Rewriting Checklist For Authors

1. What is your promise to the reader? Is it clear from the beginning? ☐
2. Does your story begin at the right moment? ☐
3. Have you checked the requirements of your genre? ☐
4. Have you introduced your main characters in the opening scenes? ☐
5. Have you given your protagonist a distinctive voice? ☐
6. Are your protagonist and antagonist believable? ☐
7. Is there enough conflict? ☐
8. Do you have a plot? ☐
9. Are there holes in your plot? ☐
10. Have you chosen the correct viewpoint for your novel? ☐
11. Have you placed your characters firmly in time and place? ☐
12. Is there enough dialogue for your story and genre? ☐
13. Does your dialogue flow? Have you read it aloud? ☐
14. Have you removed information repeated in dialogue and narration? ☐
15. Does your use of contractions sound natural for your characters and narrative voice? ☐
16. Have you revised your novel as many times as needed? ☐
17. Do you have too many long sentences? ☐
18. Have you removed unnecessary adverbs? ☐
19. Have you removed unnecessary adjectives? ☐
20. Have you replaced vague, confusing, or illogical writing with clear, precise language? ☐
21. Have you cut out gratuitous similes and metaphors? ☐
22. Does your use of profanity suit your characters and story? ☐
23. Have you used the passive voice deliberately and effectively? ☐
24. Have you removed unnecessarily elaborate writing? ☐
25. Have you removed author intrusion and inadvertent preaching? ☐
26. Have you used the correct lexicon for your genre? ☐
27. Have you removed unnecessary modifiers and qualifiers? ☐
28. Have you done a spell check? ☐
29. Have you read your manuscript aloud to catch awkward phrasing, repetition, and inconsistencies? ☐
30. Have you made good on your promise? Is your reader satisfied? ☐