*TA* Editing Discussion

1. She was “wishing to go to the beach with Robert, she should in the first place declined and in the second place have followed in obedience to one of the two contradictory impulses which impelled her” (13).

**Embedding this quote creates a run-on (notice the comma). Narration quotes must flow in capitalization and punctuation as if there are no quotation marks at all.**

1a. “[W]ishing to go to the beach with Robert, she should in the first place have declined, and in the second place have followed in obedience to one of the two contradictory impulses which impelled her” (13).

**This is grammatically correct but could be better.**

1b. Social conventions, regarding Edna’s desire to accompany Robert to the beach, require that “she should in the first place have declined, and in the second place have followed in obedience to one of the two contradictory impulses which impelled her” (13).

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2. Edna admits that she “knew of none better,” (7) which is merely the social pressures getting to her.

**The punctuation is incorrectly placed. The page number belongs to what proceeds it.**

**The phrase “getting to her” is too conversational.**

2a. Edna admits that she “knew of none better” (7), which reflects encroaching social pressures.

**Did you notice the relative clause?**

3. Mr. Pontellier is angered at Edna and goes to bed.

**Edit out the “to be” verb.**

3a. Mr. Pontellier, angered at Edna, retires for the evening.

3b. Angry now, Mr. Pontellier retires.

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4. Some stories have good endings but don’t always have a definite ending. It leaves the reader in awe and ambiguity.

**Omit contractions, repetition (the word “ending”), and the use of the words “it” and “reader.”**

Some stories draw to a definite end, but others fade gently into awesome ambiguity.

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5. First of all, it is not clear whether or not Edna survives and lives on after the conclusion.

**Omit “it is.” I’m not terribly fond of “whether or not.” Isn’t “survives” and “lives on” redundant?**

5a. First of all, Edna may not have died at the conclusion of the novel.

5b. First of all, Chopin leaves Edna’s death uncertain.

5c. First of all, Chopin fails to provide a definitive conclusion: Edna might not have drowned.

**Notice the use of the colon.**

6. Following Robert’s goodbye, the book ultimately concludes with Edna’s suicide, where “exhaustion was pressing upon and overpowering her” as she drifted into the open ocean, ending her life (351).

**Using the word “book” is almost as bad as “reader.”**

**The clause beginning with the word “where” is a dependent clause, which means no comma.**

**[Notice another relative clause?]**

6a. Following Robert’s farewell note, Edna returns to Grand Isle where she goes for a solitary swim. Many difference between her previous recreational bathing and this experience foreshadow doom. Soon, “exhaustion was pressing upon and overpowering her” as she drifted into the open ocean, ending her life (351).

Originally published in 1899, the story was published during a time of a new and radical feminist movement. *The Awakening*, consequently, introduced a new perspective on the role of women in conforming to limits set upon their sex.

The 1899 publication of *The Awakening* introduced Victorian culture to a startling, new perspective on sexism.

Based on the novel, a woman is expected to be a mother and that role should be fulfilling of all her needs. It is demonstrated that a woman who chooses an alternative lifestyle will shame her husband. However it is clear that Edna has a hard time hiding her true feelings and that she is uncomfortable trying to be a “mother-woman” (Chopin 188).

Victorian society expected a woman to revel in her motherhood. Having other desires would be shameful. Clearly, Edna struggles and often fails to hide her disinterest in becoming a “mother-woman” (188).