

Sample Proofread – Elizabeth C. Haynes

Notes: I offer this doc as an example of the types of errors I catch. This is how the publisher requested the errors be identified and delivered (a Word doc with the page and line number). I added the identifier for type of error.

TYPO: Page 22, six lines from the bottom, the “I” is missing. Change “the economic crisis), and now had to rebuild a new life” to “the economic crisis), **and I now** had to rebuild a new life”

TYPO: Page 24, line 3, there’s a typo. “could **hve** been”

GRAMMAR ERROR: Page 26, Change “Others have a journey to take before we can do the thing we’re supposed to do, so we don’t understand it until later.” to “Others have a journey to take before **they** can do the thing **they’re** supposed to do, so **they** don’t understand it until later.”

TYPO/GRAMMAR ERROR: Page 27, last line, I think “they” is missing? Change, “and sometimes wallow as part of that process.” to “and **they** sometimes wallow as part of that process.”

INCONSISTENCY: Page 31, line 10. It should be “**re-engage**” (with a dash)

GRAMMAR ERROR: Page 37, lines 4-5, Change “people who won’t go away (or whom you can’t get away from)” to “people who won’t go away (or **people** you can’t get away from)”

GRAMMAR INCONSISTENCY: Page 42, line 9, remove the comma after “say.” Where it says: and say, “**hello,**” should be: and say “hello,”

GRAMMAR INCONSISTENCY: Page 42, line 14, remove the comma after “say.” Where it says: even say, “good afternoon.” should be: even say **“good afternoon.”**

TYPO: Page 42, three lines from the bottom, change “the waste paper baskets emptied” to “the **wastepaper** baskets emptied” (Merriam-Webster says it’s one word, not two)

TYPO: Page 49, line 16, there is a typo. “outside **reassuarnc**”

GRAMMAR INCONSISTENCY: Page 54, line 9: change to read: “ ... we can’t say **no**” (no quotation marks around “no”)

GRAMMAR INCONSISTENCY: Page 57, line 14, change to read: “He always comes to **say hello** in the mornings” (omit quotation marks around “hello”)

WORD REPETITION: Page 61, line 10, suggest changing “gray cubicle” to “**drab** cubicle” because we’ve already said “gray cubicle” a few times in this book. Feels too repetitive as I’m reading.

WORD REPETITION: Page 79 line 8, Change “with that; that’s you and” to “with that; **it’s who you are** and”

STRUCTURE/CONSISTENCY: Page 79, line 10, we've been using contractions throughout this entire paragraph and we didn't here. So let's change "There is no reason" to "There's no reason" so it's consistent.

GRAMMAR INCONSISTENCY: Page 82, line 11, this is presented as dialogue so, again, I think it needs to change from "said "yes." to "said, "Yes." The sentence should read: ... turned my blood icy, I said, "Yes."

Page 220, third paragraph, first sentence: "Anytime" should be "Any time."

Page 76, third line from bottom: "anytime" should be "any time"

STRUCTURE/CONSISTENCY Page 91, line 2, change "re-engage with the person." to "re-engage with the person later." (So that the structure is more parallel, since we said "in the moment" in the first clause.

GRAMMAR: Page 98, this isn't reading right to me; I can feel calm but I can't feel a game of Pong. I can feel *like* I'm in a game of Pong. Change "When I feel calm in my mind rather than a perpetual game of Pong." to "When I feel calm in my mind rather than *like I'm in* a perpetual game of Pong."

WORD REPETITION: Page 99, line 1, change "Getting in your own way sometimes is part" to "Getting in your own way is part" (I feel like we should remove "sometimes" because we use that word again in the next few sentences, and this instance doesn't really go with those. It's a different thought.)

GRAMMAR INCONSISTENCY/CAPITALIZATION: Page 102, first paragraph, Change sentence to read: "... and also how to repeat her mother's *nǐ hǎo ma* when ..." (Change capital "N" to lowercase "n" and omit quotation marks.)

GRAMMAR INCONSISTENCY: Page 104, last paragraph, "America Online" needs to be in quotation marks. (AOL does not need quotes in this usage.)

CLARITY: page 111, four lines from the bottom, change "started dating the man who would become my husband" to "started dating the man who would become my *second* husband"

GRAMMAR: page 113, line 5, We shifted from talking about what she's doing, to the exercise suddenly being something, and that wasn't reading right to me from a grammatical/structural perspective. Change "What matters is that you do it, you consider it valid, and it's enjoyable—" to "What matters is that you do it, you consider it valid, and *you find it* enjoyable—"

CLARITY: page 114, line 4, change, "each one wanders" to "each *new person* wanders"

LAYOUT: page 115, second paragraph, the second comma in “because, sorry, that’s all we’re allotted” doesn’t look like the first. The one after “sorry.” Please fix font for comma after “sorry”

TYPO: page 135, middle of the page, “W. Somerset Maughan” is “W. Somerset Maugham” (with an “m” not an “n.”

WORD REPETITION: page 136, line 1, we say “more” four times in three lines. Change “through life learning more and more, with some of us more open to new knowledge than others.” to “through life constantly learning, with some of us more open to new knowledge than others.”

GRAMMAR/TYPO: page 138, 7 lines from the bottom, I don’t think we usually have “a” loss of memory. We usually just have loss of memory, just like we just have osteoarthritis. Remove the “a” and rewrite so that we change “with than a loss of memory or osteoarthritis.” to “with than memory loss or osteoarthritis.”

CONSISTENCY: Page 146, Let’s change “I am proud of” to “I’m proud of” for consistency.

WORD REPETITION: page 149, line 12, Change “my life was actually set in” to “my life was set in”

TYPO: page 149, 9 lines from the bottom. Change “divorcee” to “divorcée” (with an accent over first “e”)

TYPO: Page 150, line 14, Change “course-correct” to “course correct.”

CONSISTENCY: Page 153, 8 lines from bottom, change “I had coasted” to “I’d coasted” to match other usages of contractions.

GRAMMAR: Page 155, line 14, change “direction as well.” to “direction.” (saying “but” is sufficient to indicate there’s a second part of this thought; we don’t also need to say “as well.” It reads like I said something twice.)

GRAMMAR: Page 156, line 3, I’m not sure why this is in past tense. It should be in present tense; people continue to talk about taking leaps. It’s not just something that happens in the past. Change “people talked about” to “people talk about”

GRAMMAR: Page 158, last line. Change “brain spinning with doubt” to “mind spinning with doubt.” (brains don’t spin, literally; minds can spin figuratively)

GRAMMAR: Page 165, line 14, seems like we shouldn’t say “that this” together. Change “(My logical brain knows that this isn’t the case, though.)” to “(My logical brain knows this isn’t the case, though.)”

GRAMMAR: Page 167, line 3, add dash to “super sugary” since it’s a compound adjective. Should be “super-sugary”

GRAMMAR: page 174, second to last line, remove comma in “say, “hello” to the women” to read “say “hello” to the women” to follow pattern established earlier.

TYPO: page 187, 11 lines from the bottom. Change “start picking at the pieces” to “start picking up the pieces”

TYPO: page 206, third line from bottom, this should change from “hang onto things” to “hang on to things”

GRAMMAR: Page 209, second to last paragraph, don’t capitalize “education” in “had a Ph.D. in Education.”

CONSISTENCY: Page 211, last line, Change “that thing we once scorned.” to “the thing we once scorned.”

GRAMMAR QUESTION: page 212, fourth line, can we remove the quotes around “just for you” in: picked, lottery-style, “just for you.” ? They seem not needed because nobody is saying anything; it’s just an idea and a description. We use quotes SO often in this book and don’t want extras.

CONSISTENCY/STRUCTURE: page 213, line 1, So change, “In my younger years I would have skimmed the surface” to “In my younger years, I would have skimmed the surface”

WORD REPETITION: page 213, line 9, Change “she said, then she looked to her right.” to “she said, then looked to her right.”

TYPOS: Page 220, all instances of “onto” should be “on to” in the second paragraph: “People seem to hold onto stuff for a variety of reasons. I feel like most of the time they are holding onto stuff because they want to hold onto a memory. Case in point: you save your childhood records because you want to remember how you used to play them, not because you still play them or because you intend to sell them as antiques for a huge profit one day. Or, you hold onto your mother’s old food storage containers”

TYPO: Page 220, third paragraph, first sentence: “Anytime” should be “Any time.”

TYPOS: Page 221, line 3 change “things I’m holding onto strictly for sentimental reasons” to “things I’m holding on to strictly for sentimental reasons” and last paragraph change “were holding onto—like when they clean out” to “were holding on to—like when they clean out”

TYPO: page 222, change “serving my life anymore but that I’d held onto for no” to “serving my life anymore but that I’d held on to for no”

GRAMMAR/TENSE: Page 225, last paragraph, change “the kind of meaningful work that tried to help others” to “the kind of meaningful work that **tries** to help others”

WORD REPETITION: page 234, 7 lines from the bottom, we say position twice. Change, “position but with her rear limbs positioned at the ready” to “position but with her rear **limbs at** the ready”.

GRAMMAR: Page 246, first paragraph, 2nd to last line change “that says, “You’re an imposter” and it goes on for the entirety of their lives.” to “that **says “you’re** an imposter” and it goes on for the entirety of their lives.”

TYPO: page 247, second paragraph, second line Neil Degraass Tyson is spelled “Neil **deGrasse** Tyson” (capitalization changes and with an “e” on deGrasse)

OTHER THINGS FROM MY FINAL CHECK

GRAMMAR: page 104, third line from the bottom, change “brand new thing” to “**brand-new** thing”

GRAMMAR: page 108, second paragraph, change “After a hiatus in my early twenties, I became a hip hop dancer” to “After a hiatus in my early twenties, I became a **hip-hop** dancer”

GRAMMAR: page 124, third line, italicize “**grand jeté**”

GRAMMAR: page 124, line 9, “I remember the hip hop classes I took on Thursday evenings” needs to change to “I remember the **hip-hop** classes I took on Thursday evenings”

GRAMMAR: page 140, end of middle paragraph. Add a dash to “brand new” in “and the **brand-new** sagging of my formerly-perky boobs.”

GRAMMAR: page 172, first paragraph, fifth line, change “sixth floor” to “**sixth-floor**”

LAYOUT CHECK: can we do a search for “**naïve**” and see what it is about Word that keeps marking it? I want to make sure something isn’t incorrect about the dots over the “i.” I think there are two instances of “naïve” in the book.

GRAMMAR: page 209, second paragraph, fourth line “fifth grade” needs to have a **dash** in “my students as a fifth-grade teacher.”