
From: Wesley S. Lewis
Sent: Tuesday, January 2, 2018 12:15 AM
To: info@intriguepublishing.com
Subject: Query: WEST OF SIN (adult thriller)

Dear Intrigue Publishing:

WEST OF SIN is a 104,775-word contemporary adult thriller about a woman who flees a personal betrayal and stumbles into a criminal conspiracy.

Jennifer Williams hopes to survive her firm's annual Las Vegas real estate conference by focusing on two bright spots—Ashley, her young protégé and confidant, and Bryan, her boss and quasi-boyfriend. Those bright spots abruptly fade when she catches Ashley in bed with Bryan.

Distraught, Jennifer flees into the night and wanders into a small-town truck stop where she disrupts a robbery in progress. Her presence threatens to escalate the situation, until another bystander—a man with more to conceal than just his past—steps forward to protect her. She soon learns that the attempted robbery wasn't what it appeared and that this small town west of Sin City is home to a big secret. When the group behind the robbery comes looking for her but kidnaps Ashley by mistake, Jennifer must place her trust in the man who protected her and put her own life on the line if she is to have any chance of saving the young woman whose betrayal set all of this in motion.

WEST OF SIN blends suspense, light action, and a romantic subplot in the desert setting of Pahrump, Nevada, a small town on the California border, known to Las Vegas tourists as the home of the nearest legal brothels. The story utilizes the same small-town-embroiled-in-crime-and-corruption concept recently utilized by Netflix's *Ozark*. *WEST OF SIN* is tonally similar to and shares some thematic concepts with Lee Child's Jack Reacher series and Nick Petrie's Peter Ash series; however, this story differs by focusing on the woman in trouble (rather than the trained professional she teams up with) and placing her at the center of the action, where her new ally needs her help every bit as much as she needs his.

WEST OF SIN was one of ten semifinalists in the [2017 Adventure Writers Competition](#).

Per your submission guidelines, I've attached the first fifty pages, a one-page synopsis, and an author bio. I've also attached a longer synopsis in case you need more detail. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Wesley S. Lewis

From: Denise Camacho
Sent: Saturday, January 20, 2018 2:03 PM
To: Wesley S. Lewis
Subject: Re: Query: WEST OF SIN (adult thriller)

Wesley thank you for your submission. We would like to get the full manuscript. Also, can you please let me know of anyone else you have sent it to ok?

Looking forward to reading the rest of the story.

Denise Camacho

From: Wesley S. Lewis
Sent: Saturday, January 20, 2018 5:10 PM
To: Denise Camacho
Subject: RE: Query: WEST OF SIN (adult thriller)

Dear Ms. Camacho:

The full manuscript is attached as both a PDF and a Word document. It is also being considered by Stairway Press.

Sincerely,

Wesley S. Lewis

From: Denise Camacho
Sent: Wednesday, April 04, 2018 1:11 PM
To: Wesley S. Lewis
Subject: Re: Query: WEST OF SIN (adult thriller)

Wesley thank you for your patience and for submitting your novel *West of Sin*. We would like to offer you a contract for this work, if you are still interested.

Please let me know if you are still interested and I will send you a copy of our contract for you to review.

We very much enjoyed this adventure and hope to be working with you on getting it published soon.

Regards,
Denise Camacho
President, Intrigue Publishing, LLC

From: Wesley S. Lewis
Sent: Wednesday, April 04, 2018 4:45 PM
To: Denise Camacho
Subject: RE: Query: WEST OF SIN (adult thriller)

Dear Ms. Camacho:

Thank you for your interest. Please send along the contract, and I'll take a look.

Sincerely,

Wesley S. Lewis

From: Denise Camacho
Sent: Thursday, April 05, 2018 11:23 AM
To: Wesley S. Lewis
Subject: Re: Query: WEST OF SIN (adult thriller)

Mr. Lewis, attached is a copy of our contract for your work. Please review thoroughly and if you have questions don't hesitate to contact me. I would appreciate getting a response back no later than Wednesday, April 11.

I look forward to hearing back from you.

Thank you and enjoy the day!

Denise Camacho

From: Wesley S. Lewis
Sent: Thursday, April 5, 2018 9:03:07 PM
To: Denise Camacho
Subject: RE: Query: WEST OF SIN (adult thriller)

Dear Ms. Camacho:

Overall, the contract looks good. I have just a few questions/comments:

In Section 2, "REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES," there appears to be a typo in the second-to-last line. The word "mutual" is written "mjtual."

Section 4, "SUBSIDIARY RIGHTS," mentions audio rights; however, I notice that only about half of the thrillers listed on your website appear to be available in audio format, so I'm curious what criteria you use to determine whether an audio version will be produced and released.

Based on the timeline laid out in Section 10, "PUBLICATION," I assume that the book would be slated for publication in 2019. Can you tell me (approximately) how many books Intrigue plans to publish that year?

Thank you for your time and feedback.

Sincerely,

Wesley S. Lewis

From: Austin Camacho
Sent: Friday, April 06, 2018 10:21 AM
To: Wesley S. Lewis
Cc: Denise Camacho
Subject: RE: Query: WEST OF SIN (adult thriller)

Dear Mr. Lewis,

Thank you for writing, and for pointing out the typo. We will correct, and forward a new copy of the contract.

Late last year we decided to release all of our novels in audio format. However, we have learned that many of the voice artists available do not meet our standards so the audition and selection process has been slower than anticipated. We do have several in production now and continue to seek the right readers for all of our other books. Your writing has a distinctive voice. We will post your book for audio production as soon as we have a final manuscript, but will be looking for a performer who has an equally distinctive and appropriate voice.

Intrigue Publishing will release six novels in 2019 (unless we receive a submission we simply can't pass up... in which case we may add a book or two to the schedule.) Our business model calls for us to focus on each author and novel to an extent that really doesn't allow for a large number of releases in each year, but this pattern has been successful for us.

I hope that answers your questions, but if others arise please don't hesitate to write again. We look forward to working with you!

Ciao, for niao,

Austin Camacho

Intrigue Publishing

From: Wesley S. Lewis
Sent: Friday, April 6, 2018 11:59 AM
To: 'Austin Camacho'
Cc: Denise Camacho
Subject: RE: Query: WEST OF SIN (adult thriller)

Dear Mr. Camacho:

Thanks for the prompt reply and for the detailed answers to my questions. Everything sounds good as far as I'm concerned. As soon as you send me the corrected contract, I'll sign and return it.

Sincerely,

Wesley S. Lewis

From: Denise Camacho
Sent: Friday, April 06, 2018 1:37 PM
To: Wesley S. Lewis; 'Austin Camacho'
Subject: Re: Query: WEST OF SIN (adult thriller)

Wesley we are very happy to welcome you to our author family. Attached is the contract. If you have any questions please let us know.

You can electronically sign this contract and email back to me. I will also sign electronically and send it back for you to have on file.

Once we get the contract back we will begin working with you on next steps.

Take care and have a great weekend.

Denise Camacho

From: Wesley S. Lewis
Sent: Friday, April 06, 2018 5:04 PM
To: Denise Camacho; 'Austin Camacho'
Subject: RE: Query: WEST OF SIN (adult thriller)

Dear Ms. Camacho:

An electronically signed copy of the contract is attached. If you'd like me to scan a hand-signed copy and email it to you, just let me know.

Thank you for this opportunity. I'm excited to join your author family, and I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Wesley S. Lewis

From: Wesley S. Lewis
Sent: Monday, April 09, 2018 3:45 PM
To: Denise Camacho; 'Austin Camacho'
Subject: RE: Query: WEST OF SIN (adult thriller)

Dear Ms. Camacho:

Can you confirm receipt of the electronically signed contract? Do you need anything else from me at this time?

--Wes Lewis

From: Denise Camacho
Sent: Monday, April 09, 2018 4:00 PM
To: Wesley S. Lewis; Austin Camacho
Subject: Re: Query: WEST OF SIN (adult thriller)

Wesley yes, I have received it and will be sending it back to you in the next few days. My laptop was sent off to the fix it shop but once I have it back I will be able to sign and send your copy back to you.

Thank you and enjoy the week!
Denise

From: Austin Camacho
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 2:45 PM
To: Austin Camacho
Subject: Intrigue Author Update

Hello, to my favorite scribes!

One thing none of us is doing enough of is blogging. One reason might be that you've run out of good ideas, so to get the well primed I'll share some super ideas at the end of this email.

But before anything else, I want to welcome new Intrigue Publishing author Wesley S. Lewis. We'll release his romantic suspense thriller WEST OF SIN in the spring of 2019.

We have some fine successes to salute this week, including some new praise, like these two 5-star reviews for A. L. Kaplan's STAR TOUCHED: "Complex and Captivating! Tatiana wants more than anything to be normal. Instead, she has to deal with the loss of family, home, and belonging. Worse, her new abilities after the cataclysm frighten her more so than anyone she encounters. It will take a whole community to help Tatiana confront her fears, powers, and anger. It's a story about accepting who you are and learning the importance of forgiving yourself." - KindlePatron

And

"Fast-paced and emotionally complex! Star-Touched is the fast-paced and emotional journey of a teen-age girl and those surrounding her in a post-apocalyptic world. Tatiana is a sensitive, likable young woman who is left "star-touched" with various powers after a cosmic event transforms the Earth. The planet becomes a place where simple survival is a full time shore, and Kaplan draws this new version of her characters' home expertly. Tatiana's world is a reflection of what might be left, or what might emerge, as people reconstruct civilization. It's complete with dangers, hunger and power struggle. As a heroine, Tatiana is complex, kind and deeply damaged. You can't help rooting for her as she and her canine companion Fifi try to start a new life - again - with a variety of fresh and original characters such as Gareth, Brother William and Bobby Sue. As the story

unfolds, Tatiana is forced to confront both her own past and her deepest fears, which leave will leave young readers on the edge of their seat. Quick read with a roller coaster of emotions.” - Rissa

Also scoring 5-stars on Amazon – BLOOD TRAILS: “Another Fine Police Procedural from Michael Black! Michael A. Black has created a suspenseful and clever novel with a number of twists along the way. Told from various points of view, the story allows the reader to see the inner workings of both the dedicated cops and the psycho killer. But where Black excels is in the portrayal of his police characters. He is a former police officer in the Chicago suburbs and knows how cops think and act – and he brings it all home in a tightly written (under 250 pages) tale that rings true from the first chapter right through to the violent conclusion. Along the way Black mixes in some dark humor, romance, and tension between the city police and the federal task force. From the bright lights and skyscrapers of downtown to Lake Michigan to the train yards and refineries filled with the smells of oil and sulfur, Black makes excellent use of his Chicago setting as Colby pursues a killer apparently from his past. Tough, intense, and always engaging, this is another fine procedural thriller from Michael Black.” - Amazon Customer

AND here’s a review for one of our upcoming novels from a big name author: "Chris Bauer's JANE'S BABY is a fresh and engaging page-turner in the tradition of Janet Evanovich and Carl Hiaasen, with a "Wish I'd thought of that" premise, a bounty hunter with a serious problem, and a cast of quirky sidekicks on a collision course with both the past AND the future. I read this in one sitting. Such a clever book!" -- Karen Dionne, internationally bestselling author of THE MARSH KING'S DAUGHTER

BTW, reviews aren’t all we’re doing. Penny Clover Petersen is keeping the buzz going for PUSHING UP DAISIES. She will be signing copies May 17 at Barnes and Noble in Bowie Town Center, 15455 Emerald Way, Bowie MD from 11:00am to 4pm

Liza Brown is on the road too, on top of these 5-star reviews for POINT GUARDIAN: “Knowing the places in the book makes for interesting read. It held my interest to the very end. Cannot wait for the next one to see where it takes Mae and Elsu. And hope the ones responsible get there just rewards.” - Demita Dunn

AND

“Great book!!!! Great read! I couldn't put it down. The relationship between Mae and Elsu is full of ups and downs and I can't wait to see what happens next.” - Leigh F.

That book came out last month, but Liza is working it in her area. First she’s in at Barnes and Noble at 381 Boardman Poland Rd, Youngstown OH on April 28th from 1pm to 4pm.

Then on May 12 she appears at Dorrie’s Booktique, 5551 Fulton Dr NW, Canton OH from noon to 3pm.

Things are also exciting for Patricia Hale, whose second Intrigue novel, DURABLE GOODS is only 5 days away from release. Pat will debut the book on April 15 at the Author’s Night by the Sea, at Red Hook Brewery, 1 Redhook Way, Portsmouth NH from 2pm to 6pm.

Then she starts her 20-stop blog tour on April 18. All her stops are listed at <https://sites.google.com/a/myaddictionisreading.com/2018-tours/patricia->

On April 21 Patricia will sign at Barnes and Noble Portsmouth, 45 Gosling Rd, Newington, NH from 1pm to 3pm

On April 28 Patricia visits the Barnes and Noble at 235 Daniel Webster Hwy, Nashua, NH

On May 5 she’s at the Barnes and Noble at 98 Middlesex Turnpike, Burlington MA

Looking ahead, on July 25 Patricia will be in the New England Authors Expo at the Daversport Yacht Club, 161 Elliott St, Danvers MA from 4pm to 9pm

While we're talking live appearances, we'll release Sharon Ervin's next romance, DO YOU LOVE ME on May 16 but she's already making dates. On May 26 Sharon will sign at the Barnes and Noble at 6100N May Ave, Oklahoma City OK

And June 16 she'll visit the Barnes and Noble at Woodland Plaza, 8620 E 71st St, Tulsa, Oklahoma from 2pm to 4pm.

And on June 30 Sharon signs books at Barnes and Noble Preston Royal Shopping Center, 5959 Royal Lane Suite 616, Dallas, TX from 11am to 2pm.

If you're near any of these events I hope you'll stop in and shake your fellow author's hand. And if you've got something scheduled that I didn't list, please let me know so we can promote it!

As for blogging, I've spotted an article that shares five super creative blog posts that are easy and will surely draw an audience. Just look here!

- <https://insights.bookbub.com/creative-blog-post-ideas-authors/>

I'll be back in a week or two with more cool news and marketing ideas.

Ciao, for niao,

Austin

From: Austin Camacho
Sent: Tuesday, April 17, 2018 11:59 AM
To: Wesley S. Lewis; Denise Camacho
Subject: WEST OF SIN schedule

Hello, Wes,

As an author myself I know that writers want to know what's going on during the months between manuscript acceptance and publication. This email will give you a rough timeline of the path West Of Sin will take on its way to bookshelves.

Right now your manuscript is in the queue for a deep dive content edit. We expect that to be completed by Jun 1.

At which point the book returns to you for whatever rewrite is called for Generally I talk through possible changes with the author. You'll have 6 weeks for that process, which brings us to around July 13. When we receive the polished manuscript from you we issue the first half of your advance.

Next the book spends about 30 days with a proofreader. When it comes back (August 13 or so) I'll spend a couple of weeks fine tuning (making sure that nothing in the proofreading process damaged the voice or tone of the book.) Then we go into final formatting and finalizing the cover selection. You'll see covers before they are finalized.

By September 10 we'll be discussing the marketing plan and by September 24 we will be ordering galley copies and Advance Reader Copies. About a month later, ARCS go out to a list of about 25 reviewers (they need them 4 months before release.) A galley copy goes to you. This is your last chance to find errors of any kind. When we receive the galley from you with your comments that signifies that we are all agreed on the physical form of your novel, and we issue the second half of your advance.

All of this sets us up for an April 1 release date.

Let me know if you have any other questions. Otherwise, I'll be chatting with you again around June 1.

Ciao, for niao,

Austin Camacho
Intrigue Publishing

From: Wesley S. Lewis
Sent: Tuesday, April 17, 2018 8:49 PM
To: 'Austin Camacho'; 'D B'
Subject: RE: WEST OF SIN schedule

Dear Mr. Camacho:

Thanks so much for the detailed schedule. It's a big help.

Attached is the latest revision of *West of Sin*. I'm pretty sure that the only change from the version you read is a correction of the spelling of "Boris Yeltsin," but I thought I'd pass it along anyway.

When we get to the point of discussing cover designs, I've created a mockup of one possible cover idea, which I'll be happy to send you if you're interested in taking a look. But if your designers prefer to work from scratch, I'm fine with that too. I don't want to intrude on anybody else's creative process.

The only other thing I can think of right now is that I still need a copy of the signed contract, whenever Denise gets her laptop back up and running.

Thanks again for keeping me informed and for taking a chance on my novel.

Sincerely,

Wesley S. Lewis

From: Denise Camacho
Sent: Wednesday, April 18, 2018 11:27 AM
To: Wesley S. Lewis; Austin Camacho
Subject: Re: WEST OF SIN schedule

Sorry about that Wesley. I've been swamped.

Here you go.

Denise

From: Wesley S. Lewis
Sent: Wednesday, April 25, 5:19 PM
Subject: RE: WEST OF SIN schedule
To: 'Austin Camacho'
Cc: 'D B'

Dear Mr. Camacho:

I recently spoke with a social media content producer about the best way to attract an online following and build interest in *West of Sin*. She suggested that I find a woman who looks a little like the main character, shoot some publicity photos staged to look like scenes from the novel, and then use those photos to tease the novel on social media. I've been speaking with a model/actress I know, about the possibility of putting together a photo shoot like this, and I wanted to touch base with you and ask a couple of questions:

1. If I do this, do you want me to send you the photos so that you can share them with the cover designer, in case he/she wants to incorporate any of the images into the design; and
2. If you do want copies of the photos, by what deadline would you need them?

Thanks,

Wes Lewis

From: Denise Camacho
Sent: Wednesday, April 25, 2018 4:41 PM
To: 'Austin Camacho'; Wesley S. Lewis
Cc: Denise Camacho
Subject: RE: WEST OF SIN schedule

I think that is a great idea. We would like to have cover items no later than Oct/Nov time frame. We need to have a cover done 6 months out from pub date.

Thank you, good thinking!

Denise

From: Wesley S. Lewis
Sent: Wednesday, April 25, 2018 5:30 PM
To: 'Denise Camacho'
Cc: 'Austin Camacho'
Subject: RE: WEST OF SIN schedule

Thanks for the input. I'll try to have any cover materials to you by September 1.

--Wes Lewis

NOTE: It's worth noting here that Ms. Camacho tells me that in order to consider using any photographs in the cover design, Intrigue Publishing will need the photos no later than October or November. However, she also says that the cover must be done six months prior to the publication date, so I decide to play it safe and tell her that I'll have the photographs to her by September 1 (seven months prior to the publication date).

From: Wesley S. Lewis
Sent: Wednesday, June 6, 2018 4:01 PM
To: Denise Camacho
Cc: 'Austin Camacho'
Subject: RE: WEST OF SIN schedule

Denise,

Do you have an estimate on when the content edit will be completed? I want to plan my schedule so that I have plenty of time to do revisions.

Thanks,

Wes Lewis

From: Austin Camacho
Sent: Wednesday, June 06, 2018 7:30 PM
To: Wesley S. Lewis; Denise Camacho
Cc: 'Austin Camacho'
Subject: Re: WEST OF SIN schedule

Hello, Wes,

I'm glad you're gearing up for good promotions!

We'll have the manuscript content edit completed NLT June 16. No matter when we send to you, you'll have up to 6 weeks for rewrite.

I'll be back to you as soon as we have more.

From: Austin Camacho
Sent: Sunday, June 10, 2018 8:55 PM
To: Wesley S. Lewis
Cc: Denise Camacho
Subject: West of Sin post edit

Hello, Wesley,

I've gone through your manuscript of West of Sin after our content editor and now it's your turn. Her notes and comments appear in the manuscript itself, but there are no notes in a separate sheet because, in her words, "it's so darn good." There are a few places she recommended you cut stuff that was overwritten, and a couple POV slips. But there are a lot more places where she wrote "wow" or "excellent" which is a very good sign. I don't think she has ever been as excited about a book we're publishing. She added this note: "I hope this author plans a series. Great characters, great action, superlative writing."

Our timeline allows six weeks for you to do a re-write based on this input, but I can't imagine you taking that much time. Once we get the manuscript back from you it's off to a final proof-reading, formatting, the search for a great cover, and production of the Advance Reader Copies.

Really looking forward to seeing this one in print,

Austin

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web site - <http://www.ascamacho.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/austin.camacho.author>

From: Melanie Rigney
Sent: Sunday, June 10, 2018 2:18 PM

To: 'Austin Camacho'; Denise Camacho

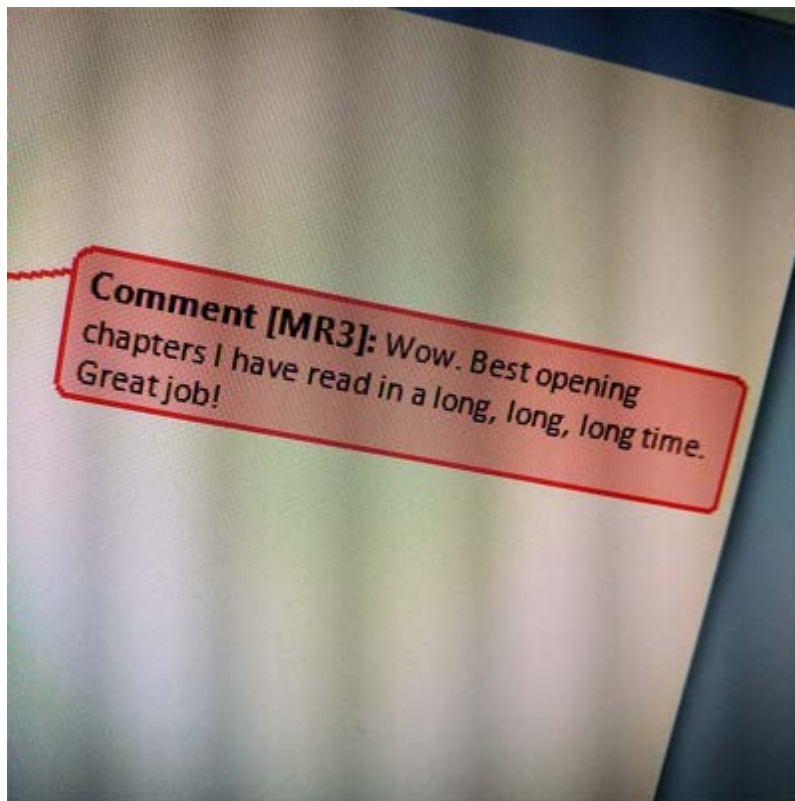
Subject: West of Sin

Hi guys! So here is the manuscript and invoice. No notes in a separate sheet, because it's so darn good. There are a few, very few places I cut stuff I considered overwriting, or slight POV slips. There are a lot more places where I wrote wow, excellent, etc. Accordingly, I have reduced my rate for this book. Other than Austin's own writing, I have never been as excited about a book you're publishing. I hope this author plans a series. Great characters, great action, superlative writing. Thanks for letting me read it!



Melanie Rigney

NOTE: Honestly, the developmental editor's comments did make me feel very good about my manuscript.



From: Denise Camacho

Sent: June 24, 2018 12:56 PM

To: Wesley S. Lewis

Subject: Re: WEST OF SIN schedule

Wes I need to get the following from you, a bio for the book, a synopsis for back cover copy, whatever acknowledgement or dedication you want in the front of the book.

Thanks

Denise

From: Wesley S. Lewis
Sent: Sunday, July 22, 2018 6:01 AM
To: 'Austin Camacho'
Cc: Denise Camacho
Subject: RE: West of Sin post edit

Austin,

I just wanted to drop you a quick note to let you know that I'm giving my revisions a final read-through and should have the final draft of *West of Sin* to you sometime this evening. I'll include the jacket copy and my bio with the draft.

--Wes

From: Wesley S. Lewis
Sent: Monday, July 23, 2018 6:30 AM
To: 'Austin Camacho'
Cc: Denise Camacho
Subject: RE: West of Sin post edit

Austin and Denise,

The revised draft of *West of Sin* is attached. I apologize for not getting it to you last night, but there were a couple of scenes that I felt needed to be read with fresh eyes before submitting.

The dedication and "About the Author" page are included in the manuscript. I'll send a separate email with the jacket copy.

--Wes

From: Wesley S. Lewis
Sent: Monday, July 23, 2018 8:39 AM
To: 'Austin Camacho'
Cc: Denise Camacho
Subject: RE: West of Sin post edit

Austin and Denise,

I'm new to writing jacket copy, so I thought I'd send you a couple of drafts (based on the pitch from my query letter) and ask whether you think I'm on the right track or need to change my approach.

I'm worried that these may be too long, but I thought I'd get your input before trying to pare them down.

--Wes

From: Austin Camacho
Sent: Monday, July 23, 2018 9:56 AM
To: Wesley S. Lewis
Cc: Denise Camacho
Subject: Re: West of Sin post edit

Hey, Wes,

I like the first one but you're right... a little too long. And a little too much info. Happy to let you take another shot, but if you don't want to, I can work with the first 2 paragraphs and cut most of the third.

Austin

From: Wesley S. Lewis
Sent: Monday, July 23, 2018 5:39 PM
To: 'Austin Camacho'
Cc: 'Denise Camacho'
Subject: RE: West of Sin post edit

Austin,

I'll take a crack and trimming the word count and get back to you.

--Wes

From: Wesley S. Lewis
Sent: Thursday, August 02, 2018 12:55 PM
To: 'Austin Camacho'
Cc: Denise Camacho
Subject: RE: West of Sin post edit

Austin and Denise,

If possible, I'd like to add this paragraph to the AUTHOR'S NOTE & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS at the end of *West of Sin*:

My portrayal of human trafficking is also highly fictionalized. Although human trafficking is a real problem in the United States and throughout the world (www.PolarisProject.org/Human-Trafficking), real human trafficking typically involves the exploitation of vulnerable adults or children and hardly ever involves kidnapping by a stranger.

An updated draft including this addition is attached.

--Wes

From: Wesley S. Lewis
Sent: Tuesday, August 7, 2018 7:08 PM
To: 'Austin Camacho'
Cc: Denise Camacho
Subject: RE: West of Sin post edit

Austin,

I took your advice and condensed the last two paragraphs into one shorter paragraph. The attached document includes two versions, which only differ by a few words in the description of the robbery.

Please let me know what you think.

Thanks,

Wes

From: Austin Camacho
Sent: Wednesday, August 08, 2018 4:11 AM

To: Wesley S. Lewis; 'Austin Camacho'
Cc: 'Denise Camacho'
Subject: Re: West of Sin post edit

Nice job, Wes! I think the second one here is the keeper!!

Austin

NOTE: At this point we apparently have a jacket copy that everyone is happy with

Jennifer Williams hoped her budding relationship with her newly single boss would make this year's real estate conference bearable. Then she caught her boss in bed with a coworker and sped off into the desert, leaving the conference, the hotel, and the Las Vegas Strip in her rearview mirror.

Lost and alone, she stops for directions at a small-town truck stop and inadvertently disrupts a robbery in progress. Her presence threatens to escalate the situation, until another bystander—a man running from his own tragic past—steps forward to protect her. She soon learns that the attempted robbery wasn't what it appeared and that this small town west of Sin City is home to a big secret.

It will not be the copy that appears on the "final" cover I receive on September 23.

From: Wesley S. Lewis
Sent: Monday, August 13, 2018 3:39 PM
To: 'Austin Camacho'; Denise Camacho
Subject: RE: West of Sin post edit

Austin and Denise,

Now that I've delivered the edited manuscript, can you tell me when the first half of my advance will be paid?

Thanks,

Wes

From: Austin Camacho
Sent: Monday, August 13, 2018 3:25 PM
To: Wesley S. Lewis; 'Austin Camacho'; Denise Camacho
Subject: Re: West of Sin post edit

Hey, Wes,

Sorry to leave you in suspense. Funds will go out to you at the end of this week.

Austin

NOTE: Funds did NOT go out at the end of that week.

From: Denise Camacho
Sent: Saturday, August 18, 2018 9:26 AM
To: Wesley S. Lewis
Subject: Comparison titles

Wes I need you to give me 3 titles that are not older than 2 years old that can be used as comparisons to yours. Please give me the following info for 3 titles. Thanks
Denise

Comparable title	[]
Publisher	[]
	[]	ASIN Only
ISBN13	[]
Price	[]
Pub year	[]

Differences & similarities

From: Denise Camacho
Sent: Thursday, August 23, 2018 3:54 PM
To: Wesley S. Lewis; Austin Camacho
Subject: What do you think of these covers?

Wes here are two examples for you. Do you like either of these?

Denise

NOTE: Ms. Camacho actually sent three cover mockups, not three. I'll show them a little later on, but first I want to note that I received Ms. Camacho's email containing the three cover mockups while I was sitting on a plane, preparing to depart Las Vegas, after a grueling (and expensive) two-day photo shoot that I specifically timed to happen before her vague deadline for "cover items" (see her April 25 email above).

If I'd known the photos weren't going to be considered for the cover, I could have picked a more convenient (and less scorching hot) time to schedule a two-day photo shoot in the Nevada desert.

From: Wesley S. Lewis
Sent: Monday, August 27, 2018 11:01:53 AM
To: 'Denise Camacho'; 'Austin Camacho'
Subject: RE: What do you think of these covers?

Denise,

I haven't had a chance to study the cover mockups in detail, but I glanced at them at the airport last week and loved that

“SIN” is written to resemble an old neon sign. I’ll try to look at them more closely later today.

Here is a link to the promo photos I’ve been working on (for social media, etc):

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/Z8FRELZNWSNRrVhS8>

These will probably need a little fine tuning, but I wanted to show you what I have so far. Also, I’m working on putting together three solid comp titles. Being limited to novels published in the past two years makes it a little tricky, but I think I have one or two good comps in mind and hope to have one or two more in short order.

--Wes

From: Denise Camacho
Sent: Monday, August 27, 2018 12:36 PM
To: 'Austin Camacho'; Wesley S. Lewis
Subject: Re: What do you think of these covers?

Comp titles? Not sure what you mean.

NOTE: I'm not going to lie—when I realized my publisher wasn't familiar with the term "comp title," I got a little nervous.

From: Wesley S. Lewis
Sent: Monday, August 27, 2018 5:52:20 PM
To: Denise Camacho; 'Austin Camacho'
Subject: Re: What do you think of these covers?

I’m referring to the three comparison titles you asked me to provide. I’ll try to have those to you ASAP.

--Wes

NOTE: Before we proceed, we should take a look at the three covers (none of which are terrible):

From: Wesley S. Lewis
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 12:23 AM
To: 'Denise Camacho'; 'Austin Camacho'
Subject: RE: What do you think of these covers?

Denise,

Of the three cover examples you sent, I definitely think the second is my favorite. But what would you think about using one of the photos from my [recent photo shoot](#), to create a less generic look? I've attached a PDF including mockups of four possible covers.

I didn't have access to the original title art (which I love), so the title isn't perfectly blended with the background, but I think the mockups give you a pretty good idea of what is possible. I can provide your cover artist with the original photos if you want to try to incorporate any of them.

Thanks,

Wes

From: Denise Camacho
Sent: Thursday, August 30, 2018 7:42 PM
To: Wesley S. Lewis; 'Austin Camacho'
Subject: Re: What do you think of these covers?

Generic is kinda the point. We might be ok with putting in the shot of the couple but I don't like putting in pics of people. I want the reader to decide what they think the characters look like. The other examples are too busy. The genre is geared toward generic. The reader wants to decide what people, places etc. look like.

I will talk to the graphic designer and see what we can come up with

D

NOTE: I suspect that if you talked to Ms. Camacho about it, she would say that this is where I started being high-maintenance about the cover. The following emails about the cover have nothing to do with why the deal fell apart (which was about copy editing), but I suspect that Ms. Camacho would point to them as evidence that I was difficult to work with. Therefore, I would like to point out a few things in my defense:

- 1. Ms. Camacho knew four months in advance that I was going to be providing custom photographs for her cover designer to consider incorporating into the cover design.**
- 2. I thought the publisher might want to use photos that don't come from a stock photo website and aren't likely to end up on another book cover.**
- 3. I never insist on using any particular cover or design; I simply keep offering suggestions because most of my emails get NO RESPONSE from Ms. Camacho. I keep thinking maybe she's waiting to see one she likes, or maybe she's passing them along to her cover designer and saying, "Here's another good idea. Do you think we could**

create something sort of like this?" So, in the absence of any real feedback, I just keep offering more and more suggestions.

From: Wesley S. Lewis

Sent: Thursday, August 30, 2018 11:02 PM

To: 'Denise Camacho'; 'Austin Camacho'

Subject: RE: What do you think of these covers?

Denise,

I've updated the attached PDF to include three less-busy mockups. Please let me know what you think of these.

Thanks,

Wes

From: Wesley S. Lewis

Sent: Saturday, September 01, 2018 5:08 AM

To: 'Denise Camacho'; 'Austin Camacho'

Subject: RE: What do you think of these covers?

Denise,

I've updated my previous list of cover ideas to include three more variations on the Jennifer-in-the-desert concept. Please see attached.

--Wes

From: Wesley S. Lewis
Sent: Wednesday, September 05, 2018 5:17 AM
To: 'Denise Camacho'
Cc: 'Austin Camacho'
Subject: RE: Comparison titles

Denise,

These are the best comparison titles for *West of Sin* that I've been able to come up with:

Comparable title	[<i>Burning Bright</i>]
Author	[Nick Petrie]
Publisher	[G.P. Putnam's Sons (HC) G.P. Putnam's Sons (PB)]
	[] ASIN Only
ISBN13	[978-0399174575 (HC) 978-0735215375 (PB)]
Price	[\$26.00 (HC) \$16.00 (PB)]
Pub year	[2017 (HC) 2017 (PB)]

Similarities: Both stories feature a man and woman on the run from a shadowy organization.

Differences: In *West of Sin*, the woman, rather than the man, is the primary POV character.

Comparable title	[<i>Las Vegas Girl</i>]
Author	[Leslie Wolfe]
Publisher	[Italics Publishing (PB)]
	[] ASIN Only
ISBN13	[978-1945302169 (PB)]
Price	[\$9.99 (PB)]
Pub year	[2018 (PB)]

Similarities: Both stories feature a man and woman uncovering a conspiracy in Las Vegas.

Differences: *West of Sin* isn't a police procedural, and the main characters aren't police officers.

Comparable title	[<i>Seeing Red</i>]
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Author [Sandra Brown]

Publisher [Grand Central Publishing (HC) | Grand Central Publishing (PB)]

[] ASIN Only

ISBN13 [978-1455572106 (HC) | 978-1455572083 (PB)]

Price [\$27.00 (HC) | \$14.99 (PB)]

Pub year [2017 (HC) | 2018 (PB)]

Similarities: Both stories feature a man and woman thrust together by a dangerous conspiracy.
Differences: *West of Sin* features a bit more action and a bit less explicit sex.

Please let me know if you think these will work.

Thanks,

Wes

From: Wesley S. Lewis
Sent: Wednesday, September 05, 2018 4:22 PM
To: 'Denise Camacho'; 'Austin Camacho'
Subject: RE: What do you think of these covers?

Denise,

Here are some of the photos I used for my cover mockups, in case you want to pass them along to your cover designer:
<https://photos.app.goo.gl/wfQsV5A4wpwQxDSr8>

If your designer wants to use any of them, he/she should be able to download the full-resolution images from that page.

--Wes

From: Wesley S. Lewis
Sent: Friday, September 7, 2018 1:20:58 AM
To: 'Denise Camacho'
Cc: 'Austin Camacho'
Subject: RE: What do you think of these covers?

Denise,

I realized that I hadn't shown you the artistic cover mockup I did months ago, so I've added it (updated to include the neon-sign-style title) to the PDF.

I don't think this is quite what you're going for, but it's the only mockup you haven't seen yet, so I thought I'd pass it along.

--Wes

From: Denise Camacho
Sent: Friday, September 07, 2018 5:02 AM
To: Wesley S. Lewis
Cc: 'Austin Camacho'
Subject: Re: What do you think of these covers?

I will have a final to show you soon.

Thanks
Denise

From: Wesley S. Lewis
Sent: Sunday, September 09, 2018 5:12 AM
To: 'Denise Camacho'
Cc: 'Austin Camacho'
Subject: RE: What do you think of these covers?

Great! I look forward to seeing it.

FYI, I narrowed down my collection of mockups to my three favorites and attached them as a PDF, in case your designer is interested.

--Wes

NOTE: At this point, I have no idea what Ms. Camacho and her cover artist have been working on, but I'm hoping that by narrowing down my mockups to the three I like best, I'm giving them a better idea of the types of covers that appeal to me:

NOTE: After another eight days with no word, I worry that maybe my constant input regarding cover design has been misinterpreted as badgering and decide to explain where I'm coming from.

From: Wesley S. Lewis
Sent: Saturday, September 15, 2018 7:05 PM
To: 'Denise Camacho'
Cc: 'Austin Camacho'
Subject: RE: What do you think of these covers?

Denise,

I got to thinking that my criticism (i.e., “generic”) of your designer’s first cover options wasn’t particularly helpful, so I thought I’d give you a little more feedback on the original three designs you sent.

My initial reaction to the first cover (the title in front of a brick wall) was that I liked the title design but that the brick wall looked a little canned or stock photo-ish.

The second cover (the title over out-of-focus lights) isn’t bad, but I had to stare at the lights for a while before I could tell what they are (the backside of a semi truck rolling down the highway). I like this one, but I’d like it more if the background were more readily discernible as something related to the story (e.g., an empty highway or the Las Vegas Strip or something like that).

The third cover (a semi truck parked at a rest stop) is a cool design; it just doesn’t have any real connection to the story. My guess is that the designer was trying to play off of the truck stop at the beginning of my novel; however, there are no trucks at the truck stop in my novel, and a rest stop (i.e., a roadside park) isn’t the same as a truck stop (i.e., a large gas station).

With regard to the mockups I sent you, my thinking was to play off of either the Las Vegas connection or the desert setting, to more closely tie the cover to the story, but I’m not married to either of those ideas if your designer has a better one. I have a little background in marketing and graphic design, so it’s easy for me to get carried away doing mockups, but I recognize that book covers aren’t my area of expertise, and I don’t want you to think I’m impossible to please.

I hope this answers any questions you or the designer may have. I look forward to seeing what you come up with.

--Wes

From: Denise Camacho
Sent: Saturday, September 15, 2018 6:09 PM
To: Wesley S. Lewis
Subject: Re: What do you think of these covers?

No worries Wes. I think we will come up with something you will like. My designer is a professional so it is a collaboration for all of us and she is pretty good at what she does.

Thanks for your input.

Denise

From: Denise Camacho
Sent: Thursday, September 20, 2018 8:25 PM
To: Wesley S. Lewis
Subject: Translate

There is no good translation for this. Please give us a good translation and what language is it?

"Is this it?" asked a man with a heavy Eastern European accent.

"Dah," replied another, "eta ohn."

Crocker was still processing the fact that the second man had responded in what sounded like Russian, when he felt Jennifer shoving him toward one of the stalls. Since he had no plan of his own, he complied, stepping into the stall just as he heard the restroom's main door swing open with a loud thud.

"Gdye stohl," said a third man.

Jennifer followed Crocker into the stall and quickly but quietly pulled the stall door closed behind her as footsteps echoed from the other side of the dividing wall.

"Voht," replied one of the men.

Jennifer eased the latch into place, locking the stall door.

"Viktor," said the first man, "open the table. Dima, proveryesh tualet."

From: Wesley S. Lewis
Sent: Thursday, September 20, 2018 10:10 PM
To: 'Denise Camacho'
Cc: 'Austin Camacho'
Subject: RE: Translate

Denise,

It's Russian. Because the native alphabet for Russian is Cyrillic, transliterating the words with the Latin alphabet is an inexact science.

I only took one semester of Russian, so it's possible that my translations aren't as precise as they should be, but I tried to keep the Russian phrases very simple.

I'll try to explain them (below) to the best of my ability.

--Wes

From: Denise Camacho
Sent: Thursday, September 20, 2018 8:25 PM
To: Wesley S. Lewis
Subject: Translate

There is no good translation for this. Please give us a good translation and what language is it?

"Is this it?" asked a man with a heavy Eastern European accent.

"Dah," replied another, "eta ohn."

I screwed this one up. It should be "eta ono" ("this is it"), not "eta ohn" ("this is he"). So it should read, "'Dah,' replied another, 'eta ono.'"

CYRILLIC SPELLING:

Да, это оно.

TRANSLITERATION:

Dah, eta ono.

("Да" can also be transliterated as "da." I opted for "dah" because, for an English speaker, it's more phonetically accurate to the [Russian pronunciation](#).)

TRANSLATION:

Yes, it is.

(Also, "Yes, this is it.")

Crocker was still processing the fact that the second man had responded in what sounded like Russian, when he felt Jennifer shoving him toward one of the stalls. Since he had no plan of his own, he complied, stepping into the stall just as he heard the restroom's main door swing open with a loud thud.

"Gdye stohl," said a third man.

CYRILLIC SPELLING:

Где стол?

TRANSLITERATION:

Gdye stohl? (I didn't use a question mark in the text because Russian uses different inflections than English; therefore, Crocker likely wouldn't recognize this as a question.)

(NOTE: Again, I opted for a more phonetic transliteration, but some sources transliterate this as "Gde stol," which I think is a little harder for English speakers to sound out, but I'm fine using the shorter transliterations if you prefer.)

TRANSLATION:

Where is the table?

Jennifer followed Crocker into the stall and quickly but quietly pulled the stall door closed behind her as footsteps echoed from the other side of the dividing wall.

"Voht," replied one of the men.

CYRILLIC SPELLING:

Вот

TRANSLITERATION:

Voht.

(NOTE: Again, I opted for the more phonetic transliteration. This can also be transliterated as "Vot," but if I were reading that in English, I'd think it rhymes with "hot," whereas it actually sounds like the English word "vote.")

TRANSLATION:

Here.

Jennifer eased the latch into place, locking the stall door.

"Viktor," said the first man, "open the table. Dima, proveryesh tualet."

CYRILLIC SPELLING:

Дима, проверьте туалет.

TRANSLITERATION:

Dima, proveryesh tualet.

TRANSLATION

Dima, check the toilet.

From: Wesley S. Lewis
Sent: Saturday, September 22, 2018 4:11 PM
To: Denise Camacho
Cc: 'Austin Camacho'
Subject: RE: Translate

Denise,

Here are translations of the other Russian phrases in the manuscript:

PAGE 209:

"Ms. Williams, Mr. Crocker," he said, his Eastern European accent faint but unmistakable, "ochen' priyatna."

CYRILLIC SPELLING:

Очень приятно.

TRANSLITERATION:

Ochen' priyatna.

TRANSLATION:

Nice to meet you.

PAGE 217-218:

"Nyet," replied Sasha as he palmed a handful of condoms into the front pocket of his jeans.

CYRILLIC SPELLING:

Нет.

TRANSLITERATION:

Nyet.

("Нет" is sometimes transliterated as "net," but that looks like the English word "net" and ignores that there is a "y" sound before the short "e.")

TRANSLATION:

No.

(I think most people are aware the "nyet" is Russian for "no," but I decided to include the translation on this list, just to be safe.)

PAGE 221:

"Kharasho," replied Sasha as he knelt to inspect the bag.

CYRILLIC SPELLING:

Хорошо.

TRANSLITERATION:

Kharasho.

("Хорошо" is difficult to transliterate because there is no Latin equivalent to the Cyrillic "x." The sound, which is similar to but not exactly like the Hebrew letter "ך," doesn't exist in the English language. The closest we can get in English is "kh.")

TRANSLATION:

Okay.

PAGE 380:

"Dobry den', Miss Williams," said a familiar voice.

CYRILLIC SPELLING:

Доброе день!

(I included an exclamation point here because, in Russian, greetings are typically punctuated with an exclamation point.)

TRANSLITERATION:

Dobry den'.

TRANSLATION:

Good day.
(Also "good afternoon.")

PAGE 383:

Dudka whispered, "Da svidanya, slatkaya."

CYRILLIC SPELLING:

До свидания, сладкая.

TRANSLITERATION:

Da svidanya, slatkaya.
(The word "сладкая" can also be transliterated as "sladkaya," which may be more accurate to the way it is spelled in Cyrillic. However, both sound the same when pronounced, so I think either works fine here.)

TRANSLATION:

Goodbye, sweetie.

PAGE 383:

He raised the pistol and muttered, "Glupaya suka."

CYRILLIC SPELLING:

Глупая сука.

TRANSLITERATION:

Glupaya suka.

TRANSLATION:

Stupid bitch.

I think that's all of them. If I've overlooked any, send me an email, and I'll translate them ASAP.

As I previously mentioned, my understanding of Russian is **very** basic; however, these phrases are equally basic, so I feel pretty confident in my translations.

--Wes

From: Denise Camacho
Sent: Saturday, September 22, 2018 4:25 PM
To: Wesley S. Lewis; Austin Camacho
Subject: West of Sin

Wes, attached is the final for you to begin looking at prior to receiving the galley. I will be sending this to the distributor as soon as I can get a copy of the cover to send with it.

For this edit please give me the page number and line number that corresponds to your change. Then give me the specific change you want.

This is only for changes that are absolutely needed such as spelling errors or errors that need to be made for grammatical or storytelling issues.

Also, Intrigue's style does not include em dashes. They have been taken out and replaced with either a comma or an ellipses as needed. If there is a place where you feel an em dash is specifically needed we will take it into consideration.

Please have edits back to me in 30 days.

Thanks and if you have any questions please let us know.

Have a great rest of your week!
Denise

From: Wesley S. Lewis
Sent: Saturday, September 22, 2018 4:45 PM
To: 'Denise Camacho'; 'Austin Camacho'
Subject: RE: West of Sin

Denise,

Did you decided against adding this second paragraph to the Author's note/acknowledgement?

My portrayal of human trafficking is also highly fictionalized. Although human trafficking is a real problem in the United States and throughout the world (www.PolarisProject.org/Human-Trafficking), real human trafficking typically involves the exploitation of vulnerable adults or children and hardly ever involves kidnapping by a stranger.

I understand if you decided that this addition was too much; I just want to make sure you saw my request from August 2.

--Wes

From: Denise Camacho
Sent: Saturday, September 22, 2018 5:00 PM

To: Wesley S. Lewis
Subject: Re: West of Sin

Sorry Wes, I didn't so put it in your comments so I can add it again. Thanks.

Denise

From: Denise Camacho
Sent: Sunday, September 23, 2018 1:32 PM
To: Wesley S. Lewis
Subject: Fw: REVIEW: West of Sin Cover

The final cover

I will be uploading tomorrow but I wanted you to see where we are.

Thanks
Denise

NOTE: Let's take a look at this "final" cover, which not only looks like the love child of an early '90s YA novel and an early '90s textbook but also contains no fewer than five typos in the jacket copy—jacket copy that is completely different from what we'd agreed upon, that reads like a high school book report, and that spoils virtually every twist in the first 20% of the story.

From: Wesley S. Lewis
Sent: Sunday, September 23, 2018 5:09 PM
To: 'Denise Camacho'
Cc: 'Austin Camacho'
Subject: RE: REVIEW: West of Sin Cover

Denise,

Is that the final draft of the jacket copy on the back, or is it just a place holder? Based on the emails Austin and I exchanged in mid-August, I thought the idea with the jacket copy was to reveal less detail. The version you sent basically summarizes the first fifty pages. Also, there are several typos.

I'd much rather go with something like this copy I worked out with Austin:

Jennifer Williams hoped her budding relationship with her newly single boss would make this year's real estate conference bearable. Then she caught her boss in bed with a coworker and sped off into the desert, leaving the conference, the hotel, and the Las Vegas Strip in her rearview mirror.

Lost and alone, she stops for directions at a small-town truck stop and inadvertently disrupts a robbery in progress. Her presence threatens to escalate the situation, until another bystander—a man running from his own tragic past—steps forward to protect her. She soon learns that the attempted robbery wasn't what it appeared and that this small town west of Sin City is home to a big secret.

As for the cover itself, I'm not crazy about the yellow on the front (the border around my name and the stripe across the middle). I would have preferred a more solid look like in the attached mockup.

--Wes

NOTE: This is the mockup I sent to show how I thought the cover could be tweaked to look a little more contemporary.

From: Denise Camacho
Sent: Sunday, September 23, 2018 5:58 PM
To: Wesley S. Lewis
Subject: Re: REVIEW: West of Sin Cover

I will use the copy that you sent me but we are going with the cover as is. I'm sorry you don't like it but it is in keeping with the genre and the advice from the marketing team.

Denise

From: Wesley S. Lewis
Sent: Sunday, September 23, 2018 11:27 PM
To: 'Denise Camacho'
Cc: 'Austin Camacho'
Subject: RE: REVIEW: West of Sin Cover

Denise,

I'm not asking that the cover be completely redesigned to match my mockup, only that the yellow bar across the middle

of the front page and the yellow box around my name be removed (see the attached examples). These are two features that were not included in any of the three previous sample covers you sent me or any of the cover mockups I sent you, so I was quite surprised to see these features on the final draft, particularly given your expressed interest in ensuring that the cover follows the conventions of the genre. I searched through the [Mysteries & Thrillers](#) category on NetGalley and couldn't find any covers that have a random bar stretching across the middle or a colored box around the author's name.

My contract states that you will "submit to [me] a proof or other facsimile of the cover text and design for [my] approval, which shall not be unreasonably withheld." I don't think that sending me a "final" cover and telling me that you are "going with the cover as is" qualifies as seeking my approval, and I don't think that me asking you to remove the yellow line across the middle of the cover and the yellow box around my name would be considered unreasonably withholding my approval.

On a related note, my contract states that I am to be paid the first half of my advance "upon delivery of the final edited manuscript." I delivered the final edited manuscript exactly two months ago, yet I still have not received the first half of my advance.

--Wes

From: Denise Camacho
Sent: Monday, September 24, 2018 3:28 PM
To: Wesley S. Lewis
Cc: 'Austin Camacho'
Subject: Re: REVIEW: West of Sin Cover

Wes, thank you for your comments. We will be sure and send you the first half of the advance as quickly as possible. This was clearly an oversight on our part. I will review your cover comments with the marketing team and get back to you.

I appreciate your follow up.

Denise

From: Denise Camacho [mailto:dbcamacho@hotmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, September 29, 2018 2:22 PM
To: Wesley S. Lewis
Subject: Fwd: Fw: West of sin

Wesley I went a different direction with the cover. The black was not working. Marketing and the distributor sales team don't like black background. This is better I think. Nothing much actually bnb happens in Vegas after the beginning and the synopsis even states outside of Vegas.

What are your thoughts?

From: Wesley S. Lewis
Sent: Sunday, September 30, 2018 12:37 AM
To: 'Denise Camacho'
Cc: 'Austin Camacho'
Subject: RE: Fw: West of sin

Denise,

I *love* the new background. I agree that the color works better than the black backgrounds do.

I have just two concerns with the overall look:

1. On the front, the Las Vegas Strip looks very superimposed and doesn't blend naturally with the background.
2. On the back, it seems a little redundant to superimpose a desert scene (the couple kissing) over another desert scene.

What would you think about using a simple silhouette of the Las Vegas Strip against the sunrise and replacing the kissing picture with something that emphasizes the Las Vegas connection?

I've attached a PDF with four examples illustrating what I have in mind.

--Wes

From: Denise Camacho
Sent: Sunday, September 30, 2018 2:38 PM
To: Wesley S. Lewis
Subject: Re: Fw: West of sin

I agree with the city in the background on the front but I don't think the one in the back is a problem. It would not be a good idea to take it out because this is a romantic suspense novel and there should be something to identify the romance. With a different background for the city I think it is good to go. I am putting it in for printing and will get you a galley in a couple of weeks to proof. I have to get these done fast or there will not be time to get review copies done.

I now need you to send me a list of everyone you want us to send review copies to. Include the name, address etc. You can use the attached for this.

Thanks
Denise

From: Wesley S. Lewis
Sent: Sunday, September 30, 2018 3:47 PM
To: 'Denise Camacho'
Cc: 'Austin Camacho'
Subject: RE: Fw: West of sin

Sounds good.

I've attached high-resolution copies of my version with the city silhouette, in case your cover designer wants to use the silhouette I created.

I couldn't find the kissing photo she used, but I found a similar one that I like a little better (the background is city lights instead of the desert). If you prefer the desert kissing scene, you can simply paste it over my version.

--Wes

From: Wesley S. Lewis [mailto:wes@wesleyslewis.com]
Sent: Monday, October 01, 2018 10:33 AM
To: 'Denise Camacho'
Cc: 'Austin Camacho'
Subject: RE: Fw: West of sin

I don't know if this helps, but here is a copy with the ISBN/barcode from the previous version.

--Wes

From: Denise Camacho
Sent: Monday, October 01, 2018 10:47 AM
To: Wesley S. Lewis
Subject: Re: Fw: West of sin

Thank you but my graphic designer has it covered.

Denise

From: Wesley S. Lewis
Sent: Monday, October 01, 2018 10:48 AM
To: 'Denise Camacho'
Cc: 'Austin Camacho'
Subject: RE: Fw: West of sin

When I was adding the ISBN/barcode, I realized that the kissing photo on the back wasn't as centered as it could be. I re-centered the picture in the version with the barcode (the version I sent a couple of minutes ago).

Attached is a corrected (re-centered) version *without* the barcode, in case you or your designer need it.

--Wes

From: Denise Camacho
Sent: Monday, October 01, 2018 11:05 AM
To: Wesley S. Lewis
Cc: 'Austin Camacho'
Subject: Re: Fw: West of sin

Wesley thank you but you don't need to keep sending more covers now. My graphics person has it handled and it is already getting ready to go to print. I can't give you a firm date on when you will have the galley in hand yet but hope to by the end of the week.

Thanks
Denise

From: Wesley S. Lewis
Sent: Monday, October 01, 2018 12:22 PM
To: 'Denise Camacho'
Cc: 'Austin Camacho'
Subject: RE: Fw: West of sin

No problem. I just wanted to make sure you have everything you need.

Can you send me a copy of the final cover when it goes to the printer?

Thanks,

Wes

From: Wesley S. Lewis
Sent: Monday, October 1, 2018 2:25 PM
To: 'Denise Camacho'
Subject: RE: Fw: West of sin

Denise,

Approximately how many review copy recipients should I provide?

Thanks,

Wes

From: Denise Camacho
Sent: Monday, October 01, 2018 1:42 PM
To: Wesley S. Lewis
Subject: Re: Fw: West of sin

As many as you want up to about 25

From: Wesley S. Lewis
Sent: Monday, October 01, 2018 3:41 PM
To: 'Denise Camacho'
Cc: 'Austin Camacho'
Subject: RE: West of Sin

Denise,

I've attached some preliminary corrections/edits (mostly spelling and punctuation) that need to be made to the manuscript. I'll send you my final list after I do a complete start-to-finish read-through.

--Wes

From: Wesley S. Lewis [mailto:wes@wesleyslewis.com]
Sent: Monday, October 01, 2018 5:10 PM
To: 'Denise Camacho'
Cc: 'Austin Camacho'
Subject: RE: Fw: West of sin

One other question: When you say that the cover is already "getting ready to go to print," do you mean that it's going to print for the galley proofs, the ARCs, or what exactly? I assume that six months out is too early to print the final covers for the retail copies, so I'm curious what the next step is.

Thanks,

Wes

From: Denise Camacho
Sent: Monday, October 01, 2018 7:19 PM
To: Wesley S. Lewis
Cc: 'Austin Camacho'
Subject: Re: Fw: West of sin

We are printing copies to go out for review. However, this is the final cover. Unless there is some egregious error on the cover it won't be changed before the finals are printed. The only thing changed at this point will be the interior copy and only spelling and grammar errors are changed for the interior. Other changes will be taken under consideration but are not guaranteed.

If you have questions please let me know.

Thank you
Denise

From: Wesley S. Lewis
Sent: Monday, October 1, 2018 10:55:37 PM
To: 'Denise Camacho'
Cc: 'Austin Camacho'
Subject: RE: Fw: West of sin

Is there any chance we can correct the errors I've already listed, before the reader copies are printed?

--Wes

From: Denise Camacho
Sent: Tuesday, October 02, 2018 6:29 AM
To: Wesley S. Lewis
Cc: 'Austin Camacho'
Subject: Re: Fw: West of sin

No, these are ARC copies going out and the minor errors you have pointed out will not matter. We will only do one final so please be sure you give us all corrections as soon as you can.

Thank you.
Denise

From: Wesley S. Lewis
Sent: Thursday, October 04, 2018 5:22 PM
To: 'Denise Camacho'; 'Austin Camacho'
Subject: The Uncorrected Proof of 'West of Sin'

Denise and Austin,

I'd like to have a frank discussion about the copy editing of *West of Sin*.

The first thing I did upon receiving the proof was to send it to a friend who does some editorial work and ask that she read through it for obvious typos. Those are the initial edits I sent to you. I've since decided that a couple of those edits aren't necessary, but for the most part, the list is solid.

The second thing I did was compare the editor's draft to my draft, to look for places in which words had been changed to correct for misuse or misspelling or to make the intent clearer.

Based on those two steps, I've concluded the following:

1. The editor identified approximately 13 actual typos or spelling errors.
2. The editor missed approximately 22 actual typos or spelling errors.

3. The editor made three changes to the wording, two of which clarify the text and one of which changes the meaning of a sentence and needs to be tweaked.
4. On six occasions, the editor changed (seemingly at random) the possessive versions of words ending in "s," from an s's possessive (which is preferred by the [Chicago Manual of Style](#) and most publishers) to an s' possessive (which creates hard-to-read possessives such as Wes' and Vegas').

There seems to be no rhyme or reason as to when s's possessives were changed. ***The editor changed four instances of Vegas's to Vegas' but left 32 other instances as Vegas's.*** Even if the editor wants to argue for the validity of s', there is no excuse for using one spelling 32 times and another spelling four times.

My third step, which has turned into quite an undertaking, has been to review each instance in which an em dash was removed/replaced.

Numerous instances of removing em dashes and replacing them with commas has left my manuscript riddled with grammatical errors (i.e., comma faults) and incoherent sentences (i.e., complex parenthetical statements spliced into the middle of sentences, creating indecipherable run-on sentences). During much of my review process, I couldn't understand what your editor was thinking in using commas when semicolons or sentence breaks would have been a much more appropriate way to remove the majority of the em dashes. Then I started finding examples such as this:

P.77:

"No," he replied, "just a message from Meredith Higgins, suggesting that all New Wave associates forgo attending any of tonight's receptions,"—his voice assumed a high, preachy tone—"lest we appear callous in the face of New Wave's recent loss."

was changed to this:

"Any news?" asked Jennifer as Tom checked his phone.

"No," he replied, "just a message from Meredith Higgins, suggesting that all New Wave associates forgo attending any of tonight's receptions," his voice assumed a high, preachy tone..."lest we appear callous in the face of New Wave's recent

77

P.78:

"It would be a far cry from eight hundred thousand dollars. A ten-thousand-dollar stack could be replicated with"—she did the calculations in her head—"less than three hundred dollars. That means we'd need"—more quick math—"just under twenty-four thousand dollars in all."

was changed to this:

"It would be a far cry from eight hundred thousand dollars. A ten-thousand-dollar stack could be replicated with", she did the calculations in her head..."less than three hundred dollars. That means we'd need", more quick math..."just under twenty-four thousand dollars in all."

P.88:

"Yes," she said, turning the thong inside out. "See"—she pointed to the crotch—"these actually have a gusset lining."

was changed to this:

"Yes," she said, turning the thong inside out. "See", she pointed to the crotch..."these actually have a gusset lining."

There is only one way those sentences could have ended up with superfluous ellipses, extra commas, and missing spaces: Your copy editor did a simple search/replace to change all instances of this:

—"

into this:

..."

The editor assumed that every instance of an em dash followed by a quotation mark would be an abruptly ended sentence that could be replaced with an ellipsis. The editor never checked to see how these replacements actually work in the text itself.

I must assume that the editor then did a search/replace to turn the rest of the em dashes into commas and, again, never checked to see how those replacements actually work in the text itself, hence all of the comma faults and incoherent sentences.

I've reviewed the em dash removals in the first third (106 pages) of the proof and have identified 52 resulting lines that need to be corrected for grammar, clarity, or both. Added to the previously identified problems, that's 138 corrections that need to be made (see attached), and I still have to review the em dash removals in the latter two-thirds of the proof.

Reviewing the first third has taken me two full days, so before I continue with spending a full week reviewing em dash removals, I want your assurance that you're going to make these necessary corrections. If you're not going to, we need to have a discussion about how we're going to proceed from here.

I also feel I should advise you that, because the uncorrected proof is such a mess, I will not be sending you a list of critics/reviewers to whom I would like to send review copies. The current state of the novel reflects poorly on not only you as a publisher but on me as an author, and I have no interest in seeing it reviewed by people who will immediately peg it as amateurish. Had you told me before I handed in my final draft that you wanted a manuscript with no em dashes, I could have made the changes in a manner in keeping with both my personal style and the rules of grammar. This also could have been accomplished by a *professional* copy editor. As it is, the proof copy adheres to neither my personal style nor the rules of English grammar, and I don't want anyone thinking it represents my abilities as a writer.

Sincerely,

Wesley S. Lewis

From: Denise Camacho

Sent: Friday, October 05, 2018 5:49 AM

To: 'Denise Camacho'; 'Austin Camacho'; Wesley S. Lewis

Subject: Re: The Uncorrected Proof of 'West of Sin'

Wes it is clear that, aside from the whole em dash issue, we are not on the same page. We feel it is best to part ways at this point.

You have a good book and we wish you luck moving forward with another publisher.

I will send you a formal letter of the dissolution of the contract after this weekend.

Regards,

Denise Camacho