

Step 5 – copy edits and superproof

Once I'd made the revisions and added the chapters the publishers had asked for, it was time to hand it over to the copy-editor. She spent two weeks going over it with a fine-toothed comb, not only correcting grammar and spelling, but also checking for inconsistencies, and that everything made sense chronologically. She verified with me whenever she found something that stood out as not of the time period I was writing about, and I would check it. She was invariably right!

In fact, every little change she made was sent to me via a word document and using track changes, I accepted or questioned her changes to the text. It was a lengthy process to go over the whole book again like this, and to be honest, I found this part of the whole process to be the hardest. In my mind, I'd already relinquished my novel, and to have it back in my hands, well on my lap-top, with corrections on every page was rather daunting. And of course, as I reread it, there were things I wanted to change myself. After all a novel is never perfect, especially to the author! I felt annoyed with myself when I saw repetitive language, and I thought I could have improved some scenes. But this is NOT the road to go down, or you will never get out.

I concentrated on her changes, unless something was truly glaring! Then with some relief, I sent it back.

But as it turned out, I'd made a few more changes than my editor was expecting, and wisely she put it through another copy-editor to have a fresh pair of eyes on it. And so the process was repeated. By this time, I was really ready to let it go!

A few months later, the super-proof was printed, and I was sent a copy. It was stunning! To have my book in my hands was a dream I hadn't dared dream would come true. And there I was holding it.

