JULIAN MERCER

EDITOR

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Editor with 7+ years shaping nonfiction books and magazine features from pitch to publication. Plans editorial calendars, edits for structure and clarity, and works with writers and designers to deliver accurate, polished work on schedule.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Editor Mar 2024 - Present
HarperCollins Publishers, New York, NY

- Acquire and edit eight nonfiction titles a year, working with authors from proposal through final manuscript.
- Plan the editorial schedule for my list and keep all titles on their production dates for the past four seasons.
- Edit for structure and voice, with authors accepting most major revisions and shortening drafts by about 10%.
- Partner with marketing on jacket copy and catalog descriptions that supported two titles reaching reprint.

Associate Editor Feb 2022 - Feb 2024
Penguin Random House, New York, NY

- Line edited and copyedited 14 manuscripts, applying house style and checking facts and citations.
- Managed freelance copyeditors and proofreaders, keeping schedules clear and reducing late deliveries.
- Wrote reader reports on 60 submissions, with senior editors acting on a dozen of the recommendations.
- Built a style sheet template that cut queries between editors and copyeditors on shared projects.

Assistant Editor Jun 2020 - Jan 2022
The Atlantic, Washington, DC

- Edited features and essays for the web, preparing 150 pieces for publication with headlines and summaries.
- Collaborated with designers and photo editors on layouts and captions, keeping features accurate and ready for the weekly publishing deadline.
- Fact-checked reported pieces against interviews and documents, catching errors before publication on many occasions.
- Tracked pitches and assignments in a shared calendar used by the section editor to plan the week.

Editorial Assistant Aug 2019 - May 2020
Hearst Magazines, New York, NY

- Proofread monthly magazine pages and flagged inconsistencies before they went to print.
- Read unsolicited submissions and passed 20 promising pitches to editors, two of which were later commissioned and published in the magazine.
- Coordinated contributor contracts and payments for 40 freelancers, resolving questions with the business team.
- Researched and drafted short front-of-book items that appeared in six issues.

CORE SKILLS

Copy editing | Line editing | Editorial planning | Developmental editing | Fact-checking | Style guides | Manuscript acquisition | Freelancer management | Proofreading | Headline writing | Production scheduling | AP and Chicago style | CMS publishing | InCopy | Author relations

EDUCATION

B.A. in English, Boston University, Boston, MA

CERTIFICATIONS

ACES Certificate in Editing | Publishing Certificate, New York University School of Professional Studies | Chicago Manual of Style Online Training