

Anna J's Content Editing Checklist

GMC (Goal, Motivation, and Conflict, Internal and External)

***for full length and "Test Run" options**

- Do each of your characters have a goal? What are the stakes if they achieve them? What are the stakes if they don't?
- Why do your characters want what they want?
- What's standing between them and their goals?
- Can the conflict be resolved with a conversation? If so, it's a *problem* not a conflict. Let's work on it.

Point of View

- Do you head hop (multiple POVs in one scene)?
- Do you go deep enough? Too surface to connect with your hero/heroine?
- If you head hopped, did it work, meaning did it pull me out of the story? Some people can get away with it! Not many, though, so I'm particularly picky on this.

Characters

- Too many? Not enough? Too weak, too strong? Too stereotypical and clichéd? Too irritating?
- Are they likable and/or relatable?
- Character quirk believability--did you go too far? Not far enough?
- Description consistency (do their eyes change color half way through the book? I've been known to do this, so I watch for it!)
- Is your villain/protagonist (if applicable) over the top or too dull?
- Do your characters work as a couple?

Plot

- Believable? Did you sell me on it? Did you tie up all your loose threads (or give me a good reason why you didn't?).

Description

- Did you ground me in the setting?
- Do I know where I am in the scenes or am I floating without an anchor?
- Did you use more than one or two senses?
- Did you convey a sense of place for the reader to connect to?
- Is there too much description? Not enough?

Emotion

- Especially for romance novels, do I care about your characters?
- Do I want them to overcome their obstacles and find their happily ever after?
- Did you hit all the emotional high and low points to keep the reader interested and rooting for them?
- Are their struggles (ie: internal conflict) realistic and believable?
- If this is a romance, is the relationship resolved with a satisfactory HEA?