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FAX TRANSMITTAL

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3 pages total

Dear Ken:

I went through the outline again with a fine tooth brain. Most of the changes and developments are great. It is already more alive for me. As I said in my fax yesterday, I do think that the Berisford Jones/Barck/Proust subplot needs to be dramatized as a counterpoint to Jeannie's story, otherwise I think you lose a lot of the tension. I really like what you've done with Genetico and while I think it's a perfect foil, I do think we do need to see these men acting on-stage, trying to stop Jeannie's research. We need to learn a lot more about what they were up to, how they keep track of the kids, exactly how many there were, how widespread nationwide or perhaps globally it may have been, etc., etc. I think this will really increase the tension of the whole story, to have this subplot beefed up and seen on-stage. (I just got your fax and I do think the early on-stage communications can be enigmatic—let's discuss.)

Page 1

I imagine, as the book is written, that Jack Budgen will play a bigger role, but I wonder if perhaps he could come to know the inside story early, playing the role of the tennis ball between Jeannie and Berisford Jones. Also, wouldn't it be possible that he is a political science type who got her the contacts in the FBI? Otherwise, the reader does wonder how she got the FBI to cooperate with her.

I like Steven and can see him playing a very interesting role in Jeannie's life, representing the legal implications of genetic research as well as the moral and emotional implications since he's a subject himself. I do think if the old nature/nurture question is coming to the fore, as it seems to be, that some time will have to be spent on Steven's relationships with his parents to prove the nurture points, but I have a feeling you already know that.

Page 6

I'm unclear about what you mean in paragraph 2 by "approximately similar as well as exactly similar," but I imagine all this will be more than clear in the book. Once again on page 6, I do wonder how she got that contact with Ghita Serena at the FBI. I suggest Budgen.

Page 8

I'm curious about the *New York Times* article, not only about how they got onto Jeannie's research methods, but why this would be a big *New York Times* article. Wouldn't it have to be part of a larger article? I know this is only an outline, but I do think this will have to be extremely credible.

Page 10

Ditto. I also think if we see Berisford Jones acting, given what he knows about these kids, there could be a lot more fear in Jeannie's relationship with Steve, so the reader will never know if he's about to massacre her, cut her up in little pieces or what.

Page 11

Here again, I'm confused with Jeannie's relationship with the FBI. How can she put pressure on them? This needs to be clarified.

Page 12

I'm wondering why Mike Delaware would know about Dennis Pinker's jail escape.

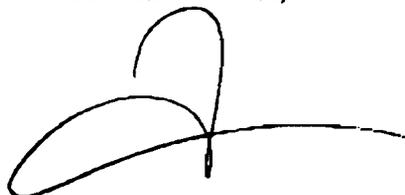
Page 13

Here's where I started to get lost. Why would Jeannie conclude so quickly that Lisa was raped by a third twin? Because of the fellow she saw in Philadelphia? And why would Ghita tell her anyway, and why would the FBI have all four fingerprints rather than only the one of someone who was criminally convicted?

From here to the end, I felt the story got a lot less credible and focused. The Mike Delaware link on page 15 feels very fuzzy, and scenes 8,9, and 10 on pages 15 and 16 just don't seem to me a big enough, important enough, or gripping enough conclusion to all that's gone before. Cliff shot by the police and Berisford killing Proust all seem to come out of left field. Berisford, as far as what we know, hasn't exhibited any violent tendencies. And somehow, each of the mothers getting a million dollars and Jeannie getting her job back just feels too small an ending; it's too personal. Don't these men really have to be exposed? I also think, given the fact that the book is named *The Third Twin*, that the entrance of Cliff has to be done very dramatically; it should be Cliff who somehow provides the turning point for the whole story.

I'll look forward to discussing all this when you want.

All best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

AP:rw