

Erika M. Weinert, dba [The Werd Nerd Edits](#)

Fiction editor with 15 years of experience specializing in the sci-fi, fantasy, and mystery genres for major publishers and independent authors. Proficient in *CMOS*, 18th Ed., I refine narrative flow and mechanical precision across novels, digital content, and marketing materials. A recognized industry adviser and mentor, I deliver superior editorial results under strict production deadlines.

PUBLISHING EXPERIENCE

- **[Podium Entertainment](#)**: (July 2023 – Present) As contract line and copy editor, projects are assigned by Senior & Associate Production Editors and include sci-fi/fantasy and fantasy fiction novels, for which I meet strict deadlines and create style sheets as needed.
- **[J. L. Hyde](#)**: (June 2023 – Present) Editorial Services completed as a [Catt Editing, LLC](#), team member, while adhering to and meeting strict deadlines and creating style sheets for this mystery author's novels.
 - [To All Those I've Killed Before](#)
 - [The Bluff](#)
 - [Ghosts of Grady](#): Book 3 of the Grady Lake mystery series
 - [Secrets of Grady](#): Book 2 of the Grady Lake mystery series
 - [Grady Lake](#): Book 1 of the Grady Lake mystery series
- **[Jameson Management & Marketing](#)**: (July 2022 – Present) Line and copy editing ten or more dental blog posts per week in Google Docs with oversight by the Content Marketing Manager.
- **[Dalton Carpet One](#)**: (January 2021 – July 2025) Web content editing. Retained for future content, including blog posts, project features, portfolio write-ups, and color series write-ups.
- **[Alex Galassi](#)**: Manuscript Evaluation | Line & Copy Editing (Adult Fiction – Sci-fi/Fantasy)
 - [Escape from Melridion](#) (September 2024 – December 2024)
 - [Battle for Eklatros](#) (June 2021 – August 2021) | (February 2022 – June 2022)
- **[Ron Lamberson](#)**: Line & Copy Editing (Adult Fiction – Action/Adventure & Science Fiction)
 - [The Mythos of Malcolm](#) (April 2024 – May 2024)
 - [Heavy Metal Moon](#) (February 2023 – April 2023)
 - [A Grave Invitation](#) (December 2021 – February 2022)
 - [The Poachers of Immortality](#) (October 2021 – December 2021)
- **[Dana Erez](#)**: Line and Copy Editing (Middle-Grade Fiction – Fantasy)
 - Title TBD (June 2024 – July 2024)
- **[Peter Capozzi](#)**: Line and Copy Editing (Adult Fiction – Fantasy)
 - [Godshards: The Six Strangers](#) (May 2023 – June 2023)
- **[Chelsea Banning](#)**: Line and Copy Editing (Adult Fiction – Contemporary, fantasy, and paranormal)
 - [Daydreams: A Short Story Collection](#) (May 2023)
- **[A C Whikcom](#)**: Line & Copy Editing (Adult Fiction – Fantasy)
 - [Dead Surprise: A Ferox Tale](#) (April – May 2023)
- **[Carlos Lacámara](#)**: Line & Copy Editing (Adult Fiction – Dark Fantasy)
 - [Eliza and the Alchemist](#) (August 2022 – November 2022)
- **[Elizabeth Mitchell](#)**: Line & Copy Editing & Some Rewriting as Necessary (YA Fiction – Fantasy)
 - [The Deceivers](#) (August 2021 – October 2021)
- **[Joe Blend](#)**: Line & Copy Editing (Children's Fiction – Fantasy)
 - [The Curious Tales of Rogustus Wright](#) (August 2021 – September 2021)
- **[Jami Craft](#)**: Manuscript Evaluation (Adult Fiction – Fantasy)
 - [For the Kingdom](#) (May 2021)
- **[Tansie Lexington](#)**: Line & Copy Editing (Adult Fiction – Dark Fantasy)
 - [The Transformation of Savaka Kai](#) (March 2021 – April 2021)
- **[Amber Marie Smyth](#)**: Manuscript Evaluation (Adult Fiction – Paranormal Romance)
 - [Blood Song: The BlueBird Chronicles](#) (November 2020 – December 2020) (Entire series picked up by Clan Whelan Publishing, LLC)
- **[Aubrey Graves](#)**: Line & Copy Editing (Nonfiction – Paranormal/True Crime)
 - [BIGFOOT - Newspaper Articles From Around the World](#) (September 2021)
 - [Ghosts of the Famous](#) (June 2020)
 - [Serial Killers of Santa Cruz](#) (May 2020)
 - [Supernatural Santa Cruz, 2nd Edition](#) (May 2013)
 - [The Unofficial Guide to Disneyland's Haunted Kingdom](#) (December 2012)
 - [Attachment: A Santa Cruz Ghost Story](#) (September 2012)
 - [Paranormal Investigations of Santa Cruz County](#) (June 2012)

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PUBLICATIONS

- **Author**, [Cursing with Style: A Dictionary of Expletives](#) (Pub. 2022). A specialized reference guide for authors and editors on the nuanced use of profanity in dialogue and narrative.
- **Literary Critic & Reviewer**, Personal Blog (2023 – Present). Provide candid, scrupulous pre-release reviews for middle-grade fiction at the request of publicists at [Books Forward](#) ([JKS Communications](#)).

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING & ASSOCIATIONS

[Northwest Editors Guild Member and Mentor](#)

Poynter ACES Course in Editing, The Poynter Institute (June – August 2020)

Certificate, Editing and Proofreading Made Simple, LinkedIn (September 2017)

VOLUNTEER WORK

- As a mentor through the [Northwest Editors Guild](#), I help aspiring and seasoned editors navigate the path to achieving their career goals by providing them with a foundation to succeed in the editing industry. I answer their questions, introduce them to colleagues in the publishing industry, and provide useful tools, such as recommended reading materials and templates. (2021 – Present)
- Having served as book awards judge for the [Independent Publishers of New England](#) (IPNE), I evaluated literary and genre fiction—front and back cover, interior layout and design, content and structure, text mechanics, writing quality, and overall impact. I also provided practical and applicatory constructive feedback, which was shared anonymously with authors, so they might learn and further develop their craft. (2022 – 2025)

SKILLS

Editorial & Publishing Expertise

- Style Guides: *The Chicago Manual of Style* (18th Ed.), *AP Stylebook*
- Copyediting: Specialist in type coding, mechanical, language, content, line, and copyediting
- Literary Adjudication: Professional Book Awards Judge; evaluating fiction for narrative structure, mechanics, interior design, and overall impact
- Developmental Mentorship: Providing actionable, “applicatory” feedback to authors to facilitate craft development and manuscript refinement
- Manuscript Evaluation: Fiction assessment, fact-checking, and libel prevention

Business & Operations Management

- Strategic Leadership: Strategic planning, business development, and relationship strategy (networking)
- Operations: Operations management, financial management, and process improvement
- Research & Intelligence: Business intelligence and advanced online research/information retrieval

Technical Proficiencies

- Software: Proficient in MS Office (Expert Track Changes), Google Docs, Zoom, Slack
- Digital Marketing: Hey Orca, Meta Business Suite, Intermediate SEO
- Emerging Tech: Smart contract development

Core Professional Competencies

- Communication: Persuasive writing/speaking, active listening, and dedication to civil discourse
- Execution: Priority management, multitasking, and meeting tight deadlines under pressure
- Cognitive: Deductive reasoning, problem-solving, and high emotional intelligence
- Adaptability: Self-starter with the demonstrated ability to switch gears seamlessly