For editors and writers committed to thoughtful, authentic representation.

The creative process thrives on openness, humility, and a willingness to adjust. Working together, we can identify language choices, cultural details, and research sources that support accuracy, clarity, and respect. Mistakes are a natural part of the creative journey. Each one offers an opportunity to learn, grow, and strengthen the work—not a reason for judgment.

Editing Checklist

- Take a moment to recognize your personal "default settings" and consider how they may influence how characters are shaped.
- Have you made any assumptions, conscious or unconscious about the characters?
- What perspectives are you bringing into this character's story, and how might they affect representation?
- Examine how the character's current environment shapes identity, expression, comfort, and safety.
- Determine whether the environment is chosen or imposed, and how that affects the character's sense of belonging.
- Look for ways the character reveals identity through behavior, choices, and interactions rather than explanation - can I show identity through action?
- Ensure how the character's voice—idioms, slang, tone, rhythm—reflects their experience with care and respect.
- Are there opportunities to replace exposition or stereotypes with authentic, observable actions that deepen the character's humanity?
- Consider when, where, and why your characters might code-switch. What does that reveal about trust, fear, or adaptability?
- Use changes in language or behavior to illuminate identity without falling into caricature.
- Review all characters to ensure none of them rely on familiar stereotypes or shorthand identities.
- Have you given supporting characters depth, agency, and internal motivations beyond their role in supporting the protagonist's journey?
- Does a character's identity shift or deepen throughout the story in an authentic and meaningful way?