



STONECURRENT
P R E S S

Stonecurrent Five Hats

Day Two: The Editor

Solo Edition working prototype

Is there a coherent book here?

A genuine free resource from Stonecurrent Press

The Editor has entered the room

The Editor judges the whole book as a shaped reading experience. The question is not whether every sentence is polished, but whether the parts make one convincing book.

The Editor asks

Is there a coherent book here?

The Editor may

- Test the premise, identity, structure, progression and ending.
- Ask whether each major section earns its place.
- Distinguish refinement from focused or structural revision.
- Name what revision must protect as well as what it must change.

The Editor may not

- Line-edit instead of making a whole-book judgement.
- Approve polished prose when the book itself remains unclear.
- Predict sales, choose a market or promise publication.
- Read the Reader report before completing this report.

State the book

Use the full manuscript, synopsis, reader promise and one-sentence description. Keep the Reader report closed so this judgement remains independent.

This is a book about *Name the central experience, argument or change - not merely the subject.*

It is for readers who *Describe the need, curiosity or appetite the book addresses.*

Its distinctive promise is *What does this book offer that makes it worth this particular treatment?*

The book it currently appears to be *If this differs from the author's description, record the difference plainly.*

Map the whole-book movement

A coherent book changes something. Record the movement you can actually see, even if it differs from the planned structure.

Part	What it does	Evidence from the manuscript
Beginning	Establishes...	
Middle	Develops or complicates...	
Ending	Resolves, changes or clarifies...	

What is different by the end?

Where does the book make its strongest forward movement?

Where does it pause, repeat or lose direction?

Test what belongs

Coherence does not require sameness. It requires the parts to contribute to an experience the reader can recognise as one book.

What clearly belongs in this book?

What may belong to a different book?

Where does material repeat rather than develop?

Does the ending fulfil the opening promise? *If not, describe the promise the ending does fulfil.*

What important bridge, turn or piece of evidence is missing?

Decide the scale of revision

Choose the smallest honest category. A larger revision is not a harsher judgement; it is a clearer description of the work required.

Level	Use it when
Refinement	The book is coherent; the work is mainly precision, pace, clarity or finish.
Focused revision	The book is coherent, but one defined element needs substantial attention.
Structural revision	The material has value, but its order, development or balance prevents the book from working as a whole.
Reconception	The strongest book in the material is different from the one currently being attempted.
Not enough evidence	The manuscript is too incomplete to make a responsible whole-book judgement.

My judgement: ☐ Refinement ☐ Focused revision ☐ Structural revision ☐ Reconception ☐ Not enough evidence

Why this is the right scale *Use evidence from more than one part of the manuscript.*

Make the strongest case

An editor must be able to explain why the book deserves further work before describing what needs to change.

Fifty-word advocacy pitch *Make the strongest honest case for this manuscript as a book.*

The quality revision must protect

The hardest internal question *What doubt would you raise before investing more editorial time?*

The answer the manuscript currently provides

Editor report

Complete the report before opening the Reader's judgement. One clear development priority is more useful than a catalogue of corrections.

Strongest case for the book

Principal reservation

Evidence *Where and how does the manuscript create this concern?*

Protected quality *What must revision not destroy?*

Principal development need

One priority action

Provisional signal

- [] Green - a coherent book that mainly needs refinement.
- [] Amber - a convincing book is present, but focused or structural revision is needed.
- [] Red - the book's identity or movement is not yet sufficiently clear.

Leave the Editor's chair

The report is complete when it identifies the book, the scale of work and the one change that would make the next judgement more useful.

Completion check

- ☐ I judged the book as a whole rather than line-editing it.
- ☐ I described its movement from beginning to end.
- ☐ I separated what belongs from what distracts or repeats.
- ☐ I chose an honest scale of revision.
- ☐ I named a quality revision must protect.
- ☐ I chose one priority action.

Now compare - do not combine

Open the Reader report. Note where the two reports agree and where they ask different questions. Do not turn two independent judgements into a vote.

One important point of agreement

One useful difference

Tomorrow

The Bookseller asks: Where does it belong, and how would I recommend it?

Keep the Reader and Editor reports closed until the Bookseller has made an independent judgement.