

Fiction Youth Novel Author Seeks Feedback on Portions of Manuscript Set in Central Africa (DRC) and South Asia (Bangladesh)

Deadline to apply: 15 MAY 2024

Start and end dates: 1 JUNE 2024 – 28 JUNE 2024

Compensation and Expectations: \$400 for (A); \$250 for (B)

Rate is \$0.029 per word, which is a current rate (2024) for a premier level editor at a USA editorial consultancy described as an experienced book publishing professional who has worked on multiple traditionally published and often bestselling books.

(A) Central Africa (DRC) portions: ~42 pages; ~14,000 words = \$400

(B) South Asia (Bangladesh) portions: ~24 pages; ~8,000 words = \$250

Desired Work Schedule/Hours: This consultancy opportunity is remote and project-based. Written feedback to be received on/before 28th June 2024; one 45 minute phone/video call between 1st – 10th July 2024.

Application Process: Submit your interest with a cover letter + resume by 15th May 2024 to team@freecember.org . Feel free to reach out with any questions. This is a confidential project, and you will be required to sign a non-disclosure agreement.

Vision: the fiction youth novel (FYN) has been drafted with a view to publishing as a way:

- 1) to introduce 11- to 14-year-olds to modern slavery/human trafficking in an age-appropriate and engaging way and
- 2) to inspire 11- to 14-year-olds to 1) learn more 2) take actions within their power 3) make decisions about their daily lives and their futures that raise freedom for those enslaved/affected by modern slavery/human trafficking 4) raise even more freedom by using their influence with decision makers in their spheres of life, both now and as their spheres increase over time

In the novel, two American middle schoolers, through a hint of magic, get windows into two scenarios of kids their age in forced labor: one in a mineral mine in Central Africa (DRC) and the other in a clothing factory in South Asia (Bangladesh).

The author is seeking feedback on portions of the manuscript set in (A) Central Africa (DRC) and (B) South Asia (Bangladesh) from someone with lived experience of forced labor, preferably in or similar to those settings.

Feedback is sought primarily around overall content and tone and representations of the situations, keeping in mind it is fictional. Feedback will be incorporated and considered, along

with feedback from other pre-readers of the manuscript, in order to inform a revision prior to potential publication.

Note: Pre-readers of the manuscript will not be named individually in the final publication, unless mutually agreed prior to publication. Feedback will be anonymized and considered together along with other pre-readers to hopefully inform a revision of a high-quality, engaging novel of realistic fiction that shows the values of dignity and mutuality.

The author is the founder of Freecember (freecember.org) and Amazon best-selling author of *Everyday Abolitionist: Discover What You Can Do to Help Stop Modern Slavery/Human Trafficking* (<https://freecember.org/everyday-abolitionist>).

Responsibilities/Deliverables:

- Read relevant portions of the manuscript (A and/or B), as appropriate

(A) Central Africa (DRC): 42 pages; ~14,000 words

(B) South Asia (Bangladesh): 24 pages; ~8,000 words

(For reference, the whole manuscript is ~83,500 words (239 pages), which is between the novels *Wonder* at 73,000 words and the first *Harry Potter* at 96,000 words and the first *Hunger Games* at 100,000 words. Consultation on the whole manuscript may be sought in the future.)

- In the margin of the document, make comments and queries regarding content, tone, details and representations of the scenarios as well as any specific notes

- Provide written feedback, both positive and for potential improvement in a detailed editorial-style letter, likely one to two pages of bullet points and/or comments regarding overall content, tone and any specific notes and suggestions to improve the manuscript, specifically in regards to the depictions of the characters and scenarios of forced labor

- A 45-minute phone or video call consultation with the author

Consultant Requirements:

- Required: English language proficiency - must be able to read/write in English

- Preferred Previous Work Experience: preferably has previously provided written feedback on written materials/books/fiction novels

- Preferred Subject Matter Expertise: forced labor, in a mineral mine in Central Africa (DRC or similar); forced labor, in a clothing factory in South Asia (i.e. Bangladesh or similar); anti-slavery awareness raising

People with lived experience are encouraged to apply! Formal degree not required, as long as you are able to follow instructions, communicate effectively with team members and read/write in English.