WALKER KORNFELD

Ghostwriter | Developmental Editor | Book Coach

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watchwordwriting.com | LinkedIn

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Ghostwriter and editor with eight years of professional experience across fiction, memoir, and nonfiction. Four years as Lead Writer at a boutique ghostwriting agency, where I managed every phase of the manuscript lifecycle: concepting, outlining, drafting, developmental editing, copyediting, and proofreading across dozens of projects. I specialize in voice matching, narrative structure, and delivering polished manuscripts under tight timelines and nondisclosure agreements. Additional experience in book coaching, manuscript evaluation, and long-form serialized fiction through a decade-long partnership in a growing horror podcast company.

CORE COMPETENCIES

Ghostwriting (Fiction, Memoir, Nonfiction)	Developmental Editing
Book Coaching & Author Consulting	Manuscript Evaluation & Critique
Line Editing, Copyediting & Proofreading	Voice Matching & Narrative Structure
Chicago Manual of Style & Merriam-Webster	Project Management & NDA Compliance

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Lead Writer   *2021 to 2025*
L'Abri Collective (Boutique Fiction Ghostwriting Agency)

- Ghostwrote and edited dozens of manuscripts (novellas of 25,000 to 30,000 words each) across fiction, memoir, and narrative nonfiction, capturing each client's voice and vision from concept through final delivery. Includes multi-book series equivalent to novel-length stories.
- Handled all phases of manuscript development: concepting, outlining, drafting, developmental editing, copyediting, proofreading, back cover descriptions, and marketing copy
- Performed developmental analysis and creative consulting on projects written by other agency ghostwriters, evaluating story structure, identifying problems, and collaborating with editorial leadership to develop solutions
- Worked across a wide range of genres: romance, thriller, family drama, science fiction, fantasy, children's lit (ages 7 to 13), literary fiction, philosophical fable, memoir, legacy memoir, narrative nonfiction, traditional nonfiction
- Maintained strict quality and consistency standards under tight deadlines and nondisclosure agreements across a high volume of simultaneous projects

Professional reference from chief editor available upon request.

Owner, Ghostwriter & Editor   *2018 to Present*
Watchword Ghostwriting & Editorial Services (Sole Proprietorship)

- Provide ghostwriting, developmental editing, book coaching, line editing, copyediting, and proofreading services for full-length fiction, memoir, and nonfiction manuscripts
- Deliver comprehensive manuscript evaluations and editorial reports assessing structure, pacing, character development, voice, and narrative clarity, with actionable recommendations
- Coach authors through the development process via ongoing consultation, chapter-by-chapter feedback, and collaborative problem-solving on story and structural decisions
- Manage all client relationships, contracts, project timelines, and deliverables as sole proprietor

Partner, Writer & Editor   *2016 to Present*

Maeltopia LLC (Horror Fiction Podcast Company, Rusty Quill Network)

- Conceptualize, outline, write, and edit long-form serialized horror fiction across eight titles and nearly seven hundred episodes, with some narratives equivalent to full-length novel series
- Provide developmental and technical editing on over one million words of published fiction
- Adapted our *Shepherd of Wolves* podcast into the published novel *The Red Son* (WildBlue Press, 2019)
- Approximately 150,000 unique downloads per month across all content

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Editorial Freelancers Association (EFA), Member since 2017

EDUCATION

AAS, Paralegal Studies   *2016 to 2018*

Jefferson Community College, Watertown, NY | Dean's List, 4.0 GPA

ADDITIONAL

Expertise integrating AI writing and editing tools into certain professional workflows (2022 to present). Experience evaluating, humanizing, and otherwise improving AI-generated content for quality, coherence, and alignment with client voice and project requirements.