My Life in Acronyms, November Newsletter

Common abbreviations used by editors, copyeditors, and proofreaders.

**Sp.** Spell out an abbreviation or acronym.

Example: Sigh. I love Gale so much. Clearly I was on the losing side of Team Peeta vs. Team Gale.

**Stet.** "Let it stand." Ignore marked changes. This abbreviation is accompanied by a dotted line underneath the text to be stetted.

Example: Some especially persnickety authors like to stet absolutely every unnecessary adverb and adjective their editors wisely remove.

**Sc.** Small caps. This abbreviation is accompanied by a double-underline.

Example: The sign in the window read: DONATE BOOKS HERE.

**Ital.** Set in italics. Accompanied by a single underline.

Example: Buon giorno. I'm trying to learn Italian before Bologna.

**Bf.** Set in boldface type. Accompanied by a squiggly underline.

Example: "IS IT CLEAR ENOUGH THAT THIS CHARACTER IS YELLING?!?"

**Rom.** Set in roman type.

Example: "You *probably* don't need to *emphasize* any words in this *sentence*."

Tr. Transpose.

Sometimes, after a day long of copyediting, I put words in the order wrong.