

MANUSCRIPT ACCEPTANCE

General

Manuscript Title: [REDACTED]

Author: [REDACTED]

Reader: Shoshana Weaver

Decision: Accept, ready to pitch

Is the manuscript finished: Yes, though it could potentially be longer.

How many words: 37,000

Summarize the manuscript:

~~Suko and Lear have been best friends for a long time, and do practically everything together. But as the foundations of each of their families begin to crumble, they struggle to understand how to move forward and support each other. When Suko has a surfing scare and is hesitant to reenter the water, they go on a different adventure and end up finding a potentially haunted barn. The barn turns out to not be haunted, but the occasional home of a fellow surfer they haven't spent much time with. Burt, the surfer, is trying to reintroduce a mated pair of otters to Otter Rock and Suko and Lear fall in love with the idea and the otters. But when the otters escape and reach the ocean, it eventually becomes a town-wide project to either "save" the otters from the sharks or leave them be to live on their rock. Suko, whose grandma has been sick and dying, finds the courage and sass to stand up for and potentially save the otters. The kids and their new friends join forces to protect the otters from the government coming to take them away. The story ends with everyone finding some light and color on the other side of their hard times.~~

How does the manuscript align with Ooligan's [mission](#):

The story is very strongly set on the Oregon coast, with a fight for otter reintroduction to the Otter Rock and Devil's Punch Bowl area, as well as some influence from the Chinook tribal culture. The author also mentions connections with the [REDACTED] Alliance and Multnomah County Library Writer's Project. Regionally and inclusion wise, I think this fits Ooligan's mission well.

Think about the different departments within Ooligan Press (editing, digital, social, marketing, etc.) and list the values this manuscript might provide to Ooligan students:

Social and marketing, and maybe even digital and design, might enjoy and learn a lot from working with the ideas and images of otters. I feel like animals haven't played a very prevalent

role in many of our backlist covers or manuscripts. There is also the potential for some fun memes with the references to the show *Bob's Burgers* throughout the story. Editing (and acquisitions) might get a lot out of working with the author to age up and enlarge the story some.

Stated or not, what is the underlying theme of the manuscript:

While everyone deserves to have bad days and to have the chance and time to grieve, we also can't give up on ourselves or anyone else because good things, good friends, and good opportunities might be just around the corner.

What genre would this manuscript fall under: Young Adult - General

Specific reasons why you liked the manuscript:

I liked the relationships between the characters, I felt like they were pretty strong and realistic. And I love the otters, the things I learned about them, the regional aspects of their inclusion, and the connection to the native tribes of that area and their relationship with the otters. I felt like the characters, relationships, and otters really helped carry the story through some heavy and hard topics in a way that felt more manageable for younger readers.

Please list at least one strength and one challenge in publishing this manuscript:

It's a compelling story that I think many teens will connect with, so I don't think it will be hard to find an audience.

One challenge might be the heaviness of some of the topics discussed, though not in explicit or graphic details, namely a suicide, a miscarriage, divorce, a grandma dying, and a child being struck though the parent apologizes and never does it again.

Editorial

What is the tone of the manuscript (academic? comic?) and what is the writing ability of the author (needs improvement? well-developed?):

Narrative, fun and serious alternatively.

The writing is pretty great already.

Is the manuscript organized? Will the writing need a lot of editing? Will the text need fact-checking research? Rate from 1-10 the state of the manuscript, 10 being ready to be published:

The story is well written and organized, and shouldn't need too much editing.

There will probably need to be some fact checking about the otter and Chinook information throughout, just in case.

I would say the manuscript is probably an 8 or 9. It's pretty great already, but it might be short for a YA book and it might need a little help staying firmly in the YA range. It's never explicitly middle grade, but there are a few places that might need a few more details to better establish the ages/mentalities of the two kids as teens.

How original is the idea behind the manuscript:

The individual ideas might not be unique, but the collection of ideas brought together in the manuscript are very original, as far as I know.

Market & Audience

Who will read this and where would it be shelved in a bookstore? Please be specific:

It would be shelved in the general YA section.

Teens and even some adults who care about the Oregon coast, otters, protecting nature and animals, overcoming hard trials, and standing up for others even when you are falling apart inside will read this.

Consider and list the ways in which Ooligan could promote this manuscript (specialty markets? Unusual audience? etc.):

The author mentioned connections with the [REDACTED] Alliance and Multnomah County Library Writer's Project, stating that they would be willing to promote the book on their websites and projects. Specialty markets might be Otter lovers, Suicide prevention groups, Eco friendly and animal rights activists, and fans of glass art and blown glass, Japanese American teenagers, teens dealing with a parental divorce. There are also several references to the show *Bob's Burgers*, so fans of the show might be a good audience to target, perhaps with some fun memes.

Please list at least three comp titles and provide the link to their Amazon page:

The Edge of Summer by Erica George

<https://www.amazon.com/Edge-Summer-Erica-George/dp/0316496766>

Swimming in a Sea of Stars by Julie Wright

<https://www.amazon.com/Swimming-Sea-Stars-Julie-Wright/dp/1639931015>

Those Pink Mountain Nights by Jen Ferguson

https://www.amazon.com/Those-Pink-Mountain-Nights-Ferguson-ebook/dp/B0BPSWYSQR?ref=ast_author_mpb

Is the manuscript different from its competition? Please describe the advantages or disadvantages that this manuscript has over its competition:

While this isn't an intensely gripping tale of grief/loss/terminal illness, it does cover those topics in a more everyday sense, for people not caught up in the thick of those hardships. Plus, there are adorable otters.

Please describe the author's qualifications. Are they fit to write about this topic? What have they done/completed/hold a degree in that makes them an author the audience can rely on?

[REDACTED] completed an MFA in Writing from Pacific University and now teaches ESL there. He has written and published 4 books, several short stories, and a book of poems.

Rate your enthusiasm for this project from 1–10 and any other comments you may have about this manuscript:

10. I really connected with this story and think it would help and touch and engage a lot of teens, and even some adults.

Comments to Author (comments may be sent to the author, please be professional)

1–2 specific things the author did well:

The characters all have strong, well-defined personalities. They and their relationships read very well and engagingly.

1–2 specific, actionable critiques (areas in need of improvement):

There are a couple places throughout the story where defining Lear and Suko's age(s) might help this story settle more fully into the YA genre.