

## **Feedback**

### **The timescale**

I can see what you are trying to do because the opening scene introduces the reader to the fact that something very odd has happened. However, you don't say who the two detectives are and introducing them in a timescale of three hours earlier and then two and three quarter hours earlier will only baffle the reader. Consider a different opening to introduce the swan situation that doesn't include Pawley, Zac or Abbi, or you could just start the story with Zac. I don't think repeating lines from the opening paragraph later particularly works.

### **Zac**

Would an American really be drafted in to work in the British police, and without being given any choice? This was one of my thoughts when I read about Zac coming over from Brooklyn. I think it would be good for you to go into why this happened, and also say a bit more about Zac's life/job in America. He obviously liked his life in America, so what was his incentive for coming to the UK? Was he keen to do it because of the career advancement, etc.?

### **Style point**

You don't need to start swearwords. You can write wanker if you wish!

### **Mute swans**

I think it would be nice to weave in a bit more about mute swans and their connection to the Crown and Queen Elizabeth.

### **Description of Windsor Castle**

I like it but I'm not sure about assigning human qualities directly to a building. For example, when you talk about the building having a routine. The description could be easily tweaked so that it still holds its power but works better. For example, 'the castle knew the answer' could be changed to 'the

castle held the answer'. The answer is therefore something that someone could find, not something that the castle inherently knows (which is impossible).

### **Style point**

I think Americans say restroom not men's room, etc.

### **The taped over recording**

I was a bit confused by your first explanation of this. You explain it much better later on in the book. However, are there CCTV tapes that only run for two and a half hours before they are taped over? I'm not sure what the point of this would be. I know that CCTV is used mainly as a deterrent, but if this really is the case then the tape would only ever record an area for a specific time period. I think this needs researching or explaining further if you have the answer.

### **Headings**

I don't think you need specific timescales in the headings or ones that state: While Zac was meeting Duncan Dewer  
Novels flit to different times (when it comes to days and hours) and places quite naturally. If the time or place is relevant it would be better for you to weave it subtly into the story.

### **Cava**

I found Abbi asking the security guard if he knew what Cava is quite patronising (of her). However, I liked the analogy, and maybe that's deliberate of her. Still, not sure it fits in with her character.

### **Parts 1, 2 etc.**

I think that these work better as chapters as they are quite short.

### **Moving into police quarters**

I think that more needs to be made of this as it's dropped into the story right before they move (unless I missed it earlier). Consider building this up as it's quite significant that Abbi and

Zac will be living near each other. Again, is this standard police procedure?

### **Description of Eton when Zac goes there**

This goes into travel article mode a bit at the beginning. It would work better for the place to be described as Zac is experiencing it.

### **Green eyes**

Watch out for the over use of a character's eye colour as a descriptive tool.

### **Characters**

I notice that you sometimes introduce a character by saying something like 'Pawley's voice'. This reads more like a script. You need to weave the person speaking into the main text.

### **Abby and Zac**

Lines like - 'There was a bond of friendship, maybe something more, between them' - are not necessary. The reader will have grasped this from their interaction with each other so far.