

Editing Notes

6/11/05

Mark	Meaning
✓ nice	all mean good writing
sp	check your spelling
(blah)	something circled needs correction
blah	delete
the and	reverse order
[blah blah]	consider deleting text inside brackets
vt	verb tense
va	verb agreement
wc	word choice
blah blah blah blah ~~~~~	confusing, awkward, and/or rough
& or /	new paragraph
^	insert word or phrase
//	what comes first doesn't flow with what follows
x	omit this adverb

Editing Examples

The Guy With The Wandering Eye (3rd Person)

She knew he had one.
The way he looked at all those women.
The way he listened to them, so attentively, like no-one else mattered.
Wisping back bits of their hair, removing “lint” from their garments.
His lips millimeters from their check bones, warm breathe blowing an alleged eyelash.

She felt his every not-quite indiscretion.
Took counsel in her girl friends,
who said leave him!

As if.
As if he knew what she was thinking.
He’d give her the flip with his untamed hair.
His blue blue eyes would shine on her and he would listen.
She knew, this time, he would listen.

The Guy With The Wandering Eye (1st Person)

I know he has one.
The way he looks at all those women.
The way he listens to them, so attentive, like no-one else matters.
Wisping back bits of their hair, removing “lint” from their garments.
His lips millimeters from their check bones, warm breathe blows an alleged eyelash.

I feel his every not-quite indiscretion.
Take counsel in my girl friends,
who say leave him!

As if.
As if he knows what I was thinking.
He’ll flip my untamed hair.
His blue blue eyes will shine on me and he will listen.
I know, this time, he will listen.

Editing Examples

The Guy With The Wandering Eye (3rd Person)


She knew he had one.

The way he looked / at all those women.

The way he listened to them, so attentively, like / no-one else mattered.] No keep this

Wiping back / bits of their hair, removing “lint” / from their garments.] No keep this

His lips millimeters from their check bones, / warm breathe blowing / an alleged eyelash.
sp



She felt / his every not-quite indiscretion.

Took counsel in her girl friends,

who said, leave him!

As if.

As if he knew what she was thinking.

He'd give her the flip / with his untamed hair.

His blue blue eyes would shine on her / and he would listen.

She knew this time, he would listen.
vt vt

Editing Examples

The Guy With The Wandering Eye (1st Person)

I know he has one.

The way he looks at all those women.

The way he listens to them, so attentive, like no-one else matters.

Wisping back bits of their hair, removing “lint” from their garments.

His lips millimeters from their check bones, warm breathe blows an alleged eyelash.

sp

I feel his every not-quite indiscretion.

Take counsel in my girl friends,

who say leave him!

As if.

As if he knows what I was thinking.

vt = am

He'll flip my untamed hair.

His blue blue eyes will shine on me and he will listen.

I know, this time, he will listen.

I prefer the 3rd person version because it makes the man's effect on women more believable – we see objectively how he works his charms. In the first person version the more knowing narrator and the deceived “I” are the same. Wouldn't the speaker know better?

In the 3rd person version it's possible to imagine the “she” among these women, and so her being taken in by the man in the last stanza is understandable. The narrator sees what the “she” can't quite see.

In the 1st person version of the poem the speaker is separate from the women she watches the man flirt with. As a result when he turns his charm on her she seems surprisingly foolish.