

Heavy/Developmental Editing Sample

Description: This sample showcases the heavy revisions and structural adjustments typical of a developmental edit. A developmental edit differs from a line edit in that the text is heavily rewritten and “developed.” Developmental editing is best suited for manuscripts in very rough condition. A developmental editor approaches the manuscript on both pragmatic and conceptual levels, revising the text for grammar, syntax, clarity, consistency, general formatting, and flow, as well as structure, pacing, style, voice, organization, character development, story arc, and audience.

Note: Upon completion of the editing process, the client will receive two versions of the manuscript: a final “clean” document and a marked-up file (as shown below) that displays all of the changes and revisions made to the manuscript.

--Previous content has been truncated for sample purposes--

Dr. Keith North slipped quietly off the hospital bed of room 307 of the surgical wing at St. Mary’s Municipal Hospital. The air hung thick with the lingering dankness of body moisture and uninhibited desire. Strewn about the floor to the adjoining bathroom. Dr. Jane Wilson was still sleeping peacefully in the bed. A soft reddish hue dusted her cheeks droplets of sweat rested on the forehead of her cherubic face. To Dr. North, her face was like a dewy Suncrest peach on a misty Georgia morning—the kind he used to pick from the tree and eat as child on his family’s hillside orchard. Her visage was to him both home and exile, respite and repulsion. It was his kryptonite. Dr. North turned to look once more at the face of his latest paramour before leaving the room. Dr. Wilson’s soft pillowy breasts lay exposed, perfect orbs floating atop a light blue sea of hospital bed sheets. He could feel the stirrings of passion coursing through his veins once again. His carnal appetite was voracious and complicated surgeries had always been a sexual trigger for him.

Editor 12/8/2014 4:48 PM

Deleted: got...orth slipped quietly ...ff h' ... [1]

Editor 12/15/2014 4:08 PM

Comment [1]:
I have revised the language in this paragraph so that now it drips. You want the reader to feel the words, which is a useful tactic to employ when writing scenes of intimacy. We will continue this trend throughout the manuscript.

Editor 12/8/2014 4:50 PM

Deleted: Her ... soft reddish hue dusted ... [2]

Editor 12/8/2014 4:39 PM

Comment [2]:
It will be important to establish Dr. North's past more thoroughly in the pages to come. We don't want to over-explain or psychologize his actions, but the metaphoric reference to his rural upbringing is indicative of how his past is still very much in his present.

Editor 12/8/2014 4:49 PM

Deleted: face...isage ...as to him both h... [3]

Editor 12/15/2014 4:09 PM

Comment [3]:
I would suggest revising this word. It's a bit of purple prose and definitely indicates the presence of the narrator's voice. Dr. North would not probably use such language to describe his sexual relationships. He seems to be using these sexual conquests as a type of drug to calm him, as opposed to entering into meaningful and reciprocating relationships with these women. Think about saying, "his latest triumph" or "his latest carnal medicine."

Editor 12/8/2014 4:50 PM

Deleted: he decided to leave....eaving the room. Dr. Wilson's soft pillow boobs were... pillowy breasts lay ...xposed and looked like they were almost ... perfect orbs floating on top of...top ... big...ight ...lue ocean...ea of hospital bedsheets...ed sheets. He could feel the stirrings...stirrings ...f passion coursing through his viens...eins once again. His carnal hunger...ppetite was voracious and complicated surgeries that were really hard were...ad always quite ... [4]

Dr. North was undoubtedly the best thoracic surgeon on East Coast (and the best in the Western Hemisphere, in his own estimation), but complications always seemed to plague his procedures. He lived for these complications. The nurses—of whom he had known plenty—would often recount stories they had heard about his days in medical school when he would blindfold himself and operate on cadavers so he could know a patient's anatomy through nothing but touch, smell, and sound—a talent he used with equal exquisiteness on said nurses. The raw adrenaline of surgery was his fuel. He loved the guttural, visceral reminder that Death is always just a few millimeters away, always lurking in a cavity where you would least expect it.

Editor 12/8/2014 4:51 PM
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For Dr. North, each successful surgery was a middle finger in Death's face. And, for the good doctor, there was no better way to celebrate victories over Death than with a raucous romp with some O.R. nurse or fellow surgeon on the shelves of a supply closet or in the bed of a recently vacated hospital room.

Editor 12/8/2014 4:53 PM
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Today's triple-bypass surgery on conjoined twins had been especially difficult (one of the twins was technically dead for almost two minutes), but it was successful in the end and there was only one thing—rather, one person—that Dr. North wanted, needed to possess.

Editor 12/8/2014 5:16 PM
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Dr. Keith North was in lust; aching, ravenous, consuming lust. Love had nothing to do with it. For the better part of the last six weeks, Keith had been descending deeper and deeper into his basest bodily desires because of one woman—one very curvy, sensuous, mysterious woman, who had always been utterly unavailable; Dr. Wilson. She had always been an impenetrable buttress against his strongest advances; had seen his type in numerous other hospitals and had coldly refused countless brazen come-ons and

Editor 12/8/2014 5:55 PM
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lecherous touches with ease. She wanted to be the best surgeon she could be, and no cocky male doctor with an equally cocky hard-on would sway her pursuit. But today's surgery, in tandem with Dr. North, had somehow ignited a strange feeling within her, something that could only be appeased through an action as bodily, intimate, and violent as the surgery they had just performed. It didn't matter to her who would satiate her need—it was merely circumstance that Dr. North happened to be the nearest virile man.

--End of sample--

Editor 12/8/2014 4:45 PM

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Editor 12/15/2014 4:10 PM

Comment [4]:

This is a fantastic "flip of the script" so to speak. The reader shifts from thinking that Dr. North is the sexual predator to actually seeing Dr. Wilson as the true lascivious hunter. This plays with and subverts the general tropes and conventions of the Romance form. We will want to consider how we can apply this strategy in other parts of the manuscript. I am thinking that it will be innovative if Dr. Wilson doesn't play the tempering and redemptive role to Dr. North's hedonist and selfish rake. Perhaps it should be the other way around. Something to consider.