

Editing Summary - Mystery/Thriller

Style choices

Issue	Decision
Oxford, or serial, comma	I use the serial comma, but you don't in this ms. I respected your choice because I didn't find any cases where the lack of it implied a confusing relationship between the last two items in the series.
Single vs. double quotation marks	Most authoritative American sources say you should use single quotes ONLY for a quotation within a quotation. Never for emphasis, irony, or as "scare quotes." But they also allow that some writers prefer their own style and use them in these situations. I've highlighted in yellow all the cases where you may just make the choice yourself. If a comment involving quotation marks is not yellow, it's not negotiable. ☺

Repeated figures of speech

Issue	Correction/comment
licking its chops	On p. 22, again on p.82
water on sand	On p. 12, again on p.142
Falcone's double chins	On both p. 77 and 158, crumbs are getting stuck in his double chins.
vibrating (or vibrated) like a tuning fork	On p. 219, again on p. 312
air (or breath) drained from lungs	On p. 107, 179, 319, 320
robin-egg blue sky	On p. 274, again on p. 342

Continuity or reality questions

Issue	Correction/comment
P. 2: Tomorrow's exam determined whether she got into the University of Louisville Medical School.	Med school acceptance never depends on a single exam. Might have a big influence, but it's not tied to one score. There's GPA, the MCAT, recommendations, interviews ... lots more.
DNA samples for both Radford and Jacqueline	Not sufficiently clear how they were both readily available, especially when Jacqueline died so long ago.
Falcone's snacks	On p. 77, 79, and 81 he's eating cashews. On 158, 378, and 382 he's eating pistachios.

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quarterly sorority event/party	On p. 213 and 215, Jennifer refers to this as the <i>quarterly sorority party</i> or <i>event</i> . It sounds too generic to be believable. A college girl would call it by its name – such as Gamma Gala or Theta Fling or Beta Blast – something like that.
Falcone's tasseled loafers	On p. 77 they're black, but on p. 221 they're brown. Maybe he has two pairs, but still ...
recurring dreams (they happen repeatedly, not just once)	P. 62, 295 – does she need two different dreams? Not a big deal, but two seems like a device.
Alexandra or Alexandre?	On p. 138 it's Alexandra and on p. 411 it's Alexandre.
Medical organization	On p. 192 it's Doctors Without Frontiers, and on p. 410 it's Doctors Without Borders
Quinn's statement on p. 316: "I would have preferred you filthy rich."	Out of character unless he's joking. That's not clear. She should throw a pillow at him or something ...?

Copy edits

Page	Text	Correction/comment
3	She lie	She lay
7	where she head	where she'd head
12	... he'd vanish like cashews.	What does this mean?
13	He damned near hit me while riding my bike this morning.	He damned near hit me while I was riding my bike this morning.
19	Breen's face began to morph into the face of his grandmother	She died when he was two. How could he remember her face?
20	so it looked like she wore	so it looked like she wore it
24	Elle <i>Steward</i>	Elle <i>Stewart</i>
29	Ellie Steward	Ellie Stuart
29	'Did you	"Did you [double quotes]
41	'Ellie, you look just like Gary Cooper's beautiful co-star, Joan Leslie.'	"Ellie, you look just like Gary Cooper's beautiful co-star, Joan Leslie." [double quotes]
41	"Thank you, ma'am. "This is Quinn Parker."	"Thank you, ma'am. This is Quinn Parker." [extra quotes]
47	'dotty memory'	"dotty memory" [double quotes]
54	canasta	Canasta

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Page	Text	Correction/comment
61	three years before you were born	Is it three years or four?
63	a doctor who'd died four years before she was born	
62	reoccurring, painful dream	recurring, painful dream
67	Nearby, ran a small creek	Nearby ran a small creek
67	Mumu dress	mumuu dress
68	Mavis clicked off <i>All My Children</i>	Don't know if it's relevant, but this show went off the air in 2011. Maybe <i>Wheel of Fortune</i> ?
75	Leland Radford's estate was also	Leland Radford's estate, was also
75	over the top <i>True Confessions</i>	over the top of <i>True Confessions</i>
76	with thick, salt and pepper hair sitting behind a massive desk	with thick salt and pepper hair, sitting behind a massive desk
82	Pidgeonroost	Pigeonroost (there's no d in pigeon)
82	knew him well.	knew him well?
84	three large chunks of raw Kobe beef, at one hundred fifty dollars a pound,	three large chunks of raw one-hundred-fifty-dollar-a-pound Kobe beef,
85	24-7	[usually expressed] 24x7
85	He could care less.	He couldn't care less.
85	'of my pristine forests.'	"of my pristine forests." [double quotes]
91	Ellie saw the red pickup following them since Mavis Biddle's house, turn down a side road.	Ellie saw the red pickup that had followed them since Mavis Biddle's house turn down a side road.
94	While you there	While you're there
94	Trailblazer	TrailBlazer
94	'be more assertive.'	"be more assertive."
112	Quinn wondered if the son would ever see the notice?	Quinn wondered if the son would ever see the notice.
114	Trailblazer	TrailBlazer
120	you're adoption	your adoption
142	Loretta Mae's smile sunk	Loretta Mae's smile sank
153	<i>they'd</i> be buried,	<i>they'd</i> be buried.

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161	<i>SOLDIER OF FORTUNE</i>	<i>Soldier of Fortune</i>
161	Maybe she should consider the job.	Maybe he should consider the job.
161	Trailblazer	TrailBlazer
161	He wondered where they were going now?	He wondered where they were going now.
168	Pin numbers	PIN numbers
177	<i>NAVY SEALS DEEP 6</i>	<i>Navy SEALS Deep 6</i>
178	army	Army
179	on the <i>NAVY SEALS flick</i>	at the <i>Navy SEALS flick</i>
183	Doberman Pincher	Doberman Pinscher
192	Where's is	Where is
196	(Fiction)	What's this for?
200	dollars worth	dollars' worth
202	Helmut to helmut hits	Helmet to helmet hits
205	whether he cared for her?	whether he cared for her.
208	Tammy Wynett's	Tammy Wynette's
218	whether she was the biological daughter of Jacqueline Moreau and Leland Radford?	whether she was the biological daughter of Jacqueline Moreau and Leland Radford.
222	Halogroups	haplogroups (unless Falcone was just being colloquial)
233	'the poor girl had to scrape manure off her boots before they'd let her in the restaurant.'	"the poor girl had to scrape manure off her boots before they'd let her in the restaurant."
241	'protect the forests from strip mines, strip malls and strip clubs!'	"protect the forests from strip mines, strip malls and strip clubs!"
245	Many Baghdad's prostitutes	Many of Baghdad's prostitutes
252	delicious looking	delicious-looking
261	he said..	he said.
263	Alright	All right

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263	'a hick chick from Harlan.'	"a hick chick from Harlan." [If you decide to go with single quotes, the close quote is backwards]
274	just made.“	just made.” [close quotes]
275	loose him	lose him
275	the rear Exit	the rear exit
275	the Exit's backed up	the exit's backed up
275	side Exit door	side exit door
276	“Y'all like bein' ... followed?”	“Y'all, like, bein' ... followed?” [without commas it implies they enjoy being followed]
282	trust fund Lucille	trust fund of Lucille
283	collapsed into a seizure (OK).	What's the (OK) for?
286	“Whistlin' Gypsy.	“Whistlin' Gypsy.” [close quotes]
288	<i>Kimberly Han</i> [then, next line] Kimberley	Which spelling to use?
288	”do <i>not</i>	“do <i>not</i> [open quotes]
295	reoccurring	recurring
295	“Wow! “It's magnificent, Quinn!””	“Wow! It's magnificent, Quinn!”[delete extra quotes]]
296	Quinn walked over to mahogany bar	Quinn walked over to the mahogany bar
296	DisneyWorld	Disney World
296	six-grader	sixth-grader
303	He'd seen no movement for over twenty minutes, nor heard any sound	He'd seen no movement for over twenty minutes, or heard any sound
304	“No shit, Einstein!	“No shit, Einstein!” [close quotes]
304	heroine-addicted	heroin-addicted
305	'fried chicken'	“fried chicken”
305	Men's Room	men's room
305	'wet work.'	“wet work.”
307	The dashboard clock said 2:46 A.M, and	The dashboard clock said 2:46 a.m., and

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Page	Text	Correction/comment
310	Pushkin's had agreed	Pushkin had agreed
310	career ending	career-ending
311	<i>my beautiful Babushka</i>	Babushka means old woman or grandmother ...?
314	"I noticed, but ... "	"I noticed, but ... " [close quotes]
316	'Ellie ...?'	"Ellie ...?" [open quotes]
318	'See you in ten minutes.'	"See you in ten minutes."
326	'exciting new product'	"exciting new product"
341	Jimmy Chuu	Jimmy Choo
342	'the most exciting two minutes in sports.'	"the most exciting two minutes in sports." [If you decide to go with single quotes, the close quote is missing]
342	Some doctors advised some patients	Some doctors advised certain patients
352	<i>and now -- hang on</i>	<i>and now - hang on</i>
354	"we're just rushing	"we're just rushing [open quotes]
359	"What's a khi –	"What's a chi –
363	cubical	cubicle
384	'mountain mama'	"mountain mama"
384	'smoke ropes'	"smoke ropes"
385	loose revenue	lose revenue
385	<i>The Pines</i>	<i>The Pines</i>
386	"Maybe because he knew - "	he knew - " [close quotes]
394	tied me over	tide me over
405	He'd never rendered a decision involving chimerism?	He'd never rendered a decision involving chimerism.
409	'Irene, please try to locate my child. I want my child to inherit my estate, except for those items I've bequeathed to my household staff.'	"Irene, please try to locate my child. I want my child to inherit my estate, except for those items I've bequeathed to my household staff,"
414	'Wolverines.'	"Wolverines,"

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Page	Text	Correction/comment
416	the result of strip mining.”	the result of strip mining. [no quote]
420	“In the view of all	“In view of all
435	“That justice batted three hundred today!”	“That justice batted three hundred today!”
442	late-thirties	late thirties
446	had rode in	had ridden in
447	<i>Disneyworld!</i>	<i>Disney World!</i>