

# SHELLEY ROUTLEDGE INTERNATIONAL BOOK EDITOR

MEMBER OF



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## FAQs

# Shelley Routledge



## ABOUT ME

Hi there, I'm Shelley Routledge, and I'm thrilled to bring you my wealth of editorial experience. I've had the pleasure of working with talented but lesser-known writers who have gone on to secure agents and achieve commercial success.

I've collaborated with fantastic authors like Sarah Naughton, June Taylor, Emma Haughton, Ruth Warburton, Kim Slater, Lara Williamson, Kate Scott, Rupert Wallis, and many more. With a solid track record in publishing success, I specialize in commercial/literary Adult, YA, and Children's fiction. My goal is to share my expertise with you, helping you craft an original novel that captures attention, gains publicity, and receives excellent reviews on your chosen publishing platform. In contrast to other editorial services, I take pride in not outsourcing work, which I consider to be a unique selling point (USP). My approach is centred around delivering a customized, personalized, and exceptionally professional service.

## How will I know if you are the editor for me?

Discovering if we're a good fit is easy – just reach out! Share your story and writing ambitions with me, and don't forget to attach the first chapter of your manuscript along with your synopsis.

## Are you a qualified and experienced editor?

Absolutely! I come armed with years of editorial experience, a BA in Classics, a Master's degree in Children's Literature, and a Post Graduate certificate in Digital Journalism. Registered with prestigious organizations like the Chartered Institute of Editors and Proofreaders, The Society for Editing, The Editorial Freelancers Association, the Professional Editors Network, and The Alliance of Independent Authors of which I am a Partner Member. I stay updated through continuous training and my certifications are listed on LinkedIn.



# Review

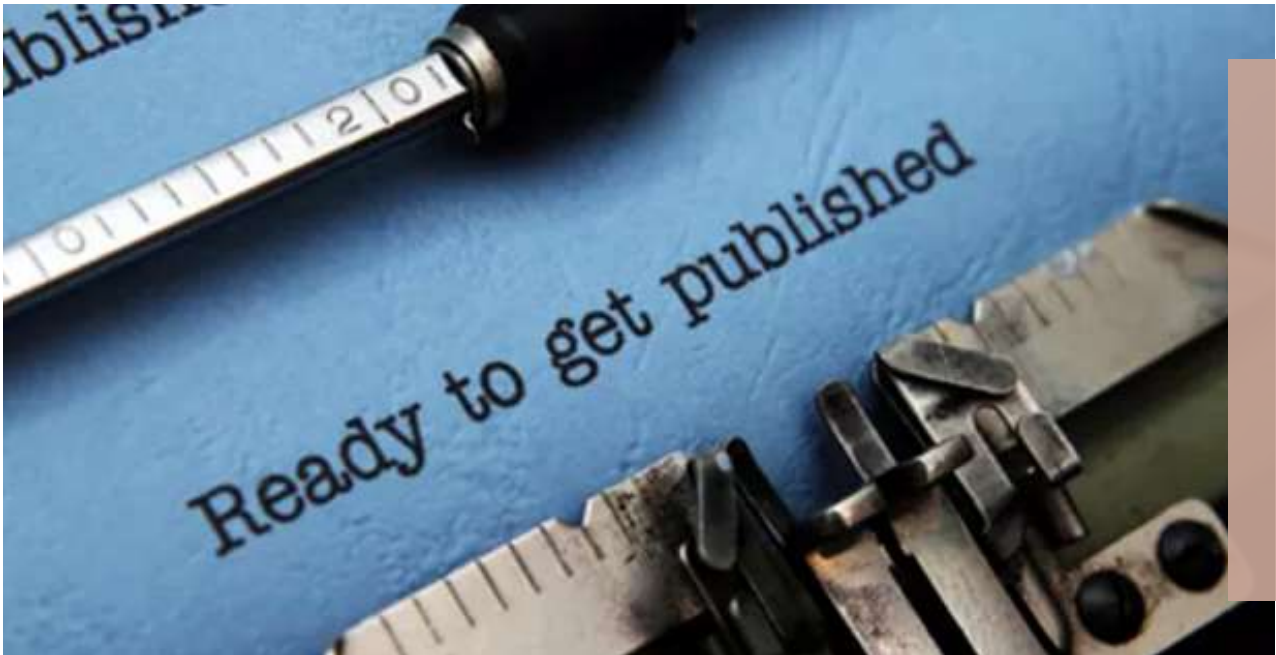
Thanks to Shelley's incisive, perceptive edit of my debut novel I was signed by an agent and secured a three-book deal with Simon and Schuster, with a very lucrative advance. The book then went on to be shortlisted for the 2013 Costa Children's award. I cannot recommend Shelley highly enough as an editor and I feel extremely fortunate to have worked with her at such a pivotal stage in my career.



Sarah Naughton



The Hanged Man Rises,  
Costa Book shortlisted.



## What kind of editor are you?

I'm your go-to developmental line editor for Adult, YA, and Children's fiction. I'm equally enthusiastic about non-fiction. My role is to help shape your manuscript into a commercial gem fit for publication. I also offer comprehensive and bespoke copyediting, pre-publication proofreading, and sensitivity reading services alongside an agent submission package.

I can edit your manuscript following specific guidelines such as AP style, The Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) and English (UK) (US) (CAN) (NZ). Just let me know what your preferences are.

## What genres do you edit?

I'm all about editing a broad and diverse range of genres including Action and Adventure, Women's Fiction, Chick Lit, Romance, Romantic Comedy, Contemporary Romance, Historical Romance, Paranormal Romance, Thrillers and Suspense, Psychological thrillers, Technothrillers, Legal Thrillers, Medical Thrillers, Espionage, Mystery and Crime, YA, and Middle Grade.

I also edit non-fiction with a specialist interest in: Biographies & Memoir, Travel, Health & Wellbeing, Home & Garden, Cookery, Food, Wine & Spirits, Nature, Self – Help & Self Improvement, True Crime and Inspirational.

# Review

Shelley is a tremendously gifted editor. We first met at the Eve White Literary Agency and together worked on my YA novel *Lovely me, Lovely You*. It was runner-up in the 2011 Times/Chicken House Children's Fiction competition.

My second book, Adult psychological thriller *Losing Juliet*, was published in November 2016 by HarperCollins. I know for certain that I would never have got this deal if Shelley had not been involved in the editing. Her input was invaluable.

Working with her is a joy as she is able to read the author as well as the manuscript. She has a light but thorough touch which helps bring about significant improvement with each draft. (Yes, there will be more than one!)

Through her influential PR skills and many connections, Shelley has also supported me in promoting *Losing Juliet* via social media. For example, she helped set up an interview with Liz Green on BBC Radio Leeds. Her goal is to make you into the best writer you can be. She's lovely, but don't expect her to go easy on you!



June Taylor, Published  
Novelist, *Losing Juliet*



## Are there genres you don't edit?

Absolutely. I don't tackle Fantasy, Picture Books, Religion, New Adult, Dystopian, Time Travel, Steampunk, or Science Fiction.

## Will an edit with you help me get published?

While an edit significantly boosts your chances, remember that literary tastes vary. Manuscripts are subjective, and trends come and go.

## What will my edit include?

Think of it as a deep dive! We'll explore premise, plot, pacing, voice, tone, the protagonist's journey, denouement, and market placement. Alongside the manuscript markup, you'll get a personalized overview report with character assessments, plot analysis, a plan of action for your rewrite, and writing exercises.



## Is my copyright safe with you?

Absolutely! Your work and its premise are 100% confidential. My focus is solely on editing to the best of my abilities.

## Will my writing improve after an edit with you?

Without a doubt! The edit is designed to enrich your writing and help you become the best writer possible. Check out my many reviews for the proof!

## How will you edit my manuscript?

I'll be using Word Track Changes, the industry standard. Expect line-to-line comments covering every aspect of your manuscript. For more details on my services, hop over to my website.

## What format do I send my manuscript to you in?

Send your full manuscript in a double-spaced Word document, using Times New Roman, size 14. Ideally, give it a spell check before sending, and make sure to number your pages and chapters.

## How do I pay for my edit?

Once we agree to collaborate, you will need to agree to my terms and conditions. I'll then send you a letter of engagement (this does not apply if you have discovered me on a market services platform, as they have their own T&Cs) and an invoice for a 50% non-refundable deposit. The remaining amount is due on the project delivery date, with the cost decided by word count.

## Once I have sent my full manuscript, will I receive updates?

I won't provide progress updates, but I'll reach out on the agreed delivery date.

## Will you provide further feedback after the edit is completed?

Absolutely! After reviewing the report and markup, send me your revised synopsis. I'll add suggestions and creative ideas, ensuring you feel 100% supported in your writing journey.

I'm excited to be part of your creative process, just as I have been for many other budding debut authors. Let's make your writing shine!

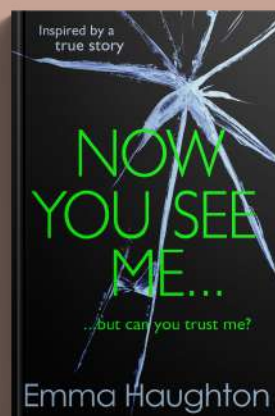


# Review

I was referred to Shelley by a literary agent who felt that my book needed further editing. I'd used literary agencies in the past, with mixed experiences, but Shelley seemed to offer something different – a truly personal service, rather than a fairly anonymous book report with little back-up. Not to mention an expertise in children's and YA literature that is second to none.

Shelley was amazingly prompt. Within a week of sending off my manuscript, she returned a comprehensive set of notes, with both an overview of the book, its strengths and weaknesses, as well as suggestions for improvement. In addition, her line-by-line analysis of my prose helped me to identify habits and quirks I needed to attend to, as well as drawing attention to where I could further strengthen the narrative and characterization.

But above and beyond her skills as an editor and YA lit doctor, Shelley offered a level of emotional support that proved invaluable. At a point when I was ready to abandon my book completely, unable to see a way forward, Shelley's resolute 'kick up the backside' was just what I needed. Her faith in the book motivated me to move past the obstacles I'd set up in my head and forge ahead. The revision did not actually prove as difficult as I feared, and undoubtedly made the book a lot stronger – when I resubmitted it to agents, I was lucky enough to gain considerable interest.



Emma Haughton, Published  
Novelist, *Now you See Me*