

Dear Elara of Greyfalls,

Thank you for sending this chapter along with your thoughtful notes and entrusting me with the review of your story before its final publishing. I approached this round of editing using the same general method I used before, which was a strong copy edit focused on tone, grammar, consistency, and clarity, all while preserving the mythical energy you described in your letter. I treated the chapter as the volatile and emotional scene it was, so my goal here was to not flatten the intensity, but to make sure the reader can follow it clearly.

At the sentence level, I remedied misspellings, typographical errors, various verb tense inconsistencies, punctuation mishaps, and repeated wording errors where issues seemed to stem from speed rather than deliberate intention. I also proceeded to regularize character names and capitalization where possible in accordance with the previous style guide you had drafted. Although, I did leave comments in places where proper nouns or invented terms seemed to need confirmation against the existing style sheet and instructions.

One case of confusion regarding proper nouns came in the fourth paragraph where I saw inconsistencies with the spelling of Bolonga. It was capitalized two times before being de-capitalized in its third appearance. While writing this letter, I realized that this may have been referring to bologna sausage, which made me pause over whether it should be treated more specifically or more generally in the chapter. Because it was not present in the previous style sheet, I thought it was better to flag it than to assume too much and standardize it on my own.

A major part of my editing here involved making sure the chapter stayed aligned with the serious and mythical tone you described, while still respecting the chaotic and emotional nature of the scene. For example, I paid close attention to the spellings of key names and concepts like Sashinta, Bartholomew, and Everglog, since those were clearly defined in the style sheet given and seemed important to keep accurate and consistent throughout the chapter. I also made smaller tone-based observations, like questioning the use of words such as “guy,” because that felt a little too informal for a mythical and serious tale like this.

There were also a few places where I left comments because I wanted more clarity before making a complete decision. One of those involved punctuation and structure, especially with the use of em dashes. In one section where Sashinta was reckoning with the possibility of being sent into the woods as a sacrifice, I found myself conflicted. The em dashes helped push the reader through her broken and chaotic thoughts, which supported the momentum of the scene, but that same structure also risked hurting the serious

demeanor of the tale. Because of that, I thought it was worth pointing out the tension there rather than pretending the choice was simple.

I also left comments in places where I was unsure whether something was intentionally chaotic or simply unclear. For example, I flagged wording like “Blast it!” Because I was not fully sure what was being blasted or launched and wanted to be certain, I understood its purpose before striking it or revising it more heavily. In a similar way, I paused over apostrophes in words like “bendin’” and “stretchin’” because I initially considered standardizing them but then thought they could very well be intentional. In both cases, I felt it was better to ask than to be overcorrect.

In a few places, I made edits specifically to bring the language back toward the serious tone you requested on the style sheet. That is why I adjusted to some expletives and more contemporary phrasing where they seemed to push too far away from the register of the story. I also commented on moments where words like “whatever,” or phrases like “email me” and “let’s go,” felt too modern or colloquial for the fictional world. Those were points where I tried to balance the chaotic energy you wanted to preserve with the more formal and mythical atmosphere you described in your notes.

The song passage raised the biggest concern for me. Because it so closely echoes a recognizable song in structure and wording, I felt it was important to flag that section clearly. I understand from your letter that this was a deliberate risk and that you were curious about whether it reads as parody or reinterpretation, but I still thought it was worth noting that it may ride the line a little too hard. I am not in a position to make a final legal judgment on whether it would fully qualify as fair use, but I did feel it was necessary to call attention to it so that the choice remains informed.

Toward the end of the chapter, I also made a few structural decisions based on clarity. I changed some sequencing into a more chronological order, even though I understood that you still wanted some of the chaotic flow to remain. I also separated the final sentence into its own paragraph because it felt like a stronger cutoff point for what I understood to be the ending of the chapter.

I would also like to make note that this chapter was NOT put through any aid or artificial intelligence aside from a simple grammar and punctuation sweep before and after my edits have been made.

Overall, I tried to preserve the momentum, sincerity, and emotional force of the draft while smoothing over the places where a reader might stumble for reasons unrelated to theme or

emotion. In the places where I seemed most conflicted, I thought it was more professional to show that hesitation directly in my comments than to silently make the decision for you. Thank you again for trusting me with this chapter and allowing me to continue using the same editorial approach as the previous round.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Carter