



## It's not only commas

People often focus on the technical stuff that editors do, but communication and passion for the project are also important. There are plenty of editors who are adept at grammar and can spot a plot hole from a mile away. However, if you don't feel any support or empathy from them, then I think you're missing out.

Here are four requirements I think a writer should have from their editor.

1. Your editor should be enthusiastic about your story. This doesn't mean you want a cheerleader who ignores problems with your writing, but they should be invested in your characters and plot.
2. Your editor shouldn't just "fix stuff" without explaining their changes. This not only helps you improve at your craft, but it also makes editing the next book easier. Even a simple "I changed all UK spellings to US for consistency," helps.
3. Your editor should communicate their ideas clearly and not leave cryptic comments that have you scratching your head or asking Twitter to decipher them for you. "Something missing here?" isn't helpful and wastes your time.
4. Your editor should point out any content that could cause offense and explain why. It's your call whether you change anything, but you should at least understand why it's a problem.

In my opinion, these four requirements are really the bare minimum. Writing is stressful, and it can also be lonely. Find an editor who's in your corner and willing to give you that little bit more. Don't settle for

anything less.

I wrote a post a while ago about the practical side of working with an editor. It covers things like contracts, samples, and communication. Click the link below if you want to read it.

Have a great week.

Kerry

How to work with an editor



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