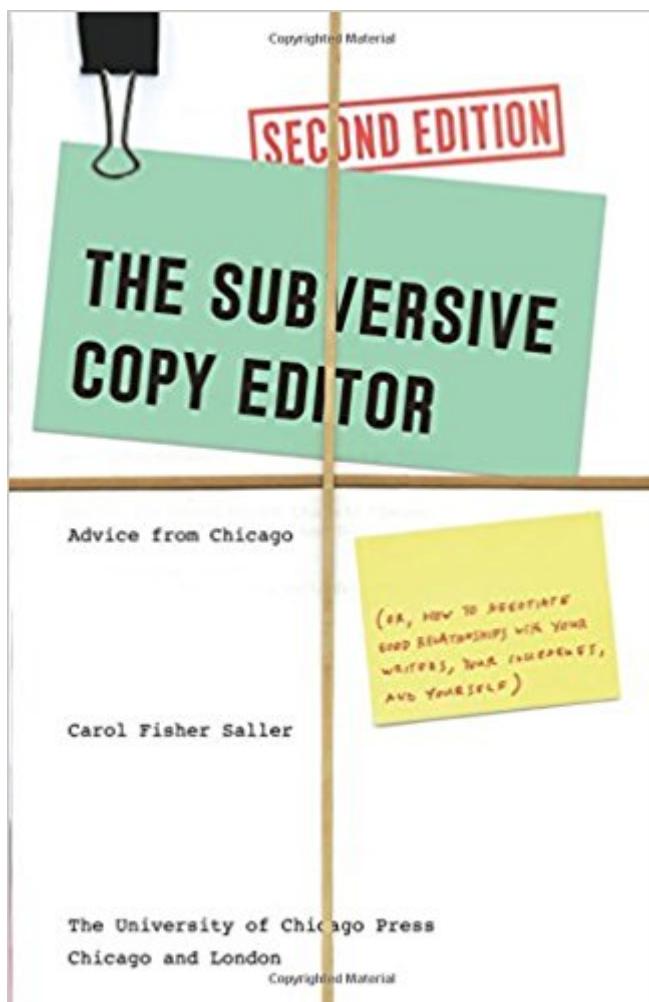


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# **The Subversive Copy Editor, Second Edition: Advice From Chicago (or, How To Negotiate Good Relationships With Your Writers, Your Colleagues, And ... Guides To Writing, Editing, And Publishing)**





## Synopsis

Longtime manuscript editor and Chicago Manual of Style guru Carol Fisher Saller has negotiated many a standoff between a writer and editor refusing to compromise on the “rights” and “wrongs” of prose styling. Saller realized that when these sides squared off, it was often the reader who lost. In her search for practical strategies for keeping the peace, *The Subversive Copy Editor* was born. Saller’s ideas struck a chord, and the little book with big advice quickly became a must-have reference for copy editors everywhere. In this second edition, Saller adds new chapters, on the dangers of allegiance to outdated grammar and style rules and on ways to stay current in language and technology. She expands her advice for writers on formatting manuscripts for publication, on self-editing, and on how not to be “difficult.” Saller’s own gaffes provide firsthand (and sometimes humorous) examples of exactly what not to do. The revised content reflects today’s publishing practices while retaining the self-deprecating tone and sharp humor that helped make the first edition so popular. Saller maintains that through carefulness, transparency, and flexibility, editors can build trust and cooperation with writers. *The Subversive Copy Editor* brings a refreshingly levelheaded approach to the classic battle between writers and editors. This sage advice will prove useful and entertaining to anyone charged with the sometimes perilous task of improving the writing of others.

## Book Information

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Ã¢ “This is the book Oprah would write if her vocation were saving writers from embarrassment, rather than saving the whole world. To which I say,Ã¢ finally. IÃ¢ ¸ve got dozens of books concerned with the nuts and bolts of copy-editing, but this is the only one that teaches the fine art of chilling out.” (Praise for the previous edition Jennifer Balderama, *New York Times*) “If you admiredÃ¢ ¸even lovedÃ¢ ¸ the firstÃ¢ Subversive Copy Editor, you will perforce admire and love the second edition.” (John McIntyre *Baltimore Sun*) “May be the best copy editorÃ¢ ¸s companionÃ¢ sinceÃ¢ the CMS, the AP Style GuideÃ¢ and that dog-earedÃ¢ xerox of copy editing marks you keep tacked up onÃ¢ the cubicle wall. . . . This is an ideal complement to any style guide: practical, relentlessly supportive and full of ed-head laughs.” (Praise for the previous edition *Publishers Weekly*) “One of the great virtues of this book (which has been very well copy-edited) is the many helpful examples of exchanges and situations Saller uses to illustrate her points. Many are realÃ¢ ¸ and some, incidentally, very funny.” (Praise for the previous edition *Times Literary Supplement*) “With the book, (Saller) hopes to give copy editorsÃ¢ ¸self-assurance and a measure of graceÃ¢ ¸ in negotiating words with the writers we areÃ¢ ¸charged with saving from themselves.” ItÃ¢ ¸s an invaluable work for aspiring copy editors, and a useful one for those more established. WritersÃ¢ ¸ who all edit their own work, to a degreeÃ¢ ¸ will also find it illuminating. The Subversive Copy EditorÃ¢ is a wise, witty, and thoroughly helpful companion to the work of editing.” (Stan Carey *Sentence First*) “The best book on editing IÃ¢ ¸ve ever read.” (Jonathon Owen *Arrant Pedantry*) “Saller is the mentor that every copyeditor dreams of: wise, smart, shrewd, gracious, generous, and self-deprecating.” (Praise for the previous edition Amy Einsohn, author of *The CopyeditorÃ¢ ¸s Handbook*)

Carol Fisher Saller is editor of the Chicago Manual of Style OnlineÃ¢ ¸s Q&A and writes the EditorÃ¢ ¸s Corner for the Chicago Manual of StyleÃ¢ ¸s Shop Talk blog. She occasionally writes about language and writing in academe for Lingua Franca at the Chronicle of Higher Education and is the author of several books for children, most recently the young adult novel EddieÃ¢ ¸s War.

I've always enjoyed Carol Fisher Saller's blog posts, and I enjoyed the first edition of this book. When the second edition came out, I waited for a while, read some reviews on it, and decided to get it too. I'm glad I did. It was well worth it. But if you're a seasoned editor, you already know her writing

is "worth it." If you're an editor who isn't familiar with her writing, now is a good time to treat yourself. After all, it's not every day that you find a book on editing that not only instructs you but also makes you laugh.

A must for copy editors, this book is filled with important advice, whether you are just starting out in the field or have several years of experience under your belt.

A good perspective. Lots of help for nonprofessional proofreaders and copy editors. Suggests lots of "rules" to ignore.

I am an author who has recently begun editing the manuscripts of other writers. When advised that my detailed suggestions were perhaps overwhelming, I purchased this book to give me a clearer view of what to do and what not to do when editing a novel or memoir. I consider this book outstanding in content, as well as interesting and humorous. This book is exactly what I needed to become more relaxed in my editing of grammar and punctuation and, as a result, helpful rather than frustrating to both the writer and myself. Grammar & Punctuation Geek, Nancy Powichroski Sherman

It's worth reading just for the questions and answers used to illustrate various points throughout the book. Absolutely hilarious. Many passages seem to confirm things "everybody knows" (every copyeditor anyway), but it is very comforting to have one's beliefs confirmed! In any case, do not skip over things you think you know, because there could be something new and useful. I picked up many helpful suggestions and reminders.

Every editor, and every writer who works with an editor, should read this book. Loved the first edition; second edition's well worth adding to my library.

I flew through this book in a single day. It's full of fascinating anecdotes from the editing/publishing world, funny stories, and truly great advice. If you're interested at all in editing, writing, or want to know more about the process, check this out.

This is one of the best books on copyediting that I've ever read. If you'd like to become a freelance copyeditor or proofreader, the book is invaluable.

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