

Rejection

Please summarize the contents of the manuscript you read for the proposal:

Dale served in Vietnam and decided to become a pilot. But life keeps falling apart for him, from his brother dying in Vietnam, to losing his job, to a fiery accident during a flying lesson, to his mother dying. He becomes more and more jaded and apathetic with life, until he builds up to the main part of the story where he hijacks a commercial plane for ransom.

Why does this manuscript not work for Ooligan? (this can be in a bullet point format—you'll further explain in the next question)

- Very long and wordy.
- Potentially a bigger project than we could handle as a small press.

Summarize both the positives and negatives that made you come to this decision (Only the Acquisitions team will see this response)(1-2 paragraphs):

The story is pretty well written in its separate parts like the individual chapters and the separate parts, but I had a hard time following along from part to part. Each scene was very long and wordy, with not enough transition between sections. Additionally, the text is very heavy with flight and aircraft specific language that was often hard to follow. Unfortunately, I cannot envision a way to truly prevent that, with Dale's passion for and knowledge of aircraft playing such a large role in the story. I was excited for the story, based on the proposal summary, but the confusion kept me from truly being engaged with the entire story.

Potentially this manuscript would be great for a press with experience with this kind of story, but I think it might be too large of a project for our press. It currently stands at 126,000 words and would need a couple DEs to pull all the parts together into a book. Thinking about THWV and AFM, I know we have worked on projects that required similar work, but personally I was not engaged enough to warrant it. Perhaps a press that focuses more on literary fiction about soldiers or such windy storytelling.

With the proper changes, do you think this manuscript should be resubmitted to Ooligan? What do you specifically like about the manuscript that gives it potential to be resubmitted? How many major issues need to be edited for the manuscript to be considered for a pitch? What type of changes/edits would you recommend to the author?

I think that even with some DEs to pull the story together better, it may not be a good choice for the press. The concept and intense focus on piloting feel heavy in a way that is different from our backlist, which focuses more on immigration, LGBTQ, and mental health issues. I would definitely suggest considering another press, however, because the manuscript has a lot of potential, if it can be made more accessible and engaging from chapter to chapter.

Why should Ooligan be interested in publishing other things the author might write? Justify your answer:

The author's writing style, while long winded and heavily handed with jargon, is strong and shows a lot of passion and interested research about the subject. If they choose to submit another type of manuscript (ie. a different subject), I believe it could be a strong contender for Ooligan's interest.

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

1–2 specific things the author did well:

The story is very well researched and specific. It is obvious that you care a lot about the story, the history, and the subjects. Your writing is very detailed and your characters feel very real.

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

While each scene is fairly well-written and engaging, they are also quite long. This hinders the readers ability to follow the prevailing theme and plot throughout the story, for example losing track of what has happened so far because of the action of the current scene. It also makes it hard to connect with the characters between sections, even Dale. With some careful attention to section breaks and length, and then some clean up to better create engaging transitions, the story could be both easier to read and to immerse the reader.

Is there anything else you haven't mentioned yet that you would like us to know?