

Dear (Author),

I greatly enjoyed the opportunity to work on (title). This NA urban fantasy novel ... is engaging, exciting, and an enjoyable read. Your writing is strong and concise, and the subject matter is unique and riveting. This is a strong start to a new NA series that you plan to self-publish, and I'm excited for you.

In the following pages I will breakdown my overall thoughts on the characters, the structure and different aspects or sections of the story, as well as the novel in big picture. Some comments are to show how a reader may portray a piece of the story, and some provide suggestions for improvement or expansion.

### **Genre/Audience**

This book has a focus on a small town with specific characters and happenings in the city that are all, we find out, connected. This is a plot driven story; there are many different things at work in this story and it's interesting to see each set of events unfold and connect to other events.

Part of the appeal for YA and NA books is typically the character's journey, growth, over the course of the novel. The character is facing a transition in their life; a life that is beyond high school, but before becoming a full-fledged adult. It's about discovering a person's self deep down and how that person fits in the world of responsibility; living on their own, paying bills, determining a career path, and more. How the character come to terms with this life transition and who they are by the end of the novel is what many readers connect with in this genre. These books are usually more character driven in result.

Currently this story feels more plot driven than character driven. (name) is our main character in the novel, and as such I would like to see this story have a stronger focus on her and her journey of acceptance of becoming a demon. It's parallel to accepting becoming an adult and all that entails. At this time, I think the focus could go deeper and be with (name) more than it is. I want to deeply connect with (name), feel her struggles, and understand her motivations and actions. Seeing her change throughout this novel would be ideal for the NA audience. I will dive into this more in the character section and POV sections below.

Another thing to consider for a NA audience is the subject matter. Although there's not much that is off-limits in NA and we can be a bit more promiscuous, there is still an unspoken requirement that there must be reason and understanding behind scenes that are

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above the usual amount of sex or violence found in novels for young adults.  
The few instances that I believe are not in the best tone for this audience were ...

### **Theme & Plot**

The town is full of murder and they relate to ... This is a great story line, and you execute the plot of the story very well. I was interested in how everything related and how it would all connect by the end. I did not see the twist of (name) coming, and so I enjoyed that a lot.

For the most part, this plot is intact and doesn't require too much development, as I think the plot points are strong and engaging. However, I do have some observations and suggestions that may help in tightening up this plot.

### **Characters**

There is a fairly large cast of characters in this book. I'm going to list each person and provide some notes, insight, and suggestions about each.

A detailed discussion of the strengths and weaknesses of each character follows.

### **Big-picture character notes**

I enjoy all of the characters and I want to get to know them more because they each have a story to tell. However, one of my struggles with some of the characters is that I feel distant to them.

Some of the characters in this story are two-dimensional, and a lot of that in my opinion is because we don't get to know anyone too deep. The focus on each character is pretty above the surface, with a few peeks below, but never deep enough that it's something we couldn't have seen while out of water.

I mentioned this early on, but the more I connect with these characters, the more I will accept anything they do. Motivation is the most important part of characters- without it what do we have? ... I'd like this to be applied to all of the main characters in this book. It will help connect us and move us forward in the story.

### **Writing mechanics: Adjectives**

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The more adjectives you use, the more you're commandeering the reader's visualization of the noun being described. Sometimes that's necessary or beneficial, and the general rule is that ... At the moment, (title) uses more adjectives than this as a matter of course.

Examples of this are ...

### **Writing mechanics: Details**

The other form of overwriting in (title) is the inclusion of too many details. This again stems from you wanting to paint an exact picture for the reader, and the answer is just to cut down. The problem here is that too much information extends a sentence, making it clumsy and losing the reader's immediate interest. I think this is best illustrated with a couple of examples:

### **Reader distance**

One of (title) main strengths is its emotional content. Every character is given motivations and reasons for their behavior, no matter how destructive to themselves or others. I think this is key to (title) narrative, and it's something I think can be strengthened by a few slight changes to the narrative voice of the story.

The key change I'd suggest ...

### **Showing and telling**

'Show don't tell' is an old writing rule that says it's better to demonstrate something than directly state it to be true. You do great with this throughout (title), but there are a few moments where events that would be powerful to witness are instead described. These include:

### **To sum up**

In conclusion, this story is a strong and entertaining read! I enjoyed it and was kept on the edge of my seat. Writing about demons is a very interesting idea, and I look forward to seeing the series unfold.

My suggestions and comments are to help you create the strongest version of this story, and I truly hope they've done that for you here. My goal is to help spark ideas that you may have that feels right for your story and your characters.

I will be on hand to discuss the edit in more detail, to answer any questions you may have, and to workshop any ideas that may result from the edit itself.

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