

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*) Specializing in sci-fi/fantasy fiction for a high-volume production environment. Collaborating with Senior Production Editors to deliver polished manuscripts on strict schedules, including the creation of detailed style sheets for complex world-building.
- **[Shiraki Press](#)**: (*March 2026 – Present*) Collaborating directly with the managing editor and co-founder to refine and polish manuscripts within the hopepunk genre. Providing nuanced, author-facing feedback to preserve narrative vision while ensuring stylistic consistency and CMOS 18 compliance.
- **[Catt Editing, LLC](#)**: (*June 2023 – Present*) Serving as a core editorial team member for high-volume mystery author [J. L. Hyde](#). Responsible for delivering rigorous line and copyedits while adhering to strict production deadlines. Developed and maintained intricate style sheets to ensure series-wide character and plot continuity across multiple mystery novels.
 - [Witches of Westridge](#): Book 1 of the Westridge Cove Mystery series; retained for books 2 and 3.
 - [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 Sayaka Kai](#) (*March 2021 – April 2021*)
- **[Amber Marie Smyth](#)**: Manuscript Evaluation (Adult Fiction – Paranormal Romance)
 - [Blood Song: The BlueBird Chronicles](#) (*November 2020 – December 2020*) (Book series picked up by Clan Whelan Publishing, LLC)
- **[Aubrey Graves](#)**: Line & Copy Editing (Nonfiction – Paranormal/True Crime)

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- *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)

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

- **Editorial Mentorship & Industry Leadership (2021 – Present)**
[Northwest Editors Guild](#) (NWEIG)
Serve as a professional mentor for aspiring and seasoned editors, providing a strategic foundation for career growth within the publishing industry. Advise on best practices for high-level editing, facilitate professional introductions to industry colleagues, and supply essential tools, including CMOS-compliant templates and curated technical resources to ensure editorial excellence.
- **Book Awards Judging (2022 – Present)**
[Independent Publishers of New England](#) (IPNE) & [Colorado Authors League](#) (CAL)
Evaluate literary and genre fiction—specifically mystery and suspense—for regional and independent book awards. Assess entries based on front and back cover design, interior layout, text mechanics, writing quality, and overall narrative impact. Provide anonymous, actionable feedback to help authors refine their craft, focusing on structural integrity and market-readiness within the genre.

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
- 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