

The Continuity Gremlin Checklist

A Strategic Backlist Self-Audit for Series Authors

Continuity gremlins don't kick down doors.

They nibble.

They swap eye colors.

They shift timelines.

They bend world-building rules.

They rename side characters.

Individually? Small.

Across a series? Noticeable.

Use this checklist to spot the most common continuity issues before readers do.

Where the Gremlins Hide

Character Consistency

- Physical descriptions consistent across books
- Scars, tattoos, injuries remain the same
- Ages progress logically
- Relationships stay consistent
- Personality traits evolve intentionally (not accidentally)

Gremlin Clue: A reader says, "Wait... wasn't he afraid of heights?"

Timeline & Event Alignment

- Timeline flows logically
- Seasons, holidays, pregnancies line up
- Travel time makes sense
- Major past events are referenced accurately

Gremlin Clue: Two books happen "three months later"... but somehow a year passes.



World-Building Rules

- Rules of your world are clearly defined
- Abilities stay within established limits
- Consequences are enforced consistently
- Systems (security, magic, pack law, etc.) don't shift without an explanation

Gremlin Clue: A power that “only works once” suddenly works whenever convenient.

Terminology & Naming

- Organizations spelled consistently
- Recurring locations described consistently
- Capitalization patterns match across books
- Nicknames and pet names remain stable

Gremlin Clue: The Steel Renegades become the Steel Renegade in Book 4.

The Growth Gap

- Early books reflect your current standards
- Dialogue feels polished
- Grammar and mechanics don't distract
- Tone feels cohesive across the series

Growth is normal.

But readers binge in real time.

Gremlin Clue: A reader says, “The writing gets better around Book 3.”

Front & Back Matter

- Series list is current
- Links work
- Calls to action reflect current branding
- Upcoming titles are accurate

Gremlin Clue: A “Coming Soon” page for a book published three years ago.



Final Thoughts

If a brand-new reader starts at Book 1 tomorrow...

Will your early titles strengthen their loyalty — or test it?

Your backlist is still selling.

Still onboarding.

Still representing your brand.

If this checklist uncovered even one gremlin, a structured backlist review might be in order.

Explore on the pccProofreading website:

- [Backlist Editing Services](#)
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Keeping Readers In the Zone

