

QUESTIONS FOR BETA READERS

1. Is anything unclear or confusing? As the author, I have the benefit of all of the backstory and research. Sometimes I am blinded by my privileged access to all of that information! I won't always know if something doesn't make sense to everyone else. Please tell me!

2. Do you need more clarification or insight about a character's motivations? Again, as the author, I know why my character is doing something. There may be times when I am deliberately withholding information. However, most of the time, if you feel like you aren't sure why a character is doing something, I should probably give you more insight.

3. Is the pace rushing or lagging? You are NOT going to hurt my feelings with this! Sometimes we writers are exhausted with writing and just want to get on with writing a particular passage! Other times we get kind of stuck and keep rambling about details the reader doesn't really need to know. Telling me where something feels like it's rushing or lagging is like the fire refining the metal. This is what helps my story be what it's truly meant to be!

4. Thoughts on what you think is going on or what might happen? Sometimes writers accidentally put insignificant information in a story that leads readers off on a wild conspiracy theory about what's happening, and that's not what's going on at all! Or maybe I've made something a little too obvious early on. Your perspective here is very important!

5. Anything you just LOVED? There will be times I'll need to make painful edits, but I'd like to take readers into account when there is a decision I need to make between one passage or another! Ultimately, what the story needs comes first, but there may be times when two passages both serve the story well and I'll need another tie breaker. You can help!

6. Other feedback? Anything else? Do I have a weird word in there that is just breaking the trance of your ability to stay in the story? Was there a clue I left somewhere that I haven't brought up in a while and you're wondering what's up with that? Anything else? Please feel free to drop a note or pick my brain! This is an open conversation!