

Client: Lee Stephen
Project: Copyediting for science fiction book – *Enemy One* (Epic Book 5)
Objective: Provide in-depth line edits and an editorial critique
Key Components:

1. Point out areas where clarification and resolutions to loose ends are needed
2. Provide suggestions to strengthen word flow and action sequences
3. Highlight strengths and offer feedback on weaknesses

Edit/Critique Close-Up #1

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Scott Remington shouted through his mechanized helmet, “Rashid, go! Rodion, go! Feliks, go!” As the troop bay door whined down, the three Nightmen who’d been a part of the *Cairo* rescue team readied their assault rifles for disembarking.

Bullets popped and pinged across the *Pariah*’s hull. In the cockpit, his right wrist still handcuffed to the left wrist of Tiffany Feathers, Travis Navarro brought the nose down. “Taking heavy fire, heavy fire!”

“I think everyone can hear the heavy fire!” Tiffany said in mockery.

As the rear bay door fully lowered, the Nightmen leapt onto the street. Scott rushed in behind them. “Becan, Will, you’re both with me!” As the Irishman and demolitionist took to his sides, Scott felt another hand grab the back of his shoulder. David.

Comment [JLC39]: What if you gave us a visual? What does the scene look like? Instead of saying their wrists are handcuffed, what if Travis or Tiffany pull or yank their handcuffed wrist away? Or what if one of them says something like “Would you stop moving [or yanking] your arm? My wrist is already chafed from this handcuff.”? (I’m picturing Tiffany saying this with some flair! After the heavy fire comment.)

If you don’t incorporate the handcuff later, change this to: “In the cockpit, Travis Navarro, his right wrist still..., brought the nose down.”

Also, give readers a reminder of how this happened (back on page 304, Book 4). - see note below.

Comment [JLC40]: Change to more vivid action. How does she react? Is she rolling her eyes? (See note above) – “Tiffany said, rolling her eyes. ‘And would you stop...’”

You could add something like: “If you hadn’t suggested that we be handcuffed in the first place...”

Comment [JLC41]: In or out?

Edit/Critique Close-Up #2

Esther’s body collided into the outside of the balcony, her hands grasping for it desperately as she threatened to free-fall. At the last moment, her fingers curled around its iron railings. Screaming as her hurt shoulder caught fire, she strained to pull herself up. The scout’s teeth clenched as the icy rain slammed down on her, as slowly but surely, she came to the top of the railing. With a final grunt, she pulled herself over.

The moment she was oriented, Esther looked up to locate Scott. What she saw, instead, was a gun barrel. Standing in a semi-circle in front of her, each with their weapon raised, were EDEN soldiers. Behind them, in the custody of their counterparts, was Scott.

Closing her eyes and exhaling, Esther lowered her head, letting her chocolate strands of hair dangle in the downpour. With no other options, she slowly rose to her feet and put her hands in the air.

Comment [JLC167]: “Esther”

Comment [JLC168]: “outer side”

Comment [JLC169]: “the railing”

Comment [JLC170]: Move up - “grasping desperately”

Comment [JLC171]: “before she plummeted to the ground twelve stories below”

Comment [JLC172]: Remove

Comment [JLC173]: “iron”

Comment [JLC174]: “She screamed as piercing, hot pain shot through her injured shoulder when she strained to pull herself up.”

Comment [JLC175]: How about: “Esther clenched her teeth against the pain and the pelting freezing rain as she hauled herself up and over the railing with a final grunt.”

Featured Comment (Editorial Critique):

I did have some questions about character, particularly for Carol June. She seems sympathetic when she’s talking to Mark Remington, but she’s almost robotic everywhere else. I couldn’t help but think, surely there’s a human being in there somewhere with emotions other than disgust. Even if they’re all negative emotions, share just a little extra about what’s going through her head. What does she have to lose? What are her motives? Why is her work/mission so important to her? Don’t give readers too much (no need to give her character a bigger role), but do give us a small glimpse into her psyche.

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