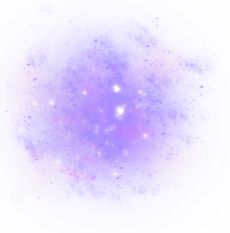


The Cozy Writer's Beta Reader Workbook

A Free Guide to Giving Feedback Authors Can Actually Use



by Tracie Joy



Thank You!

Thank you for taking the time to beta read this manuscript. Whether you're reading for a friend, a critique partner, or an indie author you've never met, your feedback is an incredible gift. Every author sees their story a little differently than their readers do, and your honest impressions can help identify strengths, clarify confusion, and make a good story even better.

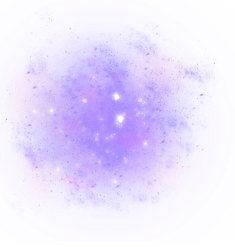
There are no right or wrong answers. I'm not looking for perfect grammar or professional editing. I'm looking for your experience as a reader.

Please be honest.

Please be kind.

Most importantly, be specific whenever possible.

Instead of saying, "I didn't like this chapter," try explaining why. Tell the author what confused you, what slowed the story down, or what made you lose interest. Likewise, don't forget to tell them what you loved. Knowing what works is just as valuable as knowing what doesn't.



The Essential Five

If you only answer five questions, make them these.

1. Where were you bored or tempted to skim?
2. Where were you confused?
3. Who was your favorite character, and why?
4. Did anything feel unrealistic or inconsistent?
5. Did you spot any plot holes or continuity errors?



Overall Reading Experience

Did the story keep your attention from beginning to end?

Where did you most want to keep reading?

What scene stayed with you after you finished the book?

At any point did you consider putting the book down?

If yes, where and why?



Characters

Who was your favorite character?

Why?

Was there a character you connected with the least?

Why?

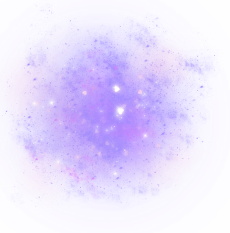
Did each major character have a distinct personality?

- Yes
- Mostly
- No

Did the characters' actions and motivations feel believable?

- Yes
- Mostly
- No

Were there any relationships that didn't feel authentic?



Story and Pacing

Did the pacing ever feel:

- Too slow
- Too rushed
- Just right

Were there any scenes that felt unnecessary?

Were there any scenes you wished had lasted longer?

Did the ending feel satisfying?

- Yes
- Mostly
- No

Why?



Dialogue

Did the dialogue sound natural?

- Yes
- Mostly
- No

Did each character have a unique voice?

- Yes
- Mostly
- No

Were there any conversations that felt awkward or unrealistic?



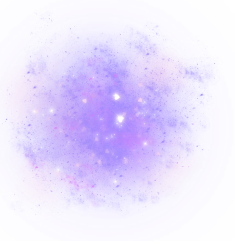
Favorite Moments

What was your favorite scene?

What line of dialogue stood out to you?

What moment had the biggest emotional impact?

What did you enjoy most about the story?



Final Thoughts

What is one thing you hope the author doesn't change during revisions?

If you could suggest one improvement, what would it be?

Would you recommend this book to someone else?

- Definitely
- Probably
- Maybe
- Probably Not
- No

Why?

Is there anything else you'd like the author to know?



Tips for Thoughtful Beta Readers

- ✓ Read the entire manuscript before making final judgments.
- ✓ Keep notes as you read so your reactions stay fresh.
- ✓ Explain why something didn't work instead of simply saying you didn't like it.
- ✓ Tell the author what worked—not just what didn't.
- ✓ Respect the author's voice. Your job isn't to rewrite the story; it's to help the author write the best version of their story.
- ✓ Be honest about your experience and perspective as a reader.
- ✓ If you offer beta reading as a paid service, be transparent about your fees before agreeing to read a manuscript.
- ✓ Remember that every manuscript represents months—or even years—of someone's creativity, hard work, and courage. Honest, thoughtful, and respectful feedback is one of the greatest gifts you can give an author.