

Stephen McGowan



Northumbria Students and Alumni
50% off!



Developmental Editor

About Me

- BA in English Literature and Creative Writing
- MA in Creative Writing
- Published in print and online
- Awarded the Chris K. Jones Scholarship
- Northern Writers Award Winner 2024
- Member of the SOA, BFS, and BSFA



What do I do?

- At a basic level, I work with you to turn your drafts into something you can be proud of
- I want to help you and your story to be the best it can be
- I'll also help you figure out how to write your elevator pitch and synopsis for those important submissions

What does it involve?

- We agree on timescales and fee
- I take your work, read it, make notes on it
- We arrange a meeting (or several) to discuss the feedback
- I send you a report detailing the main points of discussion
- During our meetings, I ask questions and engage in conversation to get you thinking about ways to act on the feedback

How much does it cost?

£10 per 1,000 words

£5 for Northumbria
Students/Alumni

What do people think?

- J Archer Avary – Author and Poet
- Stephen McGowan has been my first reader and editing partner for more than a year. In this time, I've grown to trust his judgement and insight. His vital and uncompromising feedback has assisted me greatly in the submission process, especially in re-evaluating and re-working rejected pieces. To date, three pieces of my short fiction have seen publication after going through substantial edits with Stephen at my side. He's shown a keen eye for plot, pacing, and dialogue. Sometimes, when I become frustrated with a piece or lose focus, he asks questions that bring me back to the crux of the matter naturally, without coming across as patronizing. One of his most valuable attributes is his ability to work within the confines of genre as well as outside it

Auburn Langley – Author

After my session with Stephen, I now feel inspired to tackle the edit I've been avoiding for months! Most writers, myself included, are somewhat worried what an editor is going to say regarding their creation, but Stephen put me at ease straight away with assurances of trusting my own voice as a writer. He was incredibly encouraging in his remarks, especially in terms of balancing the wants of the publishing industry with my own storytelling truths. His industry knowledge of my genre was invaluable, and his feedback was insightful and relevant to my overall story goals, he was tactful but didn't shy away from explaining why he thought changes could be made or pointing out as a reader which part stood out as incongruent. As we wrapped up the session, I immediately inquired about his availability for further work!

How to get in touch

- Email – stephenmcgowanauthor@outlook.com
- Ko-fi – <https://ko-fi.com/stephenmcgowan> .
- Blog - <https://stephenmcgowan.substack.com>