

Continuity Audit

The Salt Road, a fictional 84,000-word thriller set in 2019

This is a sample on an invented manuscript, to show format and depth. Every character, date and line below is made up.

1. Summary

Hard conflicts	Real-world flags	Word tics flagged	Open questions
19	6	9	5

Hard conflicts are places where the book contradicts itself. Real-world flags are facts that do not match the record for 2019. Word tics are repeated words and gestures. Open questions need your ruling, because either version could be right.

2. Conflicts (first 8 of 19 shown)

ID	Location	What conflicts	Suggested fix
C-01	Ch 2, p 14 / Ch 19, p 201	Dana Voss is 34 in ch 2 and 36 in ch 19. Same year, 2019, no birthday between.	Make ch 19 "thirty-four."
C-02	Ch 5, p 52	Ch 5 dates the scene "Friday, March 8" (correct for 2019). Ch 6 calls the next day "Sunday."	Change ch 6 to "Saturday."
C-03	Ch 7, p 71 / Ch 11, p 120	Mike Ruiz has a scar on his left hand in ch 7 and on his right in ch 11.	Pick one. Left hand matches ch 3.
C-04	Ch 9, p 98	Dana tells Ruiz about the safe deposit key. She does not learn about it until ch 12.	Move the line, or move the discovery earlier. See Q-02.
C-05	Ch 10, p 107	Drive from Reno to Boise stated as "about three hours." Real drive is about 6 hours.	Change to "most of a day" or move the setting.
C-06	Ch 13, p 141 / Ch 16, p 176	The warehouse fire is "two years ago" in ch 13 and "last spring" in ch 16.	Use "last spring" in both, or add a date.
C-07	Ch 14, p 152	Sheriff Hale is called "Tom" here and "Ted" in ch 4 and 17.	Change to "Ted."
C-08	Ch 15, p 163	Ruiz drinks black coffee in ch 3, 8 and 15, but orders "two creams" in ch 15.	Drop the creams.

The full audit lists all 19, in chapter order, each with page and line.

3. Real-world flags (first 3 of 6 shown)

ID	Location	Issue	Note
R-01	Ch 3, p 31	A character uses a phone payment app that did not launch in the US until 2021.	Use a card, or a different app available in 2019.
R-02	Ch 8, p 89	Nevada law cited as requiring a 3-day wait for the sale. Not accurate for 2019.	Remove the number or say "paperwork takes a few days."
R-03	Ch 12, p 130	Flight time Reno to Denver written as 45 minutes. Scheduled time was about 2 hours.	Change to "two hours."

4. Word tics

Word or phrase	Count	Where it clusters
let out a breath	31	Ch 4, 9, 12, 17 (6 or more each)
nodded	88	Every chapter, heaviest in dialogue scenes
for a long moment	22	Ch 10 to 18
the air between them	9	Ch 6, 11, 19
suddenly	47	Spread across the book

The Audit + Fix Pass tier trims these to a natural level in tracked changes.

5. Open questions for you

Q-01. Dana is 34 or 36? Both ages appear 5 times each. Your call.

Q-02. Does Ruiz know about the safe deposit key early (ch 9) or only after ch 12? One of the two scenes has to change.

Q-03. Is the warehouse fire last spring or two years ago? It changes how the sheriff's case file reads.

Q-04. The book never says what year the prologue is set in. The ages in the epilogue only work if it is 2005.

Q-05. Ruiz mentions a daughter in ch 3 and never again. Is she cut or just quiet?

6. What you get at each level

Audit (\$600): this report, in full, with every item located. **Audit + Fix Pass (\$1,100):** the report plus your manuscript with every fix in tracked changes, word tics trimmed, and a recheck after you rule on the open questions. **Series (\$1,650):** the same across two to four books, plus a series bible.