



# Greater Lehigh Valley Writers Group

## *Guidelines for a Full Manuscript Critique*

### **Authors:**

Although a reader may volunteer to critique another's full manuscript, it is up to you to select who you wish to critique your work.

After agreeing to critique your manuscript, if the reader-for whatever reason-decides he or she cannot fulfill his/her obligation to complete the task, please accept its return with no questions asked.

### **Readers:**

Please critique the piece to the best of your ability with the utmost consideration of the author's work.

Should you be unable to fulfill your obligation to critique for any reason-whether lack of time, lack of interest, lack of experience with the genre, or whatever-please return the manuscript to the author as soon as possible so that another reader can be found. While you may feel free to offer an explanation, none will be expected.

Please keep in mind that we are all here to help one another and that help does not always arrive in the form of a reciprocal arrangement. Trust that help will be available to you when your manuscript is ready.

You might want to consider attaching this set of questions/suggestions to the outgoing manuscript as a guide for the reader. Remember, a good reader does not always have the same writing background that you might have:

# Reader Questionnaire

Thank you for reading this! Each reader has his or her own style, so stay true to your interests. In general, though, these are the sorts of things I'm looking for:

1. Mark passages that get too slow, or where you lose interest.
2. Mark sentences that you had to read more than once in order to understand what was going on (or, in dialogue, if you had trouble understanding which person was speaking).
3. Do you suspect that the characters aren't acting in realistic ways? Mark places where you have the feeling, "I don't buy that," or where the character uses a word you don't think that he or she would use.
4. After reading the first page, and then the first chapter:
  - a. Are you interested to know what will happen next?
  - b. Did you have a sense of what the book will be about?
5. Please feel free to mark any proofreading-type changes that jump out at you—but this is not your main purpose!
6. As you will see, in the beginning I struggled to name the chapters, and then abandoned the idea. Would your enjoyment of the book be at all enhanced if I had named all the chapters? (If not, I'll skip it!)
7. I would like to receive feedback, if at all possible, in 4 weeks (by *date* at latest). You can write your comments directly on the manuscript. If you would like, you may send general comments via e-mail to [*e-mail address*]. Call me at [*phone number*] when you are finished and I will arrange to pick up the manuscript.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR HELP!