

Excerpt from the Industry Chat held on Wednesday (June 22, 2011) at 7:30pm EST with Editor Lara Parker



Lady Isis: Okay it's 7:30 so let's get started. To ask a question put ???? then ask the question. And behave yourselves



Vischeral: *grins*



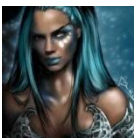
Killius: *looks at Bray*



Lady Isis: Lara you can start at any time why don't you tell us a little about yourself



Copi: not me surely



Lady Isis: Lara you there?



Lara: Okay - well there is much to tell. My bio pretty much says it all.



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LaVerne: hahahaha



Lara: I got into editing after being dogged by choppy stories and typos.



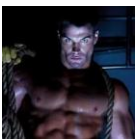
LaVerne: we want the stuff not in the bio



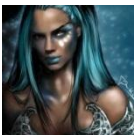
Lara: LOL!



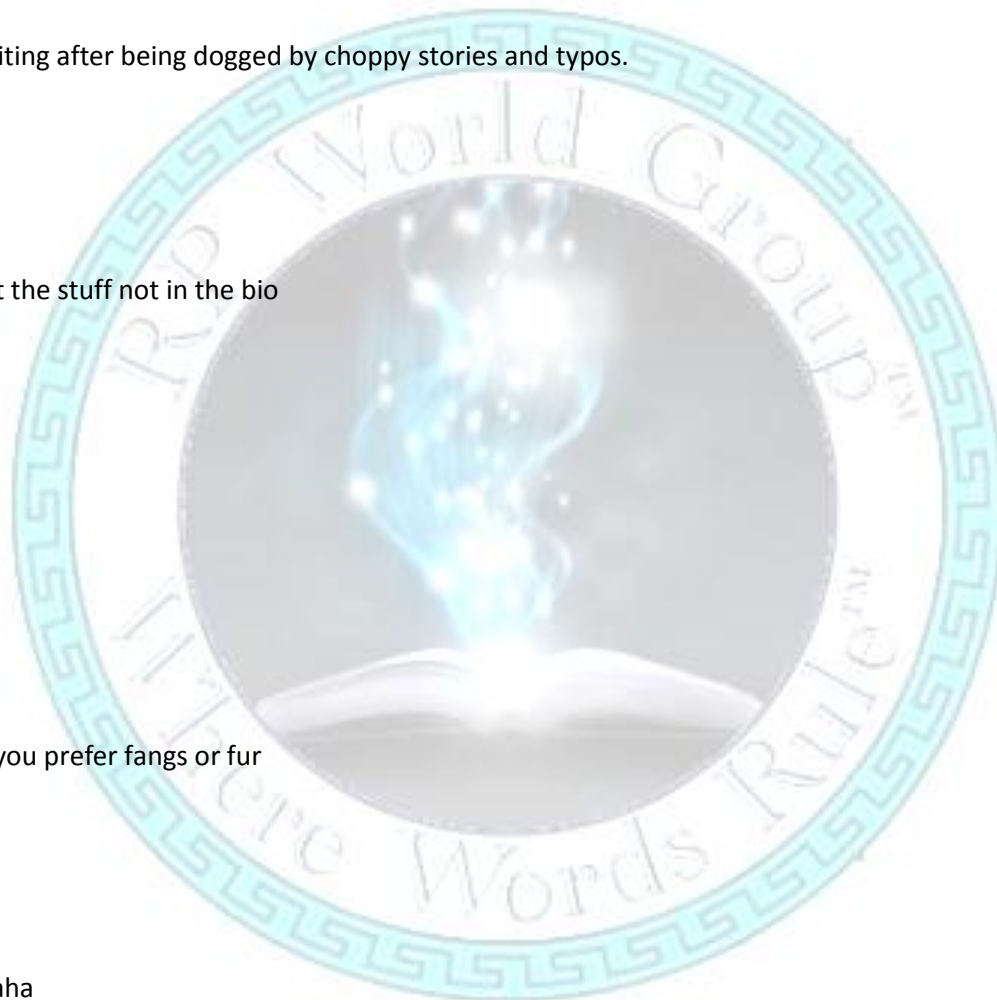
Vischeral: like to you prefer fangs or fur



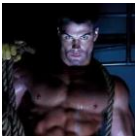
Bray: hahahaahaha



Lady Isis: Good one Vish



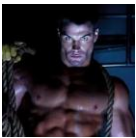
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Bray: *fist bump*



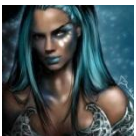
Lara: Ummmmm...fangs...all the way.



Bray: that's funny hahahahahaahhahaha



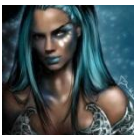
Killius: hahahaha...I like her already



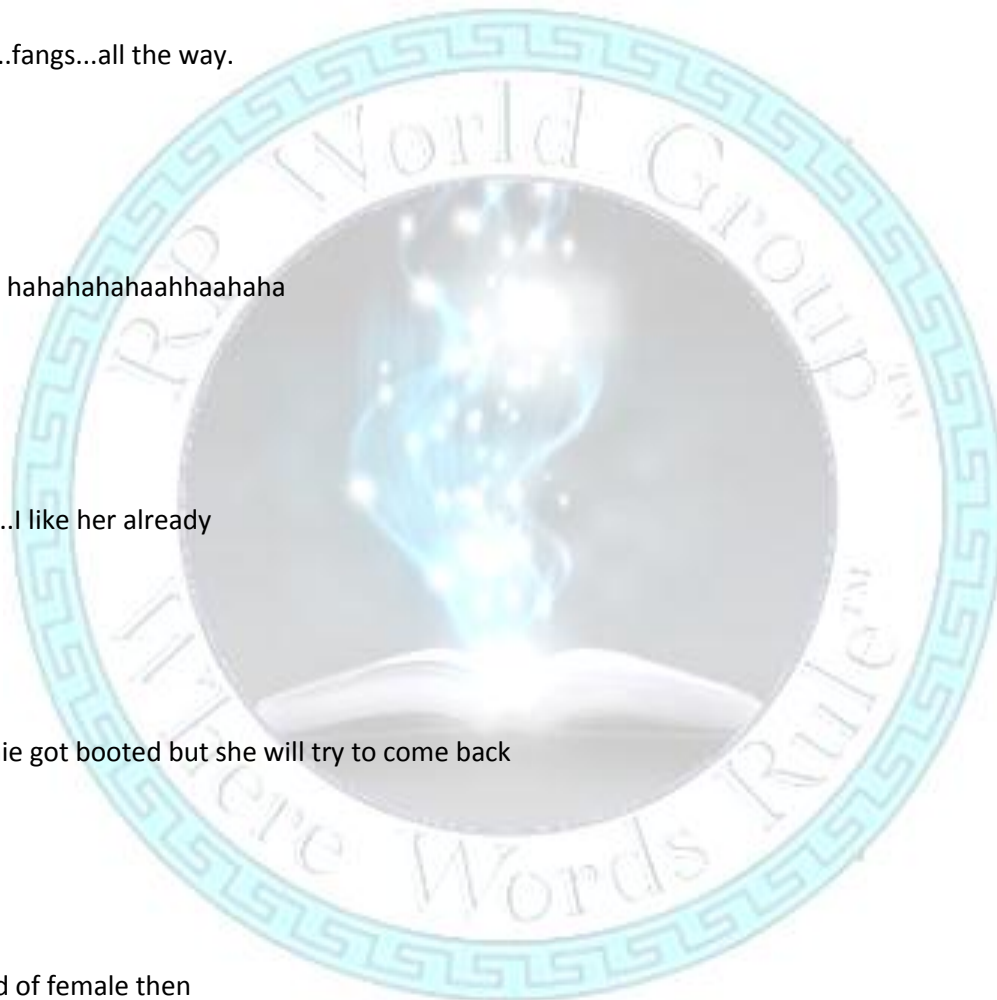
Lady Isis: Stephanie got booted but she will try to come back



Vischeral: My kind of female then



Lady Isis: hahahaha



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Lady Isis: Kill likes all females Lara and some males too ignore him



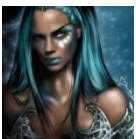
Eion Roan: What kind of editor are you? Do you make lots of notes or give tons of advice?



StephanieW: Back!



Lara: LOL!



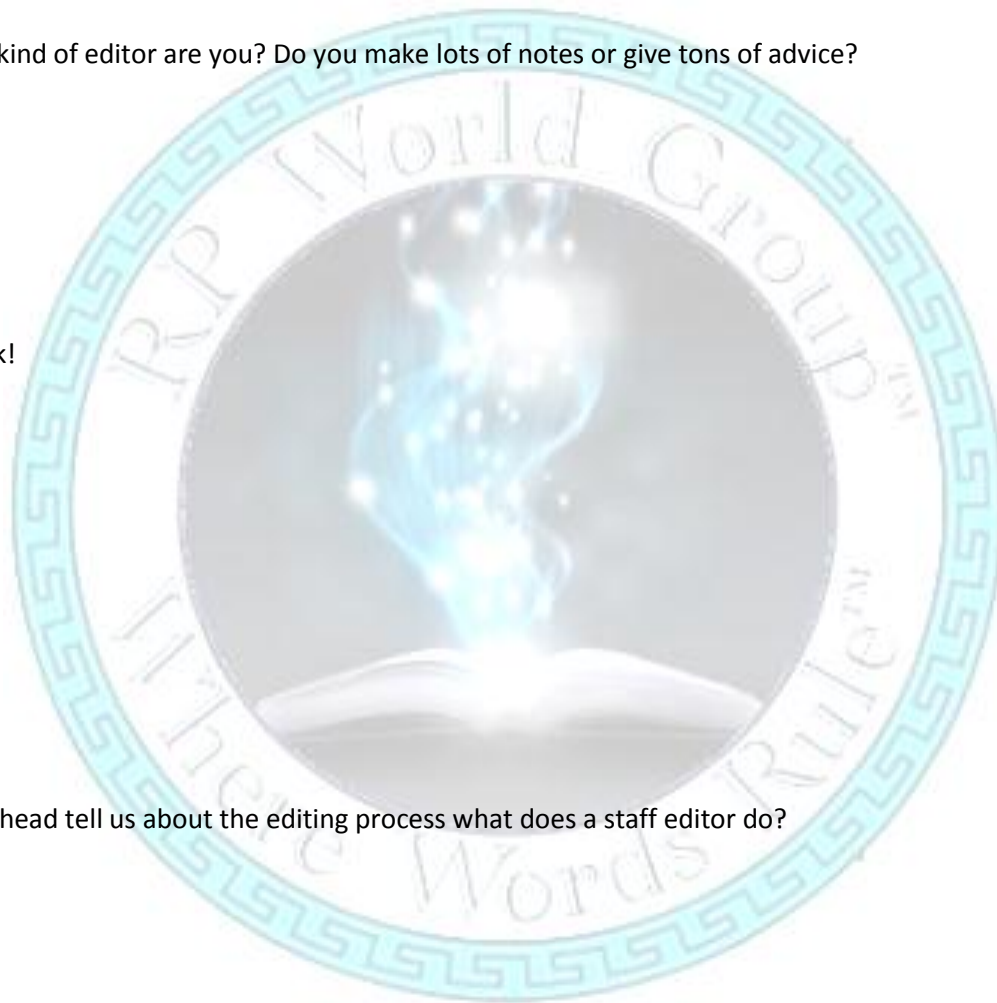
Lady Isis: ???Go ahead tell us about the editing process what does a staff editor do?



Lara: Eion - I do content as well as line edits and I can do either. I have some authors that just like me to give them guidance and some that want me to nitpick.



Killius: ????? Sooo lady Lara....what do most editors charge to edit a novel...by word count?



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LaVerne: *nods at Lara's response* that's true



Bray: I have about 15 questions sent over to me from people so regretful they are in the drive home now. Thank you for coming and talking to us Lara. First, what's the difference between line and content.



StephanieW: *nodding*



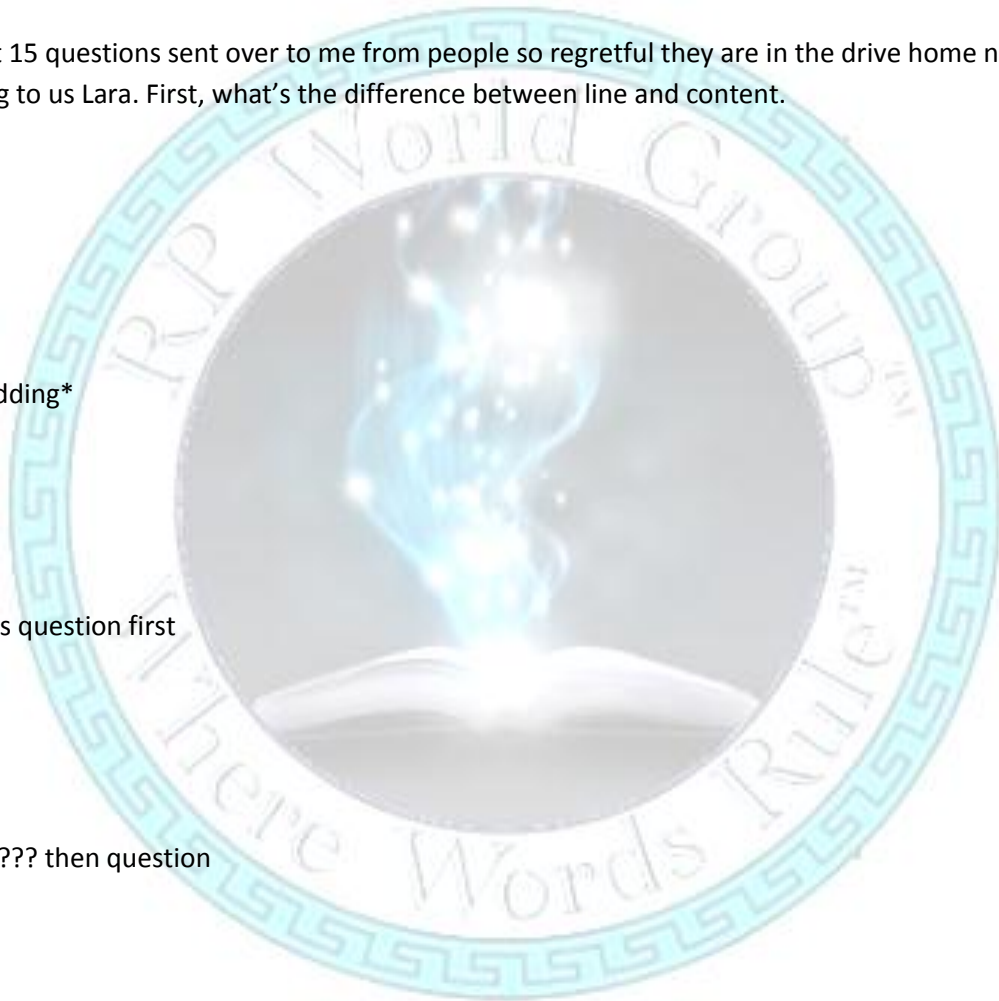
Lady Isis: Lara Kill's question first



Lady Isis: BRAY ????? then question



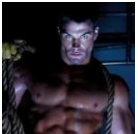
Lara: Lady Isis - Basically, when doing staff edits it really depends on the house you are working for. One house might assign work to you and another house might let you do the initial evaluation, contracting and then the edits so it really depends on house rules.



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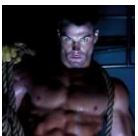
Lara: Kill - I do by word count when I freelance some do by pages - editor preference.



Bray: Here is a question sent over: ????? 1) How does someone go about finding an editor when they are close to finishing a story?



Killius: thank you...???? So, do you only do for specific people or freelance for someone say like me...an unknown unpublished writer?



Bray: *looks at Kill* Are you trying to replace me.



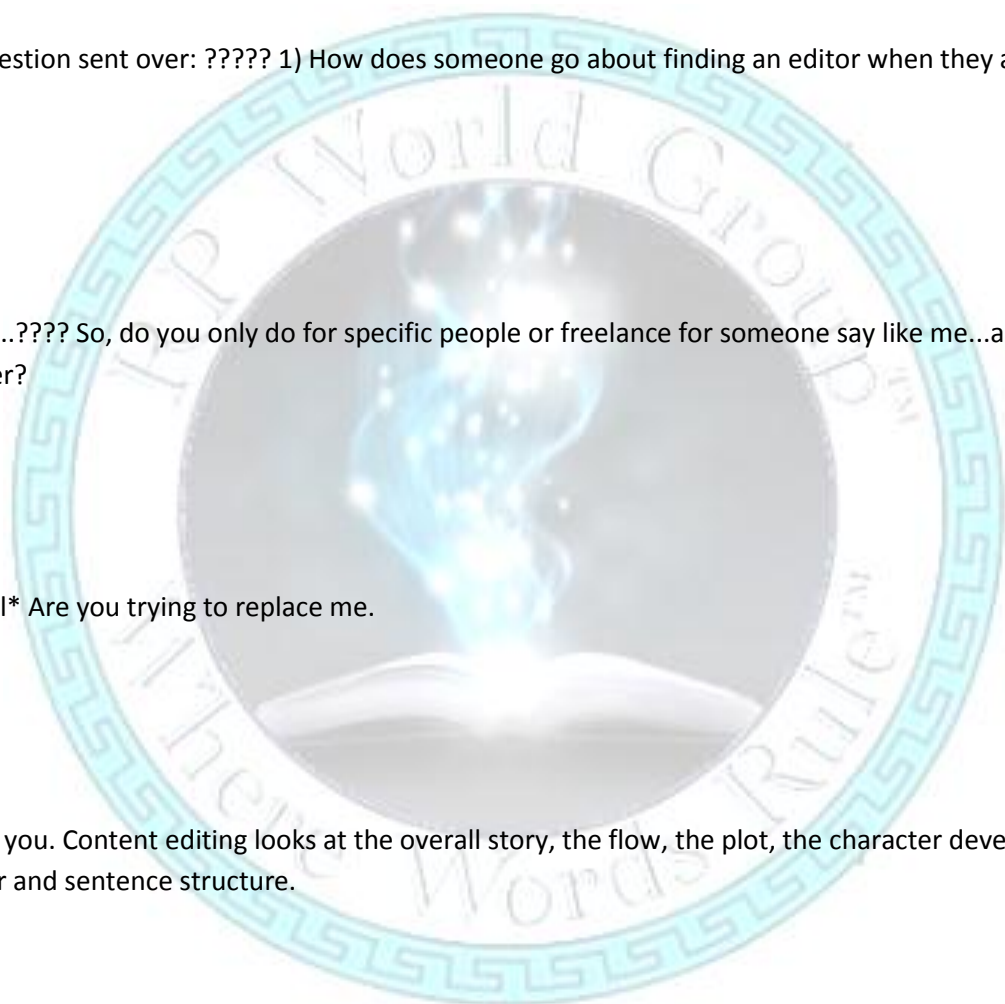
Lara: Bray - thank you. Content editing looks at the overall story, the flow, the plot, the character development. Line edits are grammar and sentence structure.



Bray: ??And you do both?



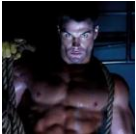
Lara: Kill - yes, I freelance for anyone. :-)



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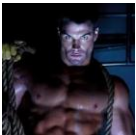
Lara: Bray - yes.



Bray: WOW



Killius: Thank you and sorry Bray....



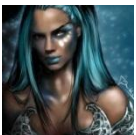
Bray: ??? how does your brain do it???



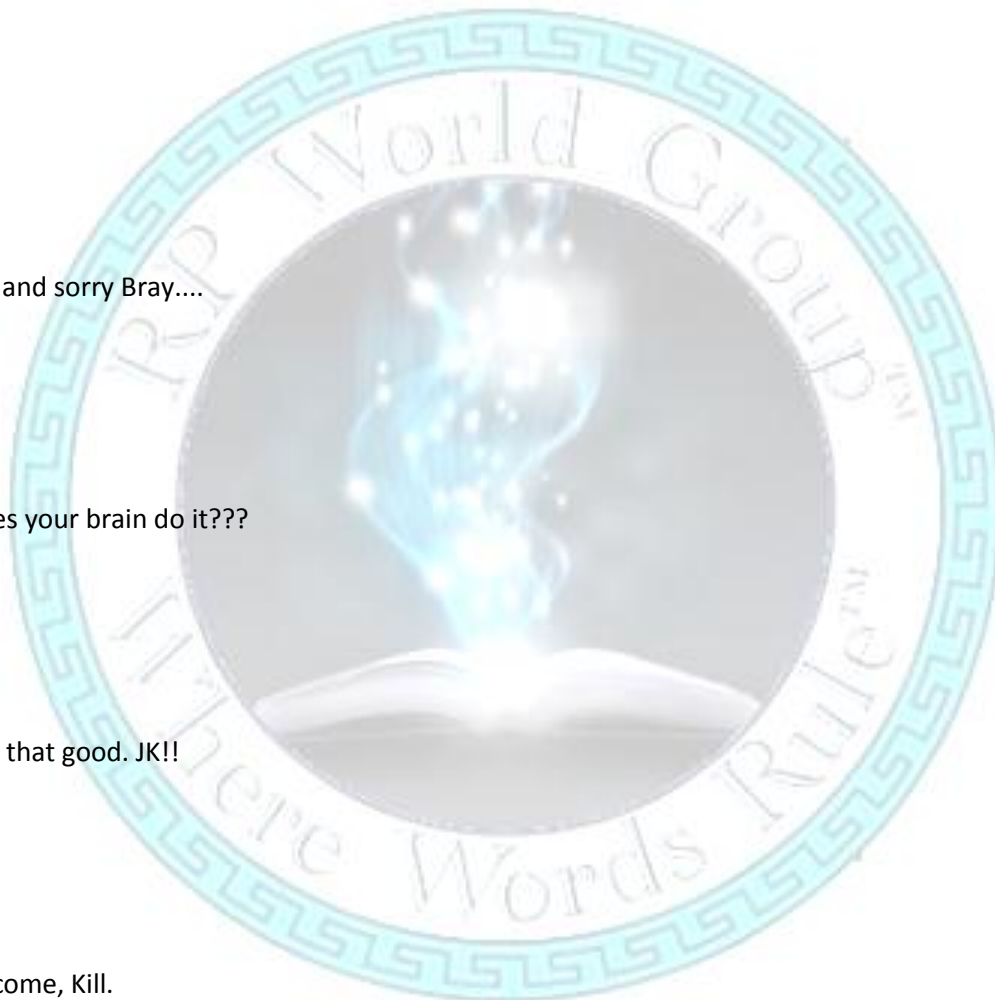
Lara: LOL! I'm just that good. JK!!



Lara: You are welcome, Kill.



Lady Isis: ???Is it better to have someone critique your work before it gets to an editor?



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Bray: HAHAAHAHAH, you would have to be. I've heard great things about you.



LaVerne: Yes I can vouch for that she really is that good.



StephanieW: ???/ can a writer be an objective editor? Is it better that an author edit or have someone that only edits?



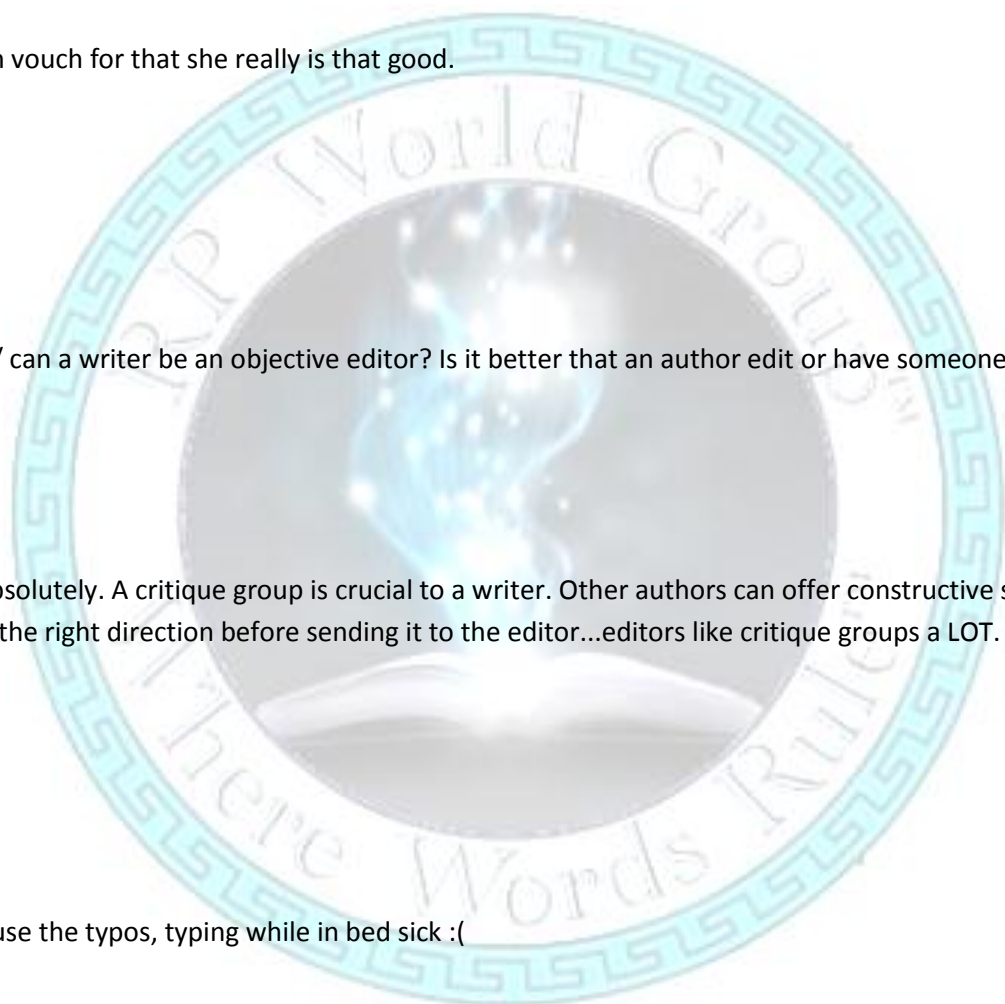
Lara: Lady Isis - absolutely. A critique group is crucial to a writer. Other authors can offer constructive suggestions and help guide you in the right direction before sending it to the editor...editors like critique groups a LOT. LOL



StephanieW: excuse the typos, typing while in bed sick :(



Lara: Bray - seriously LOL. LaVerne - thank you!!



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LaVerne: lol authors love critique groups



Bray Dalton: ??????another question sent in:) Do you ever get frustrated enough to quit working with writers that won't budge on edits you make to their book?



LaVerne: it's true



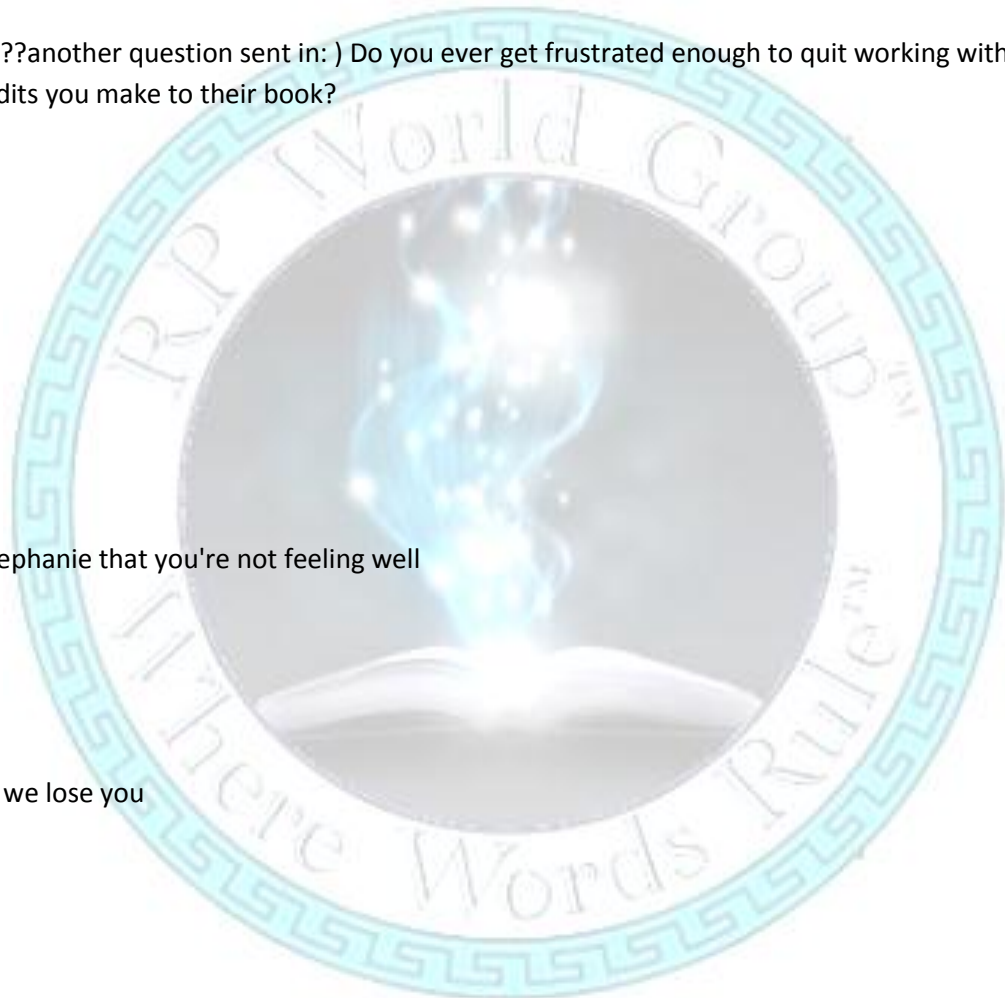
Lady Isis: Sorry Stephanie that you're not feeling well



LaVerne: Lara did we lose you



Lara: Stephanie - yes writers can be objective editors and a lot of people say it's easier to become an editor once you've written...however, I have not authored, yet...



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StephanieW: Ahh, thanks Lara



Bray Dalton: YET... Great tease...



LaVerne: Well you're an excellent editor so I'm sure would be an excellent author



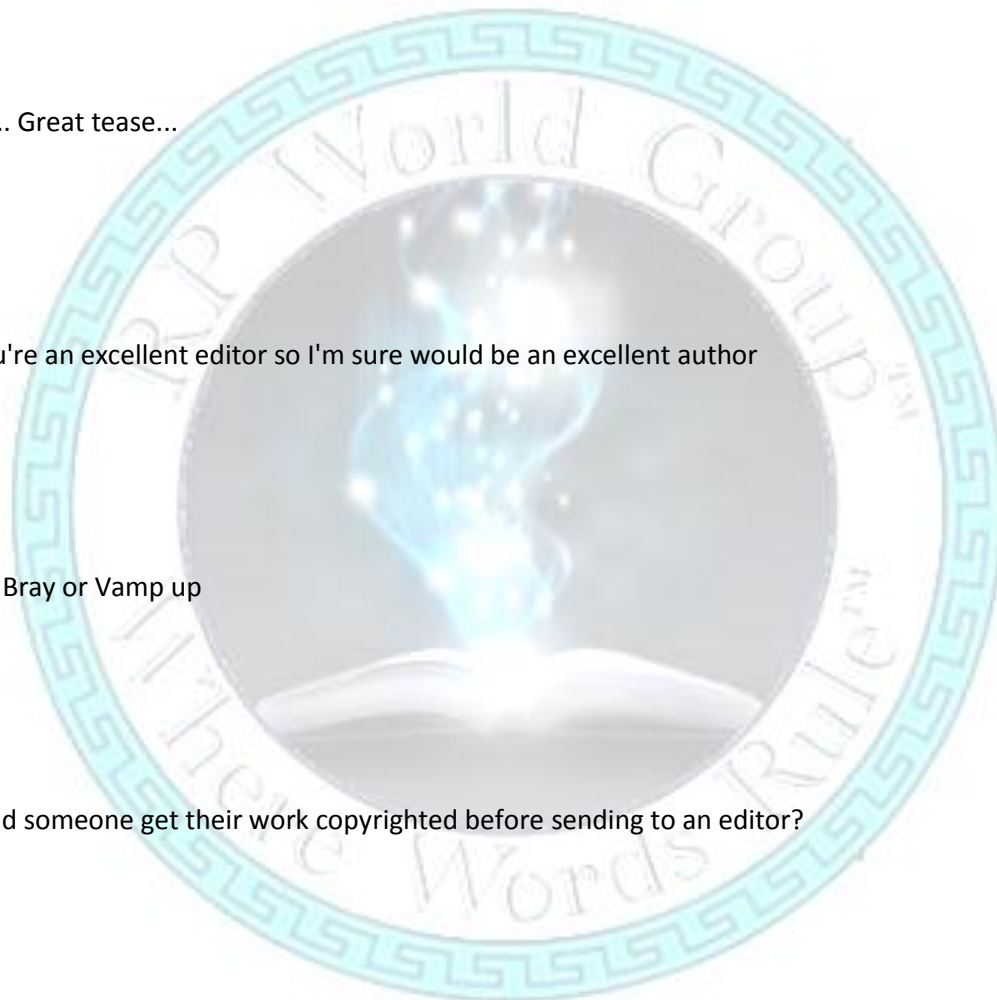
Lady Isis: Man up Bray or Vamp up



Killius: ????? Should someone get their work copyrighted before sending to an editor?



Bray Dalton: I'm a shifter.. Read the story..



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Lara: Bray - I've only ever quit authors that have become personally aggressive. My job is to make your story better, I don't want to rewrite your story because it's yours I only want to make it better. However, there are some authors out there that see it completely different.



StephanieW: ?????? Are there stories that you WILL NOT edit because the story genre is just too crazy for you?



Lara: LaVerne - thanks!



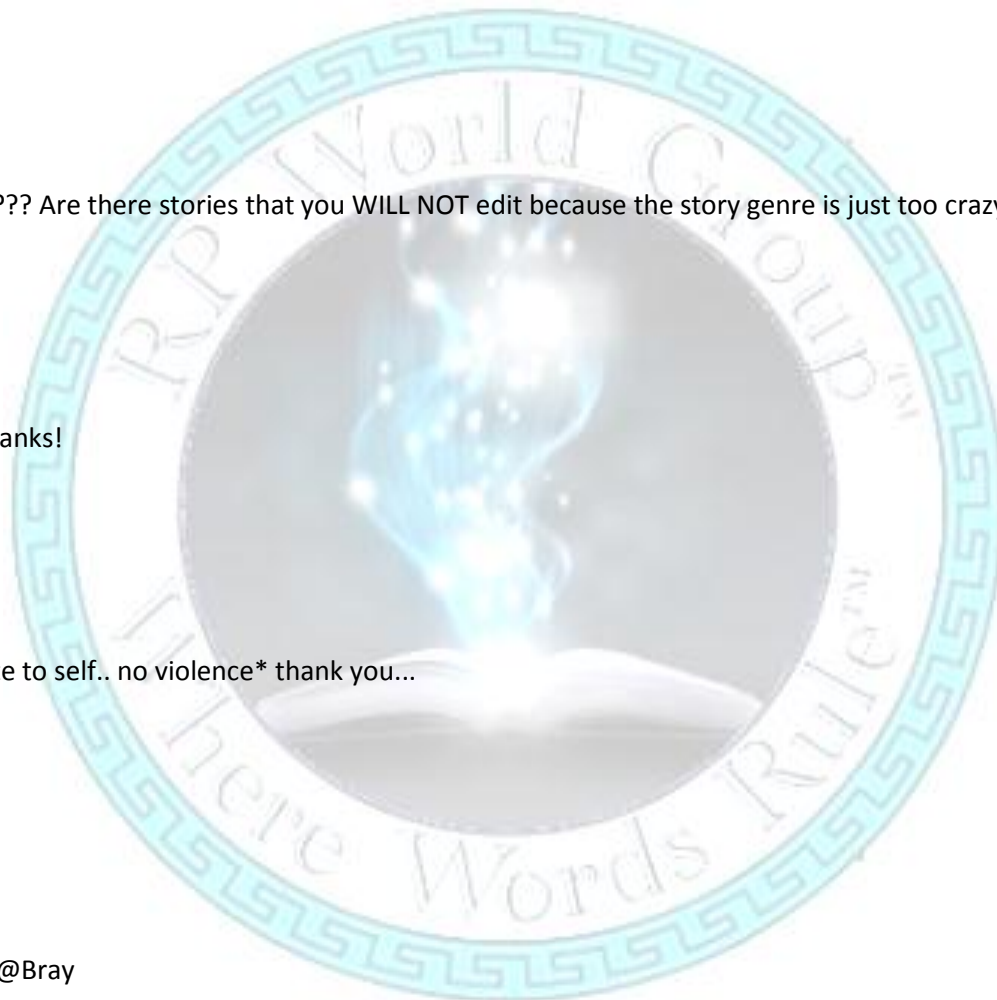
Bray Dalton: *note to self.. no violence* thank you...



StephanieW: LOL@Bray



Copi: ??? Hi Lara. If you're writing a novella how long should each chapter be in word count approx.



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Lady Isis: Bray seriously who can keep you straight. hahahahahaha



Lara: Kill - copyrighting comes after we've edited a story when we work at a publishing house. When we're freelance I recommend the same thing. We don't want to copyright something we are going to change.



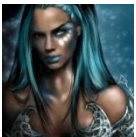
Killius: Thank you again Lara



Winn: Amen, Lady I.



Bray Dalton: Another question... I'm not sure I understand.... ????????????I have heard/seen a lot of horror stories when it comes to sending in a copy of your book to a publisher. You know - the cut-scenes in a movie where they get stacks and stacks of pregnant manila envelopes and they open one up, Read the first paragraph and do a little "Psst! BOOOORING!!!" and then toss the manuscript over their shoulder into the big garbage bucket behind them before ripping open another one. -- Are all popular publishers as cut-throat as the rumors/stories show?



Lady Isis: BRAY let her answer the last one

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Bray Dalton: oh, sorry, I thought she did..



Lara: Stephanie - not normally.



Lady Isis: Lara Copi asked a question. Scroll up



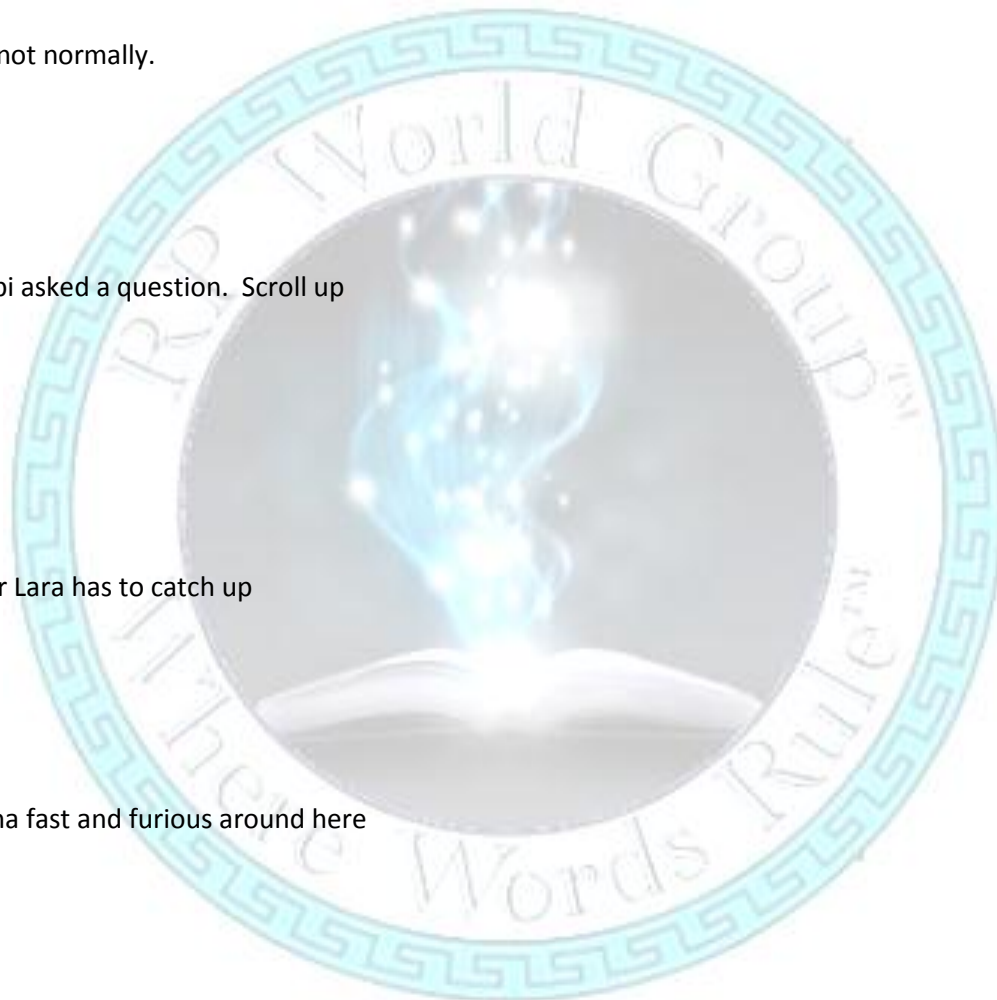
StephanieW: Poor Lara has to catch up



LaVerne: hahahaha fast and furious around here



Lara: Copi - I wouldn't set a word length on a chapter even when doing novellas. Let the story flow and we can worry about the chapters later. I am doing one novella now that has one really short chapter - no problem. Don't box yourself into a word count.



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LaVerne: ???But the work should have chapters right? Because in RP form it doesn't always.



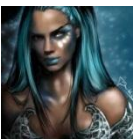
StephanieW: ???? I always wondered about that. Chapters if you have five chapters that are 10 pages then one that is three, is that okay?



Lara: Bray - no, not necessarily. I will say, however, the opening few paragraphs of your story are going to make or break your reader. If those first few paragraphs don't grab them, why should they keep reading?



LaVerne: Exactly



Lady Isis: *nods in agreement*



Lara: LaVerne - yes I recommend chapters. Helps the reader organize things while they are reading and gives the author an opening to change the path of the character(s).



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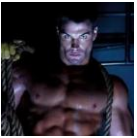
Copi: ??? Can you have more than one person's point of view within a chapter if say the story is based on two people



Lara: *Whew* Fingers aren't broken yet. :-)



Lady Isis: hahahahaha welcome to our world



Bray: ?????????? this is a point of view question too. As role players I think we struggle more with it. Can you go in and out of point of view while in a scene? Like a sex scene? AND how many points of view can you have in each chapter? (did I say that right)



Lara: Stephanie - again don't make it about the pages in a chapter make it about what that chapter is doing for you. If when we are editing, we think we need to make a change then we can handle it, otherwise keep it about the story. :-)



StephanieW: Thanks

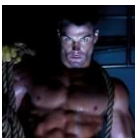
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Lara: Copi - This one is a touchy one. Some publishing house say absolutely not unless you have a scene break. The thing about POV is the reader...if it is absolutely clear who is speaking and what is going on than you might get away with it. However, most readers detest head hopping so I always encourage to steer clear.



LaVerne: yes Bray you did say it right I'm in shock



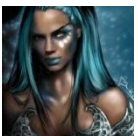
Bray: I'm so impressed with how well you are keeping up with this Lara. It's AMAZING... I'm in AWE already...



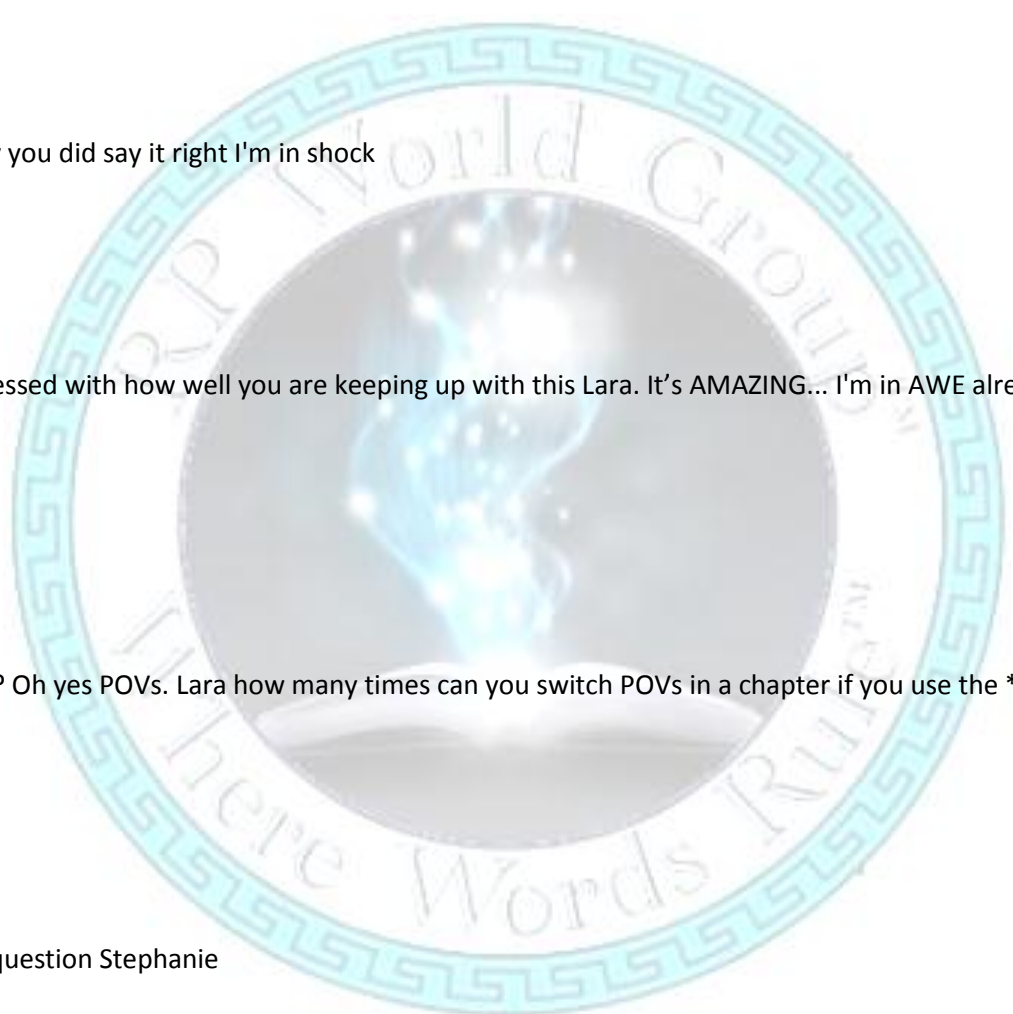
StephanieW: ???? Oh yes POVs. Lara how many times can you switch POVs in a chapter if you use the **** to separate them?



Killius: excellent question Stephanie



Lady Isis: Lara make sure and check your car trunk before you leave Bray likes to hide in them



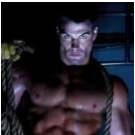
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Bray: So that pov thing gets really hard in a sex scene with same sex... too many he's...



Lara: Bray - sex scenes are done a little differently when you are talking about two characters. They bounce between the characters in a sex scene and that is not seen as a pet peeve with readers.



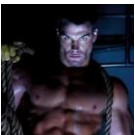
Bray: REALLY? WHO TOLD LADY ISIS,.. THAT WAS ONCE, OK THREE TIMES BUT REALLY?



Taryn: *chuckles at Lady Isis*



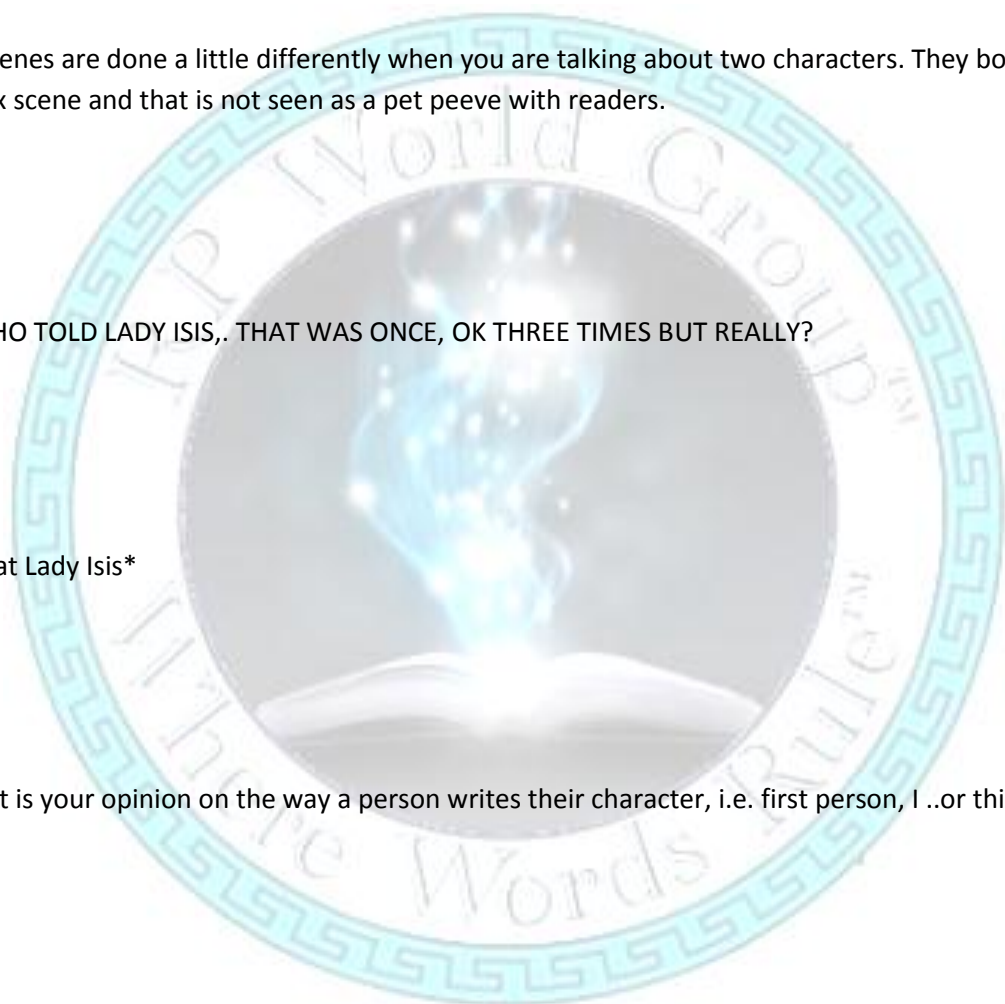
Copi: ???lara what is your opinion on the way a person writes their character, i.e. first person, I ..or third person, he



Bray: *note to self* get Taryn back...



Winn: ???? How is head hopping different from two characters having dialogue?



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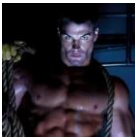
Bray: GOOD QUESTION winn. *winks*



Lara: Each chapter - you can do as many scene breaks in a chapter as you want. I tend to try to steer authors away from tiny scene breaks, like 2 sentences and then a scene break. However, if you want to put 20 scene breaks in a chapter and it fits the flow and plot of the story go for it!



Lady Isis: Really



Bray: Huh



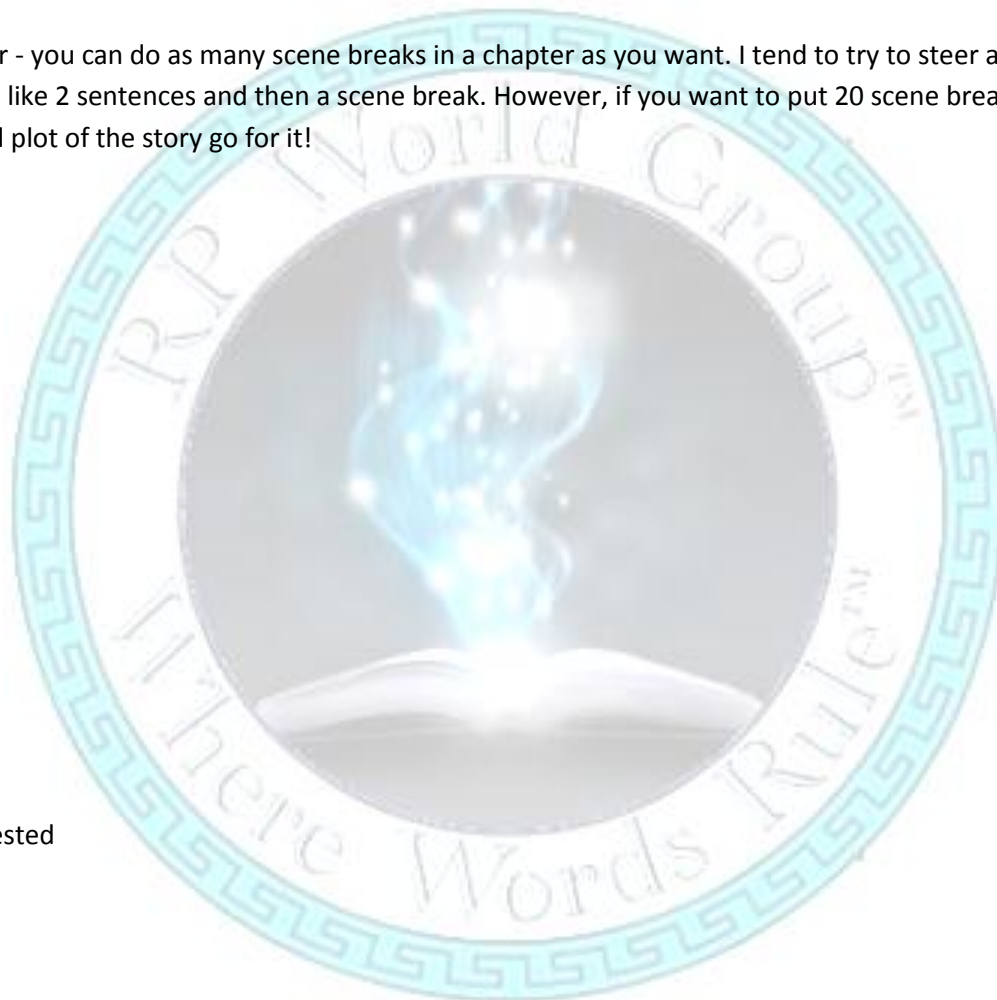
Killius: very interested



Lara: Bray - yes with m/m sex scene it would be a little difficult but you could always use the names or body types or what not...as long as the characters were well defined beforehand.



LaVerne: I might have to try that.



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LaVerne: not the m/m scene but the scene breaks.



LaVerne: Bray don't go getting any ideas



Lara: Copi - completely up to you. First person is a hard one to do and do it well but don't be afraid of it. It can't bite you... :-)



Copi: thank you



Killius: ????? Are there stories you will not edit and do you have a website where if someone were interesting in your freelancing they have a way to contact you?



Lara: Winn - head hopping is the actually internal thoughts of a character, dialogue is what they are saying. With dialogue tags, a reader can keep up with the conversation and don't forget the action. A lot of authors forget to make their characters move while they are talking. Does that make sense?



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Lady Isis: *nods* yes it does



Vischeral: yup totally



Winn: Absolutely. When I re-read my own stuff, I realize they forgot to put something down after they picked it up.



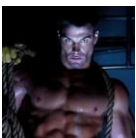
Bray: ?????? I have a critique partner who is mean and brutal.. They have shown me, when one character asks a question and it ends in a question... the pronoun used after the quote mark is lower case... Is that true???????????????????????????????? Dang, I don't know how to ask it..



LaVerne: hahahaha that's a common one



LaVerne: Bray I know you are not talking about me.



Bray: I didn't mean to hit send. I was frustrated I couldn't figure out how to say it..



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Winn: Consider yourself lucky, Brayton.



Bray: Oh and yes, I was talking about you. YES



Lara: Kill - LOL - I am laughing because my husband is a web designer and do you think I have a website?? Actually, my email address is out there, feedlady@gmail.com and anyone interested in freelancing can email me. I am thinking about putting a page on ManicReaders.com, too. Until Hubby can find some time for the wife! :-)



Killius: WONDERFUL...THANK YOU AGAIN :-)



Lady Isis: hahahaha that's funny Lara



Bray Dalton: Lara, get him on the phone, we will talk to him..



Lara: Bray - I'm a little lost...well not on the mean brutal part but the sentence part...ask again. :-)



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Lara: LOL!



LaVerne: hehehehehe



Bray Dalton: let me give an example



Lara: Kill - you are welcome!



Vischeral: he's pretty not smart . . . *chuckles*



LaVerne: hahahahaha



Lara: LOL!



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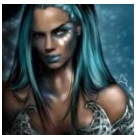
Lady Isis: hahahahaha true



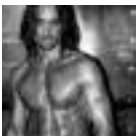
Bray Dalton: Is it sunny?" she said. Is the SHE a cap S or lower case s and why?



Lara: Vischeral - I will say that sentence caused me pain... :-)



Lady Isis: hahahahahahaha



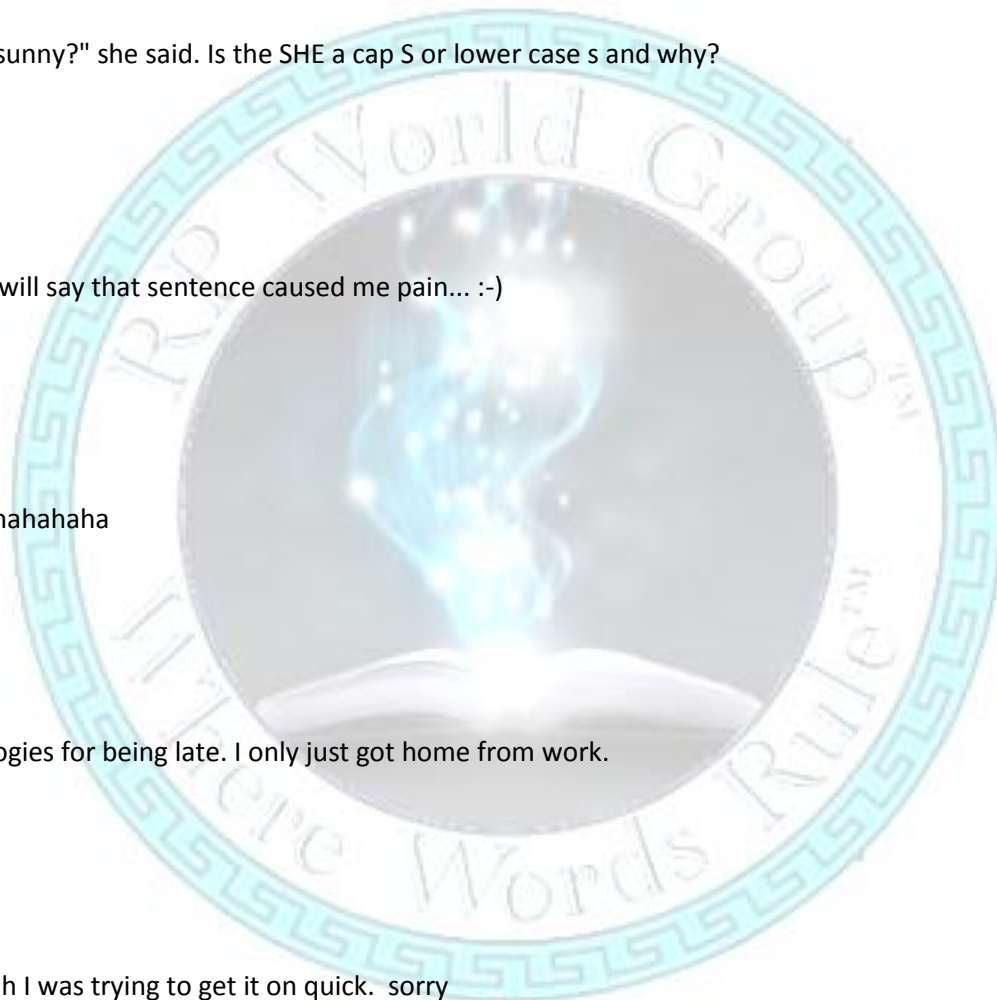
Tarquin: My apologies for being late. I only just got home from work.



Vischeral: hahahah I was trying to get it on quick. sorry



Bray Dalton: *fist bump V* thanks man. I try, crunches, running,



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AdamMayhem: Mine also



Lara: The "she" is lower case because it's still part of the sentence. So, "Is it sunny," she said.



Bray Dalton: Copi, Winn and Kill are asking great questions.. They filled in for you..



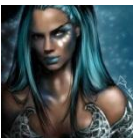
AdamMayhem: *smiles and reads up*



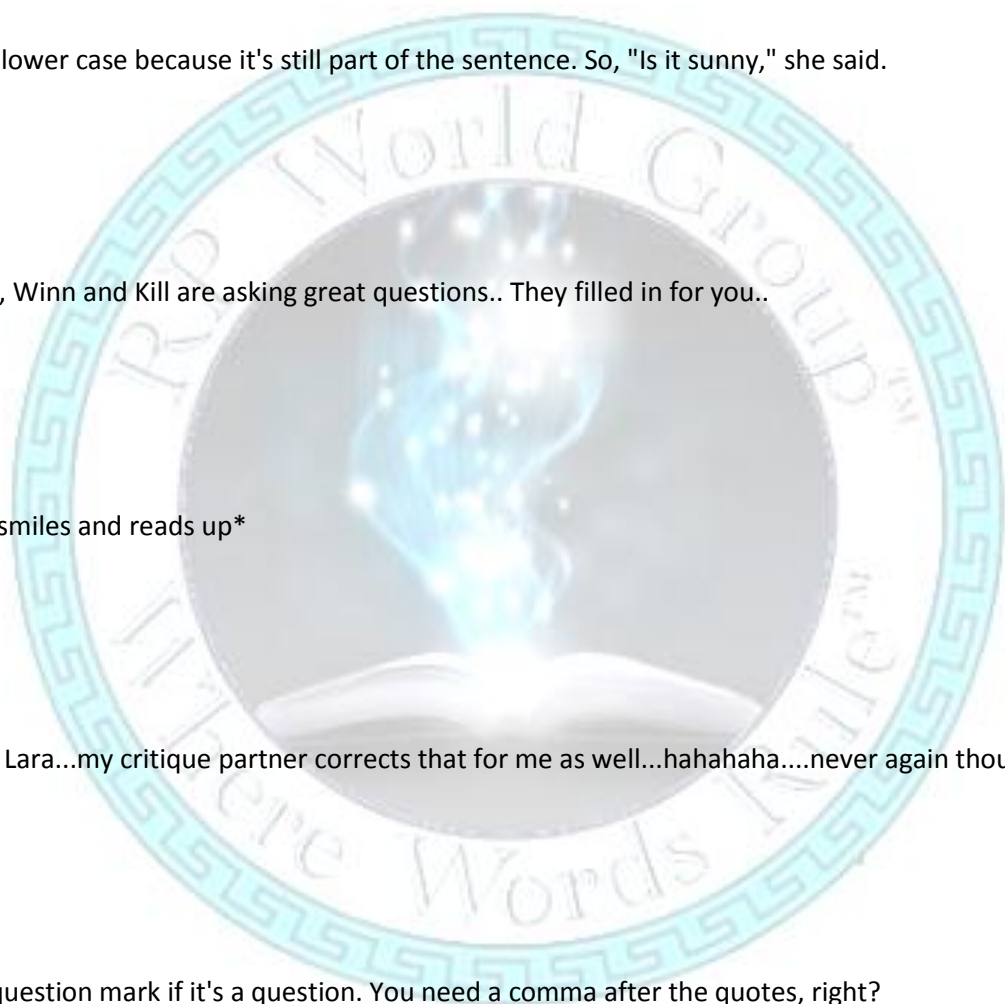
Killius: Thank you Lara...my critique partner corrects that for me as well...hahahaha....never again though...hahah



Winn: There is a question mark if it's a question. You need a comma after the quotes, right?



Lady Isis: Bray, perhaps you should be a ? mark instead of an exclamation point



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Winn: LMAO!!!!!!



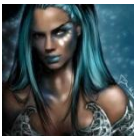
Aniketos: hahahaha



Vischeral: snorting



Bray Dalton: Is it sunny?" she asked? is that right?????



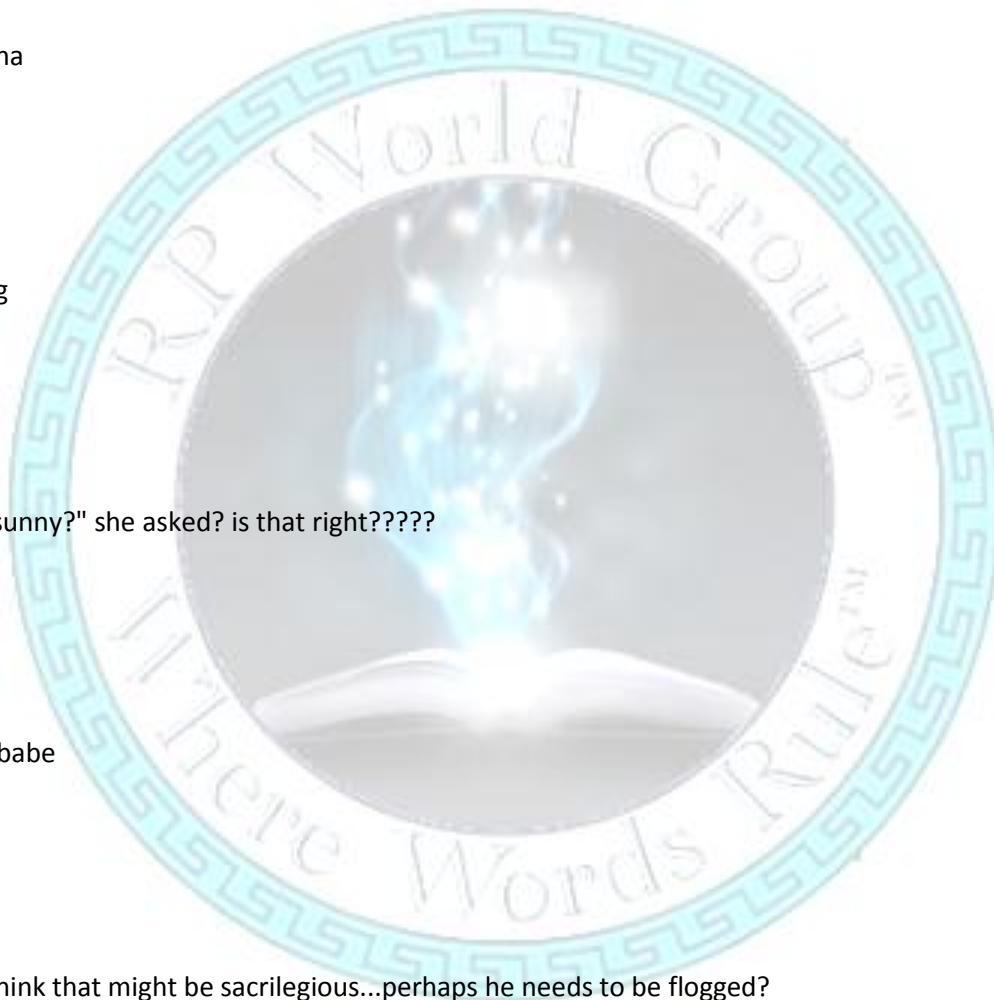
Lady Isis: Nik hey babe



Lara: LaVerne - I think that might be sacrilegious...perhaps he needs to be flogged?



Winn: "Is it sunny?", she asked.



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Aniketos: Good evening lady Isis..



Bray Dalton: Lara?????? is that right what winn wrote?



LaVerne: hahahahaha well said.



LaVerne: no



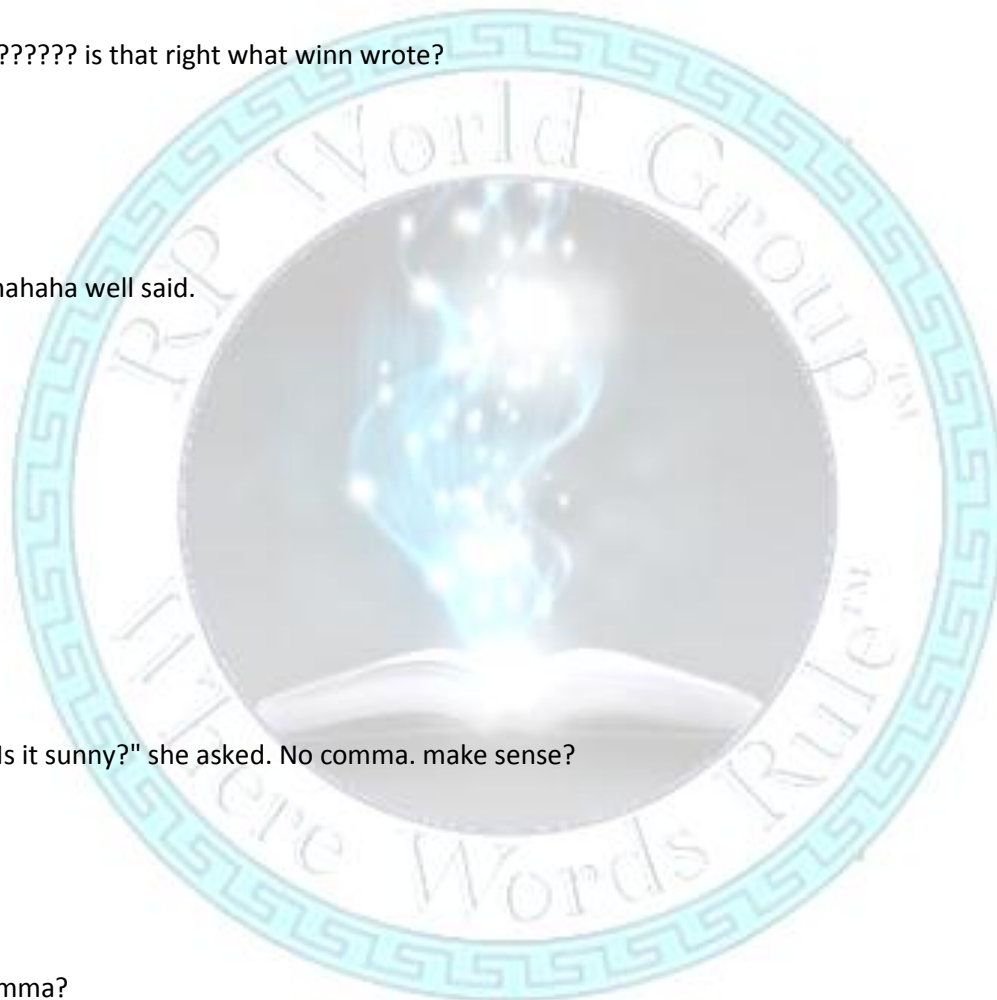
Lara: Winn - no. "Is it sunny?" she asked. No comma. make sense?



Winn: Why no comma?



LaVerne: *nods*



Excerpt from the Industry Chat held on Wednesday (June 22, 2011) at 7:30pm EST with Editor Lara Parker



Bray Dalton: I'm confused... I'm sorry. Is that with everything but a period?



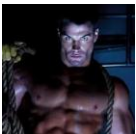
Lara: Winn - it's not needed, the question mark takes it place.



Winn: OK



Lara: Welcome!



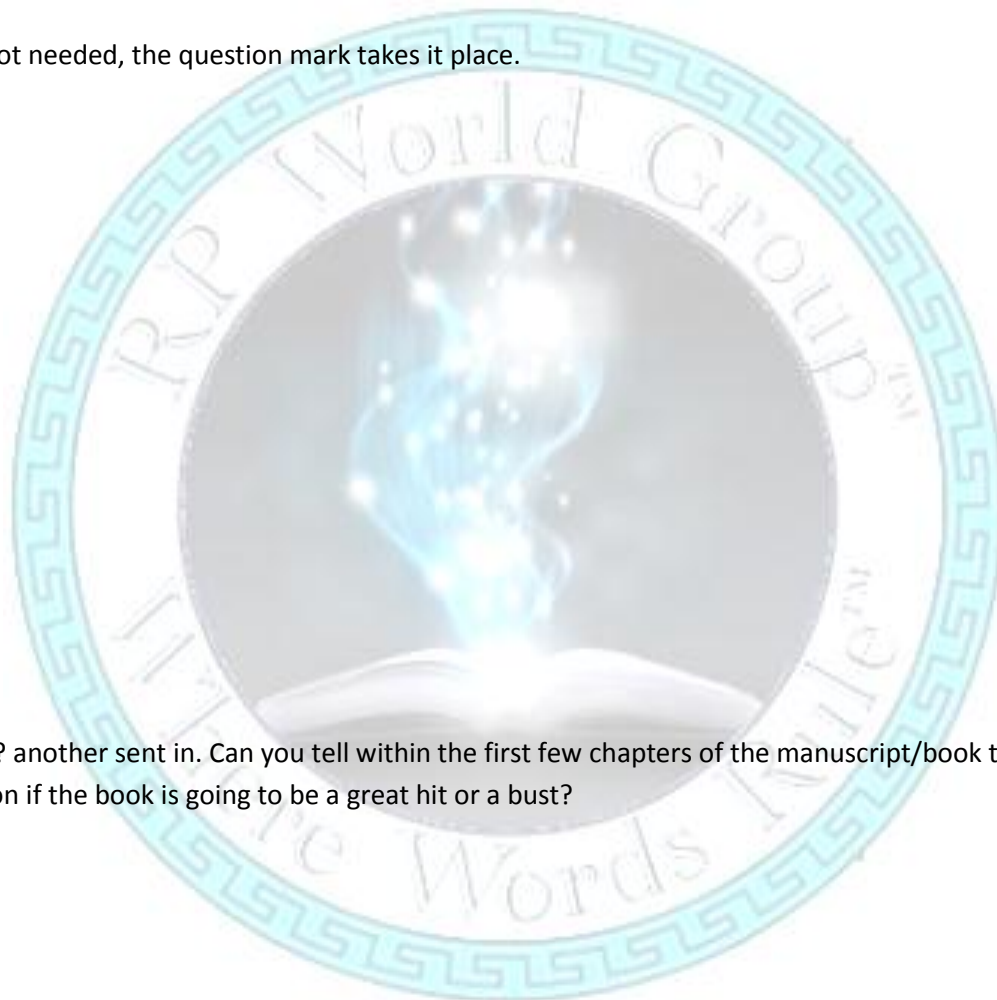
Bray: ?????????? another sent in. Can you tell within the first few chapters of the manuscript/book that you are editing or given to work on if the book is going to be a great hit or a bust?



Winn: See I need an editor AND a critiquer.



Taryn: ????????So if it was re-worded to "It's sunny.", she said. then the comma would be in there?



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Lara: Bray - Is what with everything? The comma, the question mark?



Lara: Bray - yes, within a few chapters you usually know what you are working with.



AdamMayhem: Can I ask something?



Lady Isis: I think Bray means the rule only applies to the ? mark



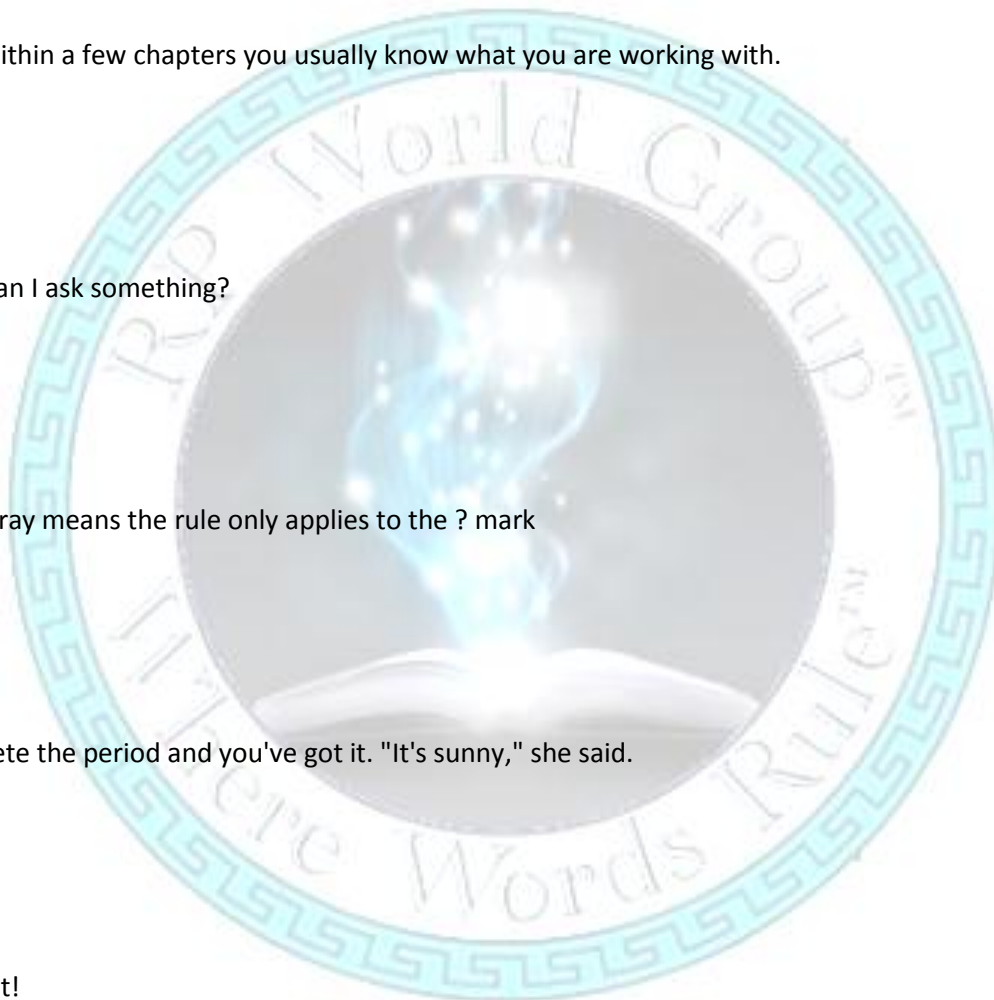
Lara: Taryna - delete the period and you've got it. "It's sunny," she said.



Lara: Adam - shoot!



Taryn: Thank you.



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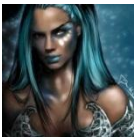
Lady Isis: For instance it the sentence had an exclamation point



Bray: *nods* That's why you are our leader...



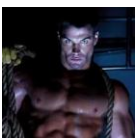
Lady Isis: Was there ever doubt



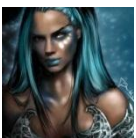
Lady Isis: Adam just put ????? then ask the question



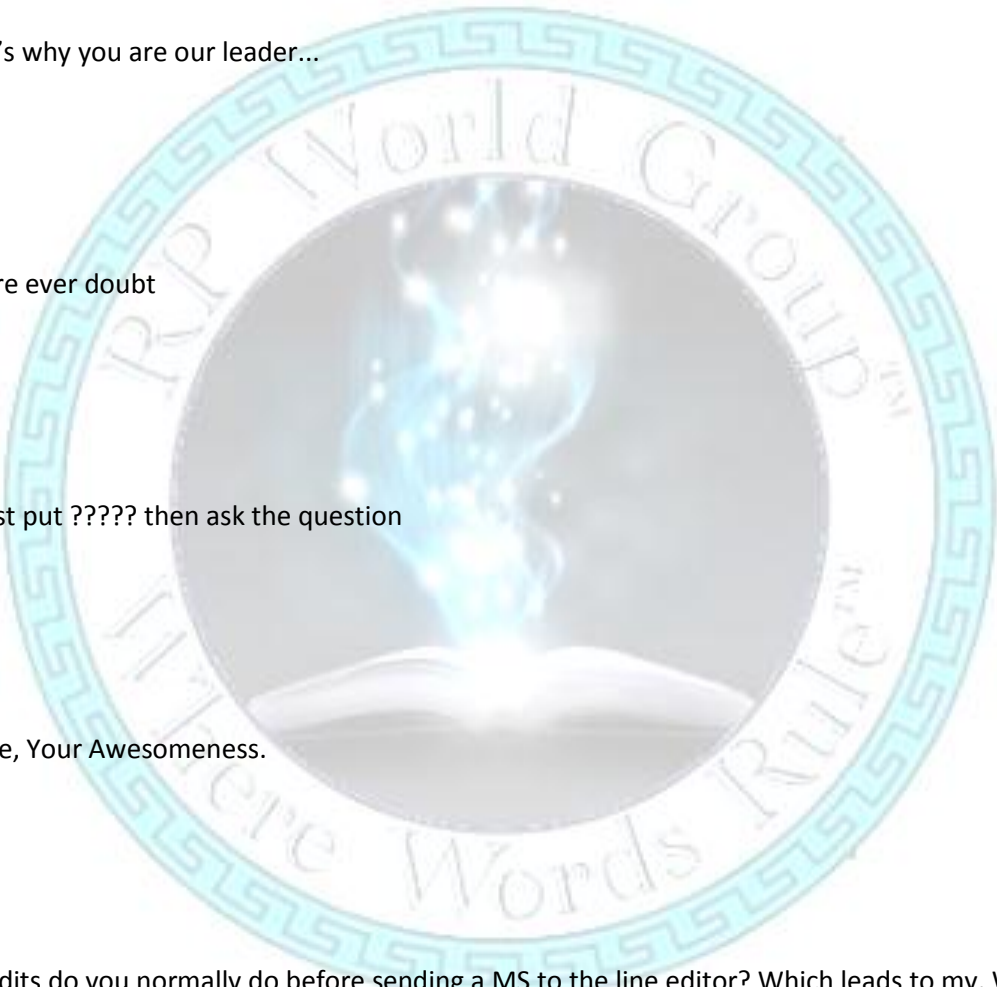
Winn: Not from me, Your Awesomeness.



Bray: How many edits do you normally do before sending a MS to the line editor? Which leads to my, What is the process once the MS leaves the authors hands and comes to you??



Lady Isis: Let Lara catch up hold on



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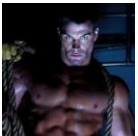
AdamMayhem: Thank you. So when you get through the typical errors that must be crazy from people like me who absolutely can't spell. The feedback you give is for the betterment of the story or it wouldn't be given, that was my experience in another industry, true here?



Lara: Lady Isis - got it. The rule applies for questions mark and exclamation point. So, "Look! The sun!" she exclaimed. "Is it sunny?" she asked. "It's sunny," she said.



LaVerne: And this is why she's my favorite editor.



Bray: AHHHHHHHHHHH, you are so smart LaVerne. Barely brutal at all.



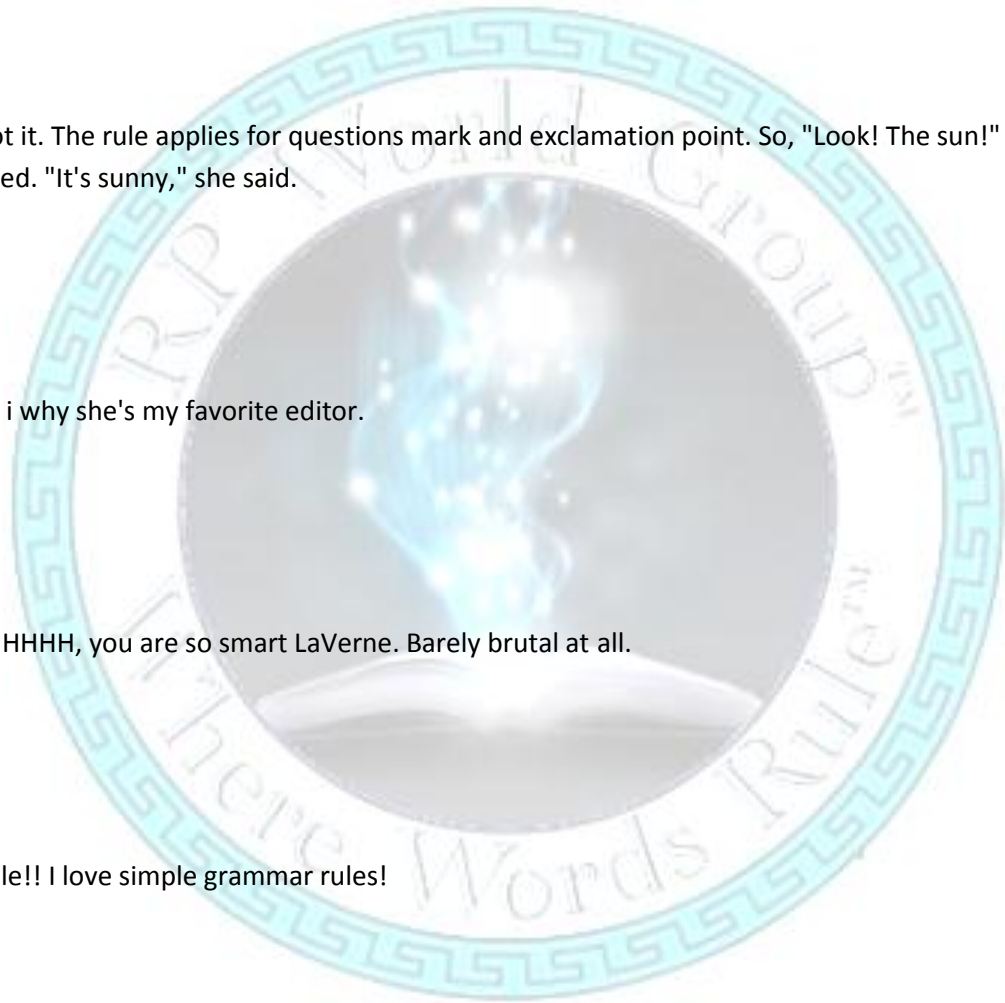
Winn: Ah ha! A rule!! I love simple grammar rules!



LaVerne: I must be slipping



AdamMayhem: No way



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Lara: Bray - usually I do three rounds of content edits before lines. Sometimes, we do four or maybe only two. It really depends on the manuscript. Once it leaves the authors hands, after the contracts are signed, we start editing and do as much as we need to.



Killius: WOW..that is amazing Lara!



Lara: Adam - yes, first please use spell check before you send it to me. LOL. Second, yes everything I suggest is for your benefit - I WANT your story to be the best it can be and to make you lots of money! :-)



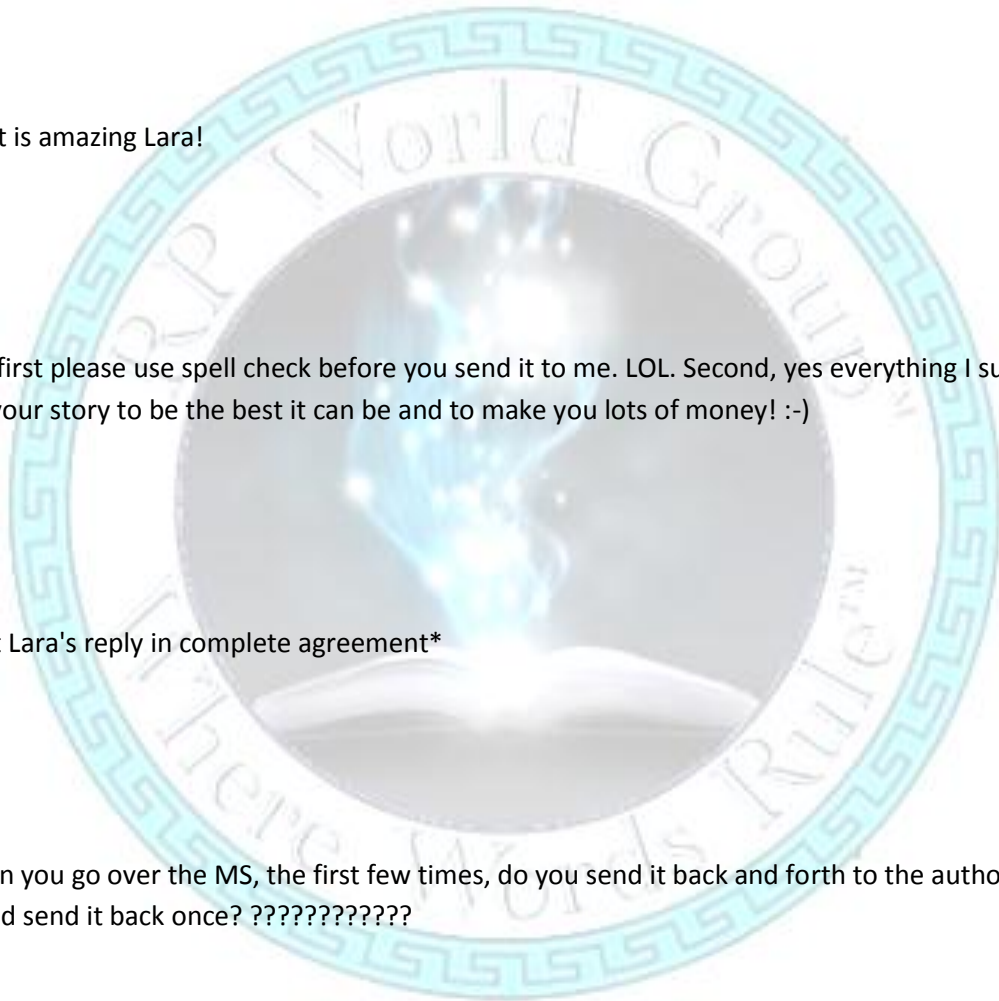
LaVerne: *nods at Lara's reply in complete agreement*



Bray Dalton: When you go over the MS, the first few times, do you send it back and forth to the author? Or do you make the corrections and send it back once? ??????????????



AdamMayhem: Ok so in my "other" experience, if it wasn't worth it. Nothing came back. Same here?



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Lady Isis: Ah Bray the ?? goes first



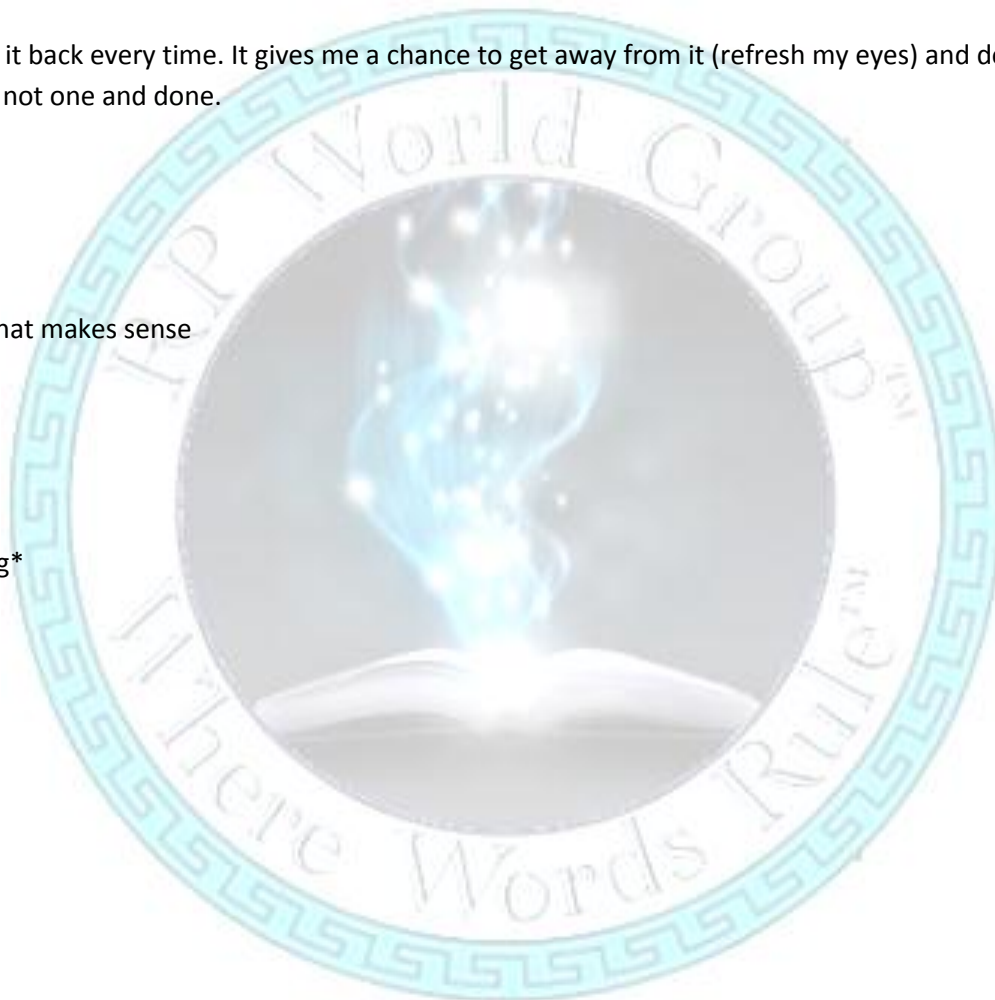
Lara: Bray - I send it back every time. It gives me a chance to get away from it (refresh my eyes) and does the same for the author. So it's not one and done.



AdamMayhem: That makes sense



Tarquin: *Nodding*

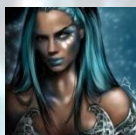


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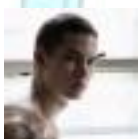
Thank you for participating !



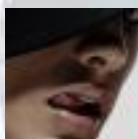
Lara



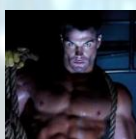
Lady Isis



AdamMayhem



Aniketos



Bray



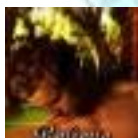
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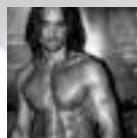
Killius



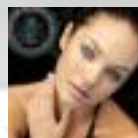
LaVerne



StephanieW



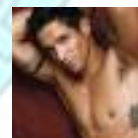
Tarquin



Taryn



Vischeral



Winn