

*Make Haste To Live*  
**Olivia Wylie**  
**Editing Stage: Copy Edit**

## **Editorial Summary**

This summary is not a professional manuscript critique. These are my own observations noted as I edited your manuscript. I hope you find the comments useful in your future writing projects.

### **General**

You've written a charming, unusual love story. Combining elements of urban life, magic, the Victorian era, and tea is a fun mix.

The first few pages have many comments from me; beyond that, I feel you hit your stride. I did make many changes to the formatting, punctuation, etc., but those did not require comments. I encourage you to look through all changes before accepting them.

### **Characterization**

Liz and Zabela are well-rounded characters. I enjoyed how we got to know Zabela's past, and the family left behind. Liz's 'family' is in the tea shop, and the banter gives a good feel for her situation. I'm left a little curious about the shop owner. We know she's old, small and frail in her cardigan. She's had the fortune teller for a while. I know telling how she acquired it would water down this story, but I'm left wondering about her, which is okay. This isn't a story intended to answer all my questions.

### **Dialogue**

Liz, as the storyteller, could be having tea with the reader and telling her this story. The intimate way Liz tells the story really brings it to life

### **Readability**

Liz's easy-going, friendly narrative makes this story easy to read. The short snippets of dialogue are best read in a left justified, no indentation format, so I kept your original style, even though it's not the most widely accepted format. Luckily, fiction writing has more wiggle room for using non-standard formatting.

### **Technical**

Very few errors in punctuation. You know your stuff! I did change the formatting of ellipses and dashes, along with other minor fixes.

## Style Guide

This Style Guide will give you a deeper insight into the standards I have followed. Some of this information is generic, and does not necessarily apply to your manuscript. I hope it is helpful to you with future writing projects.

### Regional Standard, Slang Style

American English. Casual conversational storytelling tone.

### Person, Tense

First person, present tense.

### Abbreviations and Contractions

The casual tone of this story includes many contractions, including I've, I'd, I'll, it'd, they'd, etc. The nature of the casual first-person storytelling makes this acceptable.

### Manuscript Formatting

All text changed to Times New Roman 12 Point.

All double spaces changed to single spaces.

Rogue spaces at end and beginning of paragraph removed.

Rogue straight single quote marks replaced with curled quote marks. This is something that happens often when bringing a non-native document into Word.

Closing single and double quotations fixed. Sometimes they appear reversed following an em dash.

Particular to this story, all paragraphs are left justified with a line break after each paragraph. There are no indentations.

### Possessives

An apostrophe and s are generally used with personal names ending in an s, x, or z sound, as long as pronunciation is not hampered. Example: Chris's.

### Capitalizing Places and Published Works

Particular to this story, the fortune teller's cards are in title case and enclosed in single quotations. Example from your story: 'The Answer Is Yes'.

The names of buildings, monuments and other named places are generally capitalized but without italics. Generic terms are usually in lower case.

Music albums are in italics. Individual songs are in double quotations.

Magazine and book titles are in italics. Chapter titles are in quotation marks.

### Punctuation

Particular to this story, hyphens are used for the fortune teller's sound effects. *Tik-tik-tik-tik-tik-tik-tik . . .*

Ellipses: Three spaced periods, with one space on either side.

Mrs. Mr. Dr. etc, end with a period. (American English).

Closed em dash for end of sentence interruptions: “But—.”

Closed em dash when used as parentheses: He—I mean, my boss—gave me a raise.

### **Internal Thoughts**

Dialogue that is clearly an internal comment is in italics. Your story contains a lot of internal commentary. I focused on separating internal monologues (storytelling) from internal replies that would have otherwise been part of a spoken conversation.

### **Time styles**

Times of day in even, half, and quarter hours are spelled out. With o’clock, the number is spelled out. Precise time measurements can be in numbers, such as 5:47 p.m.

Particular to this story, I left a 3am reference as it flowed better than spelling it out.

### **Titles and ranks**

Titles are lower case when used generally, but capitalized when used in a form of address, before a name, or as part of a name:

Good morning, Lieutenant. Is there a sergeant in the room?

I respect King John. Sadly, I have never met a king.

## Consistency Guide: Unique Character Names and Words

Madame Tarot. Also known as the fortune teller (lower case). In human form, known as Zabela Dolabdjian.

Liz Sharp

Author prefers ‘hunh’ over ‘huh’

Camellia, a loose leaf tea shop

*Plink*

*Clink-click*

*Tik-tik-tik-tik-tik-tik . . .*

*Shink!*