sure you give your editor the flexibility to do their job to the best of their ability.

Keep in mind that a heavy copyedit DOES NOT address preparations for publication such as page formatting, font style, or table of contents. A heavy copyedit WILL NOT address any major changes to the story's structure, although your editor might mention something if it is relevant. It is likely that even after a heavy copyedit, which will address a great many errors found within the manuscript, an author will still want to take their manuscript through a round of proofreading to address anymore minor errors sprawled throughout the text, and prepare the manuscript for the publication process.

PART 2: EMBRACING MY EVERLASTING CLOUD

~~Life appeared mundane and familiar, with its d~~ Daily routines, coffee rituals, and the incessant buzz of ~~device~~ notifications; ~~life was mundane and riddled with. Nothing extraordinary,~~ just the usual trifles and uncertainties. ~~But t~~ Then, a message arrived. ~~A seemingly ordinary and anticipated message, yet something went awry.~~

I felt that we ~~were drifting apart~~ would break up. I felt it ~~was coming to an end~~ way before it actually happened. ~~Suddenly, a~~ An intense pain pierced my solar plexus, ~~akin to~~ like a delicate needle injecting venomous poison, permeating every inch of my being. ~~In that instance. After~~ ~~reading his words,~~ pain's essence, ~~devoid of reason or logic,~~ engulfed me; ~~devoid of reason or logic.~~ It became excruciatingly unbearable. This could herald either an end, or a beginning. ~~Where did it start? Where would it end? I felt that we would break up. I felt it way before it actually happened.~~

~~Moments later,~~ I found myself in a place where neither past nor future existed. ~~I was~~ trapped within an ~~immense~~ glass dome. ~~Within the dome grew alongside a heavy, suffocating,~~ monotonous, ~~heavy~~-gray cloud. ~~And~~ I couldn't breathe. ~~With E~~ each breath I took, ~~carried~~-this ashen mass, ~~drifted deeper into my lungs, and with it,~~ an indescribable sensation ~~that emerged from nowhere.~~ I detested it. I detested it with every inch of my body! ~~Where does this feeling emerge from?~~ I paced around the room, desperately searching for an escape route ~~from~~ or the cloud. ~~I sought a resolution,~~ for every breath I drew filled my body with more toxic fumes. ~~Yet,~~ no exit presented itself. ~~How could I bring this torment to an end? Where could I find a solution? What should I do next?~~

I ~~would~~ will write to him! ~~But what would I say? I must ponder everything. Could an~~ I accept that he ~~hads~~ a wife, even ~~though~~ if they ~~hadve~~ been separated for over a year? ~~Legally,~~

Commented [TM1]: These suggestions are to simplify your introductory paragraph, improve its pacing, and give it a more direct voice. Is everything okay?

Commented [TM2]: Avoiding repetition.

Commented [TM3]: Suggestions in this paragraph are to improve readability and the development of ideas.

Commented [TM4]: Suggestions in this paragraph are to improve logic and pacing, and to reduce redundancy. I have added language to improve pacing and descriptions. Is everything okay?

Commented [TM5]: I suggest LOWERCASE.

I suggest removing ALL CAPS letters for all references to the dome and the cloud. These CAPS draw unnecessary attention to your narrator's fictional setting and can create confusion.

Are these suggestions okay?

Commented [TM6]: Q: You have many, many introspective questions in this chapter. I think we could cut them down significantly. Often times, these questions are simply restating what the narrator has already expressed to the reader through a description of actions. Are you OK with me cutting these? I will leave a couple that I find I stronger.

Commented [TM7]: I have adjusted the tense of this entire paragraph to fit past tense storytelling. I think this will be the best option in terms of readability. The author will relay an internal conversation that she had with herself, but as though it had occurred in the past. Is everything okay?

they were still married, and his promise to rectify the situation is mere words. How ~~could~~^{an} I trust someone I barely know? ~~Could~~^{an} I continue ~~the~~^{is} relationship when his involvement ~~was~~^{is} only partial? No, I ~~could~~^{note}~~cannot~~. ~~I must put an end to this!~~ If I mean^t anything to him, he ~~would~~^{ill} divorce. ~~For him, it's a mere formality, but for me, it is akin to extracting a needle from my body. It may be small, but it impedes me from fully embracing life, feeling whole, healthy, beautiful, and liberated.~~ No! My decision ~~had been~~^{is} made. Until he obtained^s a divorce, we ~~could~~^{cannot} ~~not~~ meet ~~any more~~.

~~Our relationship cannot progress. Although I have had seemingly resolved my conflict, !~~
~~Yet,~~ the cloud[—], that suffocating, gray cloud[—], did not dissipate. I continued to inhale its ~~moisture, which continued to accumulate~~ within the glass dome. ~~The pain was excruciating.~~ Each breath was a battle. ~~What should I do? Where can solace be found?~~ I reclined in a hammock on the balcony and stared ~~into the horizon at a single point~~, hoping to discover a sign, an answer. Perhaps contemplation would unveil a solution. Perhaps this gray curse would magically vanish, and I ~~would~~^{could} breathe in the azure sky and smile once more. Alas, it did not transpire. I had no choice but to accept ~~my new environment~~^{it}. To carry on living.

Thus, I ~~commenced~~^{lived}^{ing}, forging a friendship with my cloud[—], my constant companion. Each morning, I woke up ~~and with the CLOUD.~~ I worked[,] I ate heartily ~~and~~[,] embarked on long walks. I ventured to the bay and lost myself in music. ~~But when the music ceased, the cloud remained.~~ ~~The cloud persisted~~, and only for fleeting moments, I felt the dome open, allowing a breath of fresh air to displace the ashen mass.

During those moments, ~~I immersed myself in the music. It the music~~ rescued me. ~~But when the music ceased, the CLOUD remained. It was an ever-present curse. During those moments, That's when~~ I decided to dance. Some evenings, I turned off the lights,

Commented [TM8]: The suggestions in this paragraph are to improve readability and clarity for the reader. Is everything okay?

Commented [TM9]: The suggestions in this paragraph are to improve pacing, and avoid redundancy and repetition.

Commented [TM10]: Q: Should it be "the cloud" or "my cloud"? I think it is relevant, because it has a lot to do the with narrator's relationship with her stress as the chapter goes on.

shed my garments, and kindled numerous candles, their gentle warmth assuaging the cloud's grip. I ~~commenced to dance~~^d. The melodies varied, seeping into my body, guiding my every movement. I danced each day. ~~S~~^slowly, sometimes altering the tempo, my body invent~~ed~~^{ing} new steps.

~~The rhythms and harmonies carried me forward for~~ ~~Hence, I danced for~~ countless months. ~~A~~^{As} I waited for the ~~longed-for~~ message, I dwelled beneath ~~the~~^a dome, becoming accustomed to its confines. During this period, I engaged in heartfelt conversations with strangers, pouring out my soul. I spoke of my cloud, and gradually, ~~the~~^{my} pain ~~it brought me~~ subsided. My body ~~continued to~~ beckon~~ed~~^{ed} me to dance, murmuring, "*It will save you.*" It was then that I discovered the enchantment of tango. ~~With unwavering determination,~~ I sought out a teacher. ~~and~~ ^{once} our lessons finally commenced. ~~We~~^{we} danced merely once a week. ~~and but~~ during those moments, I transcended the dome and the cloud. Dance metamorphosed into my lifeline.

I meticulously selected my attire and prepared myself for each encounter. The cherry-colored dress, reminiscent of crimson wine; ~~the~~^{the} black dress, adorned with a daring slit; ~~the~~^{the} ~~white~~^{light} silk skirt, gracefully caressing my hips—each became a ritualistic symbol of that era. ~~Tango~~ enabled me to find equilibrium, reconnect with my body, and place ~~the~~ trust in my partner. I leaned on him, granting him ~~my~~ weight ~~during the dance,~~ ~~then while~~ firmly anchor~~ed~~^{ing} myself when he pushed me away in certain dancing variations. I ~~entrusted~~ and balanced. I closed my eyes and felt the union of our bodies. The dance fortified me, enabling ~~me~~ to embrace life and befriend ~~my~~^{the} cloud.

Remarkably, the ~~once thick and oppressive accumulation of fog~~ ~~cloud~~ grew increasingly transparent. Each breath became exponentially lighter, freer. The phone remained silent. It

Commented [TM11]: These suggestions are to improve pacing and to avoid redundancy and repetition.

Commented [TM12]: This suggestion is to avoid repetition of paragraph/sentence intro.

Commented [TM13]: Q: I think it's important that we track the development of events. To this point, the narrator has received a text message. I inserted writing stating that she read it. There has been no mention of her responding. Is this a new message? I think the reader needs to know.

Commented [TM14]: Italic are typically used to represent a character's thoughts. Is this style choice OK?

Commented [TM15]: I've connected this paragraph to the prior.

Commented [TM16]: I have merged paragraphs here.

Commented [TM17]: Avoiding repetition.

refused to ring. Countless questions lingered, but with time, their urgency waned. The man I loved, or so I believed, was not prepared. He had once professed his contentment with me, but it was insufficient! It failed to satisfy me. I yearned for depth, commitment, and a family, while all he desired was superficial delight~~contentment~~. I had perceived no promises, no attachments, and no profundity in his emotions.

Commented [TM18]: Avoiding repetition.

One day, we met. I wept and conveyed the extent of my suffering. I told him, "It hurts so much to be without you." He regarded me with understanding eyes and enveloped me in an embrace. "I know how it feels," he said, "it is life." ~~Then, h~~He bid me farewell with a kiss, sent a couple of messages afterward, but eventually, ~~he~~ vanished entirely.

Commented [TM19]: Q: I have removed your ALL CAPS and put this into dialogue from the man.

Commented [TM20]: Adjustments to paragraph beginnings and endings to improve flow.

By that point, I had already forged a friendship with my cloud. ~~Fortunately, I sensed its increasing transparency. Relief did not arrive instantaneously, but w~~With each breath, ~~the~~its weight grew lighter, ~~and my~~the freedom more palpable. I continued to dance and ~~take~~embarking on long walks to the bay, ~~and so~~ gradually, ~~my~~the zest for life rekindled. There were moments when happiness embraced me.

Commented [TM21]: Avoiding repetition.

~~And then, a~~After two years ~~spent~~ alongside the cloud, I stood ready to bid farewell to the dome, finally extricating myself from its clutches. The city awaited my arrival. I resolved to purchase a one-way ticket. I secured passage to the city that resided within my heart, the city of my love—Rio de Janeiro. ~~I stood ready to bid farewell to the DOME, finally extricating myself from its clutches. The city awaited my arrival.~~

Rio greeted me with rain and invigorating freshness. On the fourth day, the rain surrendered to sunshine. The ocean ~~called to~~beckoned me with gentle ripples, a tremulous invitation. I donned my swimsuit, sandals, ~~and~~ sunglasses, grasped a towel, and ~~took off toward~~embarked upon the shore. The tender warmth of the sand greeted me. The ocean rejoiced in my

Commented [TM22]: Avoiding repetition.

Commented [TM23]: Avoiding repetition.

presence. Slowly, I immersed myself into its balmy, saline embrace, and in that moment—after an extended hiatus—I inhaled the cerulean sky. I was emancipated. No longer encumbered by a dome, no longer shrouded in a cloud.

Here is my ocean, my city. Now, I becoame an intrinsic part of it. In this place, I have reunited with myself once more. My enchanting Rio ; I am now intertwined with you.