



Fiction
Feedback

Writing a Novel

A published writer's process

1. Stream of consciousness (40k) – write without editing
2. Plot edit (60k) – now we have a story
3. Sub-plot edit, clues, red herrings, follow-up research insertion (70k)
4. Animate! All the he saids/she saids get fleshed out. I avoid too much colour early on as it can easily get dumped if a scene is superfluous. Something like full length (80k +) is achieved now
5. Character edit – follow each character through for consistency and individuality, some changes of names, some insertion of character-forming scenes or sub-scenes
6. Continuity – times, dates, weather, seasons, personal, clothes, decor, setting
7. General clean-up edit of rough bits, trimming out of repetition etc, last bits of research checking
8. Chapter breaks, grammar and spellcheck. Off to first reader or reviewer
9. Response to comments, follow up edits. Repeat as necessary
10. Likely now to be on Draft 10-12. Send to editor

Author: **Jason Monaghan**

Novels: *Glint of Light in Broken Glass*, *Matador*, May 2016

Earlier novels published by Severn House now reissued by Endeavour: *Lady in the Lake*, *Darkness Rising*, *Byron's Shadow* and others

Available: Amazon; search for Jason Monaghan, or order from your local bookshop