

hi, it's me

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writing female anti-heroines we root for



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EDITING AND REFINING YOUR ANTI-HEROES

- Common Mistakes
- Consistency and Continuity

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REMINDER:

Your anti-hero is essentially a representation of most deeply flawed, complex, human beings.

Imagine your character as someone you know, offering him/her the same compassion, judgements, and attitude you would IRL.

What to look out for:

- Lack of Subtlety
- Lack of Character Development
- Lack of Empathy
- Lack of Conflict
- Inconsistencies

Other things to consider:

- Pacing
- Balancing Introspection with Action
- Believable Cause → Effect

COMMON MISTAKES

No one gets it right with the first draft (#sorrynotsorry). There will be holes, character misfires, and places that need cut or expanded.

While there's a ton of things to consider when you're editing/revising a novel, there are some aspects around anti-hero writing that you should keep in mind when drafting as it will make it much less work for you to go back and make sweeping changes later on.



STAY CONSISTENT AND TRUE TO CHARACTER

One of the hardest parts of being a novelist is trying to hold and contain all of the moving parts in your head.

We, the authors, know things about our characters that our readers never will, and sometimes we forget that our readers don't have the same information we do in our brains. This is almost always the #1 mistake made with all books, not just anti-heroes.

However, anti-heroes are often singled out for this mistake because they are already inherently going against the grain in some form or fashion. So when readers see that the character is a jerk to his parents for half of the book and then he transforms into the son of the year, they become understandably confused and frustrated. Why the sudden change?

Well, it's typically because we've simply forgotten to ensure consistency throughout the character's traits and storyline.



WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS... REMEMBER THE LYRICS

