

Ooligan Press Editorial Department

September 21, 2019

Trace Kerr | *The Names We Take* | Copyediting Note, Round 2

Dear Trace:

Thank you for your patience as we have worked to complete the second round of copyediting on *The Names We Take*. My apologies it's a day behind schedule, but I think you will appreciate our desire to better revise the newer portions of the manuscript. Honestly, you've been so thoughtful and engaged while wading through this publishing process. Thank you so much for your hard work.

In terms of editing: we almost have a finalized manuscript. What I'm passing back to you is a draft that still needs expansion in a few moments, but is overall exactly where it needs to be. For this draft, we honed in on a few global issues that were sticking points including punctuation issues like ellipses, em dashes, and dialogue punctuation. Some of those, you will likely note, were introduced during the editing process. I have sense wisened up. *ahem* I've also taken a moment to consider re-adding "that" and "had" where they make grammatical sense. Even editors have weird word tics that need to be ironed out in the editing process. ;)

In order to view our edits using Microsoft Word, select the "Review" tab, and under "Tracking," select "All Markup." Probably the easiest way to navigate the document is to use the "Next Change" and "Previous Change" buttons (located to the right of the Tracking menu). This button will "select" each change individually, after which you can accept or reject it using the neighboring "Accept" and "Reject" buttons. (Accepting or rejecting a change will also automatically bump you to the next change, making it easy—hopefully—for you to breeze through the document.)

The biggest areas we focused on:

- ❑ Spending more time in certain moments within scenes highlighting Pip's internal process or softening her a bit in her physical actions towards Iris. These were overwhelmingly cleaned up in the last pass, so just a handful remain.

- ❑ Stronger word choices are emphasized throughout in place of simpler terms like "look, had, made." We are suggesting stronger verbs, adverbs or additional rephrasing which would add more punch or provide poetic value.
- ❑ Adding terms like "the" or "her" or "his" in order to better orient the reader in the scene and give clear indication that items or objects or actions are belonging to particular individuals.
- ❑ Queries for factual information or fact-checking.
- ❑ Queries for potential inconsistencies in narrative (very minor, don't worry!)
- ❑ Queries for some dialogue attributions.

We spent a lot more time in this pass revising and cleaning up the newer action sequences so that the descriptions made sense and the action flowed together. Blocking and describing big dramatic action moments is incredibly tough and we want to be sure this is done as neatly as possible to avoid reader confusion.

The biggest thing to highlight at this point is we have reached the final edit of the book. The round following this one is typesetting the book elements and then it is handed off to our interior designer. Depending on how quickly this revision is turned-around, we might have a few days for a final-final pass. *fingers crossed*

Once you are finished reviewing our edits and making any changes of your own, please send the manuscript back to us by October 7. If you encounter any roadblocks or have any questions, please reach out! Hazel and I are always happy to help.

Thank you so very much for sharing *The Names We Take* with us. We have come such a long way in such a short time and I'm so delighted that we are nearing the moment when we can see this book take physical shape. Just a few more publishing steps!

All of the women in this story take a tough and traumatizing journey but they display such strength and resilience. Not unlike the publishing journey this manuscript is taking. We're applying just a few more band aids and then we're gonna get this book on its feet.

Take Care,

Melinda Crouchley | Managing Editor | Ooligan Press