



CASE STUDY

DELPHI

A NOVEL

# 01. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **Project:** Comprehensive, multi-stage editing for Cara Vescio's new science fiction novel.
  - Developmental
  - Line
  - Copy
  - Proofreading
- **Challenge:** Refining a complex, futuristic narrative with intricate world-building, while maintaining consistency and preserving the author's voice.
- **Solution:** A systematic, four-phase process leveraging strong research skills and pattern recognition.
- **Outcome:** A polished, compelling, and ready to publish manuscript that honors the author's vision.



# 02. CLIENT BACKGROUND

- **Author:** Cara Vescio
- **Noted for:**
  - The popular Wasted Series featuring a young and gorgeous contract killer.
    - Elegantly Wasted (1<sup>st</sup> Edition 2012)
    - Uncontrollably Wasted (1<sup>st</sup> Edition 2013)
    - Wasteland (1<sup>st</sup> Edition 2014)
  - Her debut romance novel, Rush. (1<sup>st</sup> 2017)
- **Current Project:** A significant genre shift into science fiction, set in distant the future.



# 03. THE CHALLENGE

The project demanded more than just correcting errors; it required a deep understanding of the narrative's internal logic to address three key challenges:

- **Intricate World-Building:** Ensuring consistent and clear presentation of futuristic technologies, societal structures, and scientific/religious principles.
- **Narrative Consistency:** Maintaining a cohesive plot and character motivations across a complex storyline.
- **Voice and Tone:** Adapting the author's distinctive voice to the specific demands of the science fiction genre.

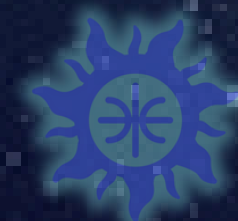


# 04. THE SOLUTION

A carefully plotted process was used to refine the manuscript within a predetermined timeframe.

## Four Phases:

1. **Developmental Editing:** High-level review of plot, pacing, and character arcs.
2. **Line Editing:** Sentence-by-sentence refinement for rhythm, flow, and impact.
3. **Copy Editing:** Meticulous check for grammar, spelling, and punctuation, as well as factual consistency.
4. **Proofreading:** The final pass for any remaining typos or formatting issues.



# 05. EXPERTISE

- **Skilled Research:** The copy editing phase involved a thorough check for consistency in unique futuristic terminology, requiring research to ensure the world's logic remained intact.
- **Pattern Recognition:** This was critical during developmental editing, identifying subtle inconsistencies in character motivations and world-building logic that could impact reader immersion. This allowed for targeted feedback that strengthened the narrative's foundation.



# 06. EXAMPLE OF CLIENT SUMMARY

**Delphi 2025/Cara Vescio**

**Editor: Tracie Baldwin (Unnecessarily Unpleasant Limited)**

*Summary on last page*

**Key:**

1. Page numbers with Line number *by page*
2. Q/C = Question / Comment
3. S/R = Suggestion/Reason
4. P = Praise
5. Original text is highlighted on the PDF document for ease of reference.

**PART ONE**

**The Girl With the Ocean Eyes**

**Chapter One**

*Pg 3/Line 20– “Good morning, Aqua Fiore.” the feminine voice said.*

Q/C– Was it a soft feminine voice? Was it jarring? This might help set the scene.

S– Adding an adjective will help the reader to visualize how this sounds. This might help set the scene.

P– A fantastic way to set the backdrop for the story without explicitly telling the audience.



# 07. RESULTS & OUTCOME

- **Impact:** The manuscript is ready to be turned from a solid draft into a polished, immersive, and error-free narrative.
- **Transformation:** The final product is a compelling work of science fiction that presents its futuristic world with striking clarity and consistency.
- **Benefit to the Author:** A seamless and coherent reading experience, providing a clear benefit to the author's work and reputation.



# 07. CLIENT TESTIMONIAL

**"I was impressed by Tracie's approach to editing my science fiction novel. Her summary report included explanations and suggestions for each change. She has a talent for research and will dive down any rabbit hole to ensure that the details of the world I'd built remained consistent and immersive. Her skill with pattern recognition uncovered subtle inconsistencies I hadn't even noticed.**

**Her level of dedication, attention to detail, and accessibility are priceless in an industry where projects are often rushed. I enjoy working with Tracie, and am looking forward to working with her in the future!"**

- CARA VESCIO, ELEGANTLY WASTED, 2025



# 08. CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Key Takeaway:** A comprehensive, multi-stage editing process is invaluable, especially for complex narratives such as the one depicted in Cara Vescio's latest work. Even in world's not bound by present-day parameters, careful attention must be paid to ensure that reader immersion is not interrupted.
- **Recommendation:** For future projects, a continued partnership would ensure new manuscripts benefit from the same rigorous and transformative process, starting with a strong developmental pass.



# READY TO TRANSFORM YOUR MANUSCRIPT?

**Whether you're working on a complex science fiction novel or a powerful romance, a detailed, expert-led editing process can bring your story to its full potential.**

**Contact me today to discuss your project and how we can work together to give your vision the polish it deserves!**

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