

Vaughan Stanger's Critiquing Service: Terms & Conditions

Last updated: 6 December 2016

What I Will Deliver to You

A report in my standard format which will include my evaluation of the readiness of your piece for submission according to the following categories:

- A: Ready for submission (if formatted suitably).** The report will only contain my summary and comments on marketing opportunities.
- B: Requires only line-editing.** The report will contain my summary, plus comments on your writing style and on marketing opportunities. In addition, I will insert comments in a copy of your MS to indicate examples of typos, grammatical errors and areas where the writing could be refined.
- C: I have identified one significant problem and/or several minor ones,** which will require attention before you submit this story anywhere. You will receive a full report in my standard format (which you can download from my website).
- D: I have identified multiple major problems.** You will receive a full report in my standard format (which you can download from my website).
- E: The problems with this piece are so severe that you probably ought to start it again from scratch.** You will receive a full report in my standard format (which you can download from my website).

I will read your piece in full at least twice during the critiquing process, one of which will be in printed form. My report will be tailored according to my evaluation of its submission readiness (above) and the particular features of the piece.

Wherever possible, I will make constructive suggestions about how aspects of your piece can be improved. My comments will not be based on to what degree I enjoyed your piece.

What I Expect from You

Genre: A self-contained piece of fiction that fits broadly in the genres of science fiction, fantasy, or slipstream/interstitial. I am also willing to critique ghost stories and other supernatural horror fiction, but definitely not the "gore" and serial killer end of the spectrum.

Word Length: In the range 500-10000 words, as determined by Word's word-count tool.

Fluently written English: I have found that it takes me much longer to read and critique a piece by someone who does not write fluent English. That would escalate my fees considerably, which I do not think would be helpful. If I receive a piece that is not fluently written, I will return it and refund my fee. I will not, however, have read beyond page 1!

Document format: DOC, DOCX or RTF; attached to an email.

Text formatting: Double-spaced, aligned left, Times Roman or Courier New font, font-size 11 or 12, black colour font, page numbers. Do not include any personal information on the MS other than your name or pen-name.

Payment in advance.

Standard Fees

I currently charge **£5/\$8 per 1000 words**, with a **minimum fee of £5/\$8**. For the purposes of fee calculation, I round up a piece's word count to the next 500 words. Thus a story containing 2300 words will be treated as if it contains 2500 words, hence will cost £12.50/\$20 to critique.

I reserve the right to vary my fees at any time, but I will not apply new fees to a critique I have already agreed to do.

If I decide that your piece is already of submission standard (Category A) I will refund half (**50%**) of my standard fee. If it only requires line-edits (Category B), I will refund one quarter (**25%**) of my standard fee. These refunds reflect the amount of work required to read and assess the piece, and respond accordingly.

Payment will be made by PayPal to: vaughan.stanger@btinternet.com. Refunds will be issued from the same email address.

Please do not make your payment until I have agreed to do the critique.

Response Times

If I agree to critique your piece I will advise you of my anticipated response time. If this is unacceptable, you may choose to decline.

I am not available for critiquing work during the following periods:

20 July - 7 September

15 December - 3 January

I may also be unavailable during other periods, which I will announce on my website.

Copyright

I will not infringe your copyright in any way.

You must not infringe my copyright in any way.

Caveats

I reserve the right to decline to critique your piece after I have read it. If I do, I will not be obliged to give a reason, but I will refund your payment in full.

I make no guarantee that if you revise your piece according to my recommendations it will ever be accepted for publication.

I make no guarantee that if your piece is subsequently accepted for publication you will earn back the fee you paid to me.