

# The Third Twin

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KEN FOLLETT

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## I. SUNDAY

1. In a modest Baltimore restaurant Professor Berisford Jones is having early dinner with his son, Harry. Berisford, 60, is a top research psychologist specialising in studies of twins. He is a short, dapper man with silver hair. Harry is 22, a student at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. The relationship between father and son is tense. The boy is careless, confident; the father is wary, almost as if he is afraid of his son.

Berisford is one of three founders of Genetico Inc, a health care and medical research outfit with interests in *in vitro* fertilization (IVF) and genetic engineering. The company conducts research itself and also funds projects in universities, including the large twins study Berisford conducts at (fictional) Jones Falls University here in Baltimore.

Berisford now tells his son that Genetico is about to be taken over by a pharmaceuticals giant, Faber. Berisford himself will make \$10 million from his personal shareholding.

"But Dad--that means we're rich!" says Harry.

"Not yet," says Berisford. "Something could go wrong. But, if all goes according to plan, in a week or so, yes, we will be rich."

As they talk, Berisford thinks back to the old days. He was an army officer, working at the Medical Research & Development Command at Fort Detrick, in nearby Frederick, Maryland. His two great buddies were Dr Paul Barck and Jim Proust. They set up the company together. Barck became its president, which he still is; Berisford went into the academic life but was a consultant to the company; Proust stayed in the military, became a general, moved to the CIA and became its deputy director, and is now a congressman. The company has been lucky: its research has produced several profitable products. It has taken a long time for them to start

earning real money, but now the cash is beginning to flow strongly--hence the takeover bid.

Harry wants a Porsche. He asks what his father will do with his newfound wealth. "I may make some political contributions," Berisford says with a smile. "How would you like your father to be surgeon-general of the United States?"

After dinner they drive back to the JFU campus. On the way they listen to Larry King Live on the radio. Larry is interviewing Berisford, and we learn that Berisford is a famous pundit, using his expertise in genetics and personality to support extreme conservative views on race and welfare.

They park on campus and pause to watch a tennis game. The standard of play is very high. One of the players is a former champion, Jack Budgen, now a physics professor here and a friend of Berisford's. The other player, an attractive woman in her twenties, is Dr Jeannie Ferrari, a scientist working in Berisford's department. Harry comments on how attractive she is, and Berisford says he is taking her to dinner tomorrow. He is something of a Don Juan, especially with younger women. "Not a word to your stepmother," he says, and Harry grins and says: "You're a pistol, Dad."

They watch for a few moments then part company, Berisford heading for the Human Biology building to do some work, Harry to drive to Philadelphia in his own car. Berisford is worried about his son, but it's not yet clear whether his concern is the usual generalised parental anxiety, or whether there is something specific he fears.

2. A young man on his own strolls by a few moments later and stops to watch the tennis. He is Steven Logan, 22, a law student in Washington, DC. He is a straight-A student and college football star, the son of a Pentagon colonel and a famous agony aunt. He is here because tomorrow he is to be a subject for study in the psychology department: he is not sure why he has been chosen.

He is a great player of sports: he loves the feeling of running like the wind, the thud of colliding bodies, the all-out competition. He secretly worries about how much he enjoys the violence and aggression of football. Like many young law students he is idealistic, and plans to spend at least some of his time defending the weak from the strong and protecting the little man from the multinational conglomerate. He gets his high moral tone from his father, a man whose army career came to a dead stop when he embarrassed his superiors by testifying to a Congressional committee on corrupt and wasteful purchasing practices in the military.

Steve is suffering from a touch of adolescent ennui. He has not had a steady date since he started at law school a year ago. He knows he is attractive, and indeed there are plenty of girls interested in him, but none of them hold his attention. He does not know it but he needs a woman who challenges him more.

He is profoundly struck by Jeannie Ferrari. She is tall and lithe and muscular. Her movements are strong and graceful and she has total concentration and self-control. He is so attracted to her he almost feels embarrassed.

She plays brilliantly but she takes risks, and in the end she loses. Afterwards Steve approaches her. Close up, he sees that she is five or six years older than he. Somehow that makes her seem even more desirable. "Great game!" he says, flashing his winning smile. "Thanks!" she says brightly, then she brushes carelessly past him and disappears. Steve shrugs, disappointed, and walks away.

3. An unidentified man makes his way into the gymnasium building and goes downstairs to the basement where the men's and women's changing rooms are. He starts a fire in a room next to the women's showers. As smoke begins to pour into the changing rooms he stands and watches with amusement as panicky half-naked men and women start running around. After a while a particular girl appears. Moving fast, the man approaches her, opens a door, and says: "I'm with security--please leave

by this exit." She runs through the door and finds herself in the towel store. The man follows her in, closes the door and draws a knife. She screams. He threatens to cut her if she makes a noise. Then he tells her to lie down.

4. Jeannie Ferrari is in a reflective mood after the tennis game. She lost because she took risks. She lives as she plays, with great flair but taking risks. Born into dire poverty in the housing projects of Manhattan, she turned down a well-paid job as restaurant manageress to go to college. She paid for her education with a series of sports scholarships.

Coming to JFU was another risk. After gaining her doctorate at Princeton she could have got a job with a higher salary there, and her friends urged her to do so. But JFU promised her the freedom to follow her own line of research, and she is fiercely independent. Also, a love affair with another scientist at Princeton had just come to a messy end. It was not an easy decision: she has to pay heavy health care costs for her mother, who has Alzheimer's, and she is getting farther into debt. But she feels sure her research project will catapult her into a highly-paid job within two or three years. Tomorrow is an important day: the first of her subjects is coming into the laboratory for study. She cannot help feeling anxious.

She is showering when the fire breaks out in the basement. She finds a friend of hers, Lisa Hoxton, in great distress: a man who said he was with security directed her into an empty room and raped her at knife point.

Jeannie calls the police and a patrolman arrives. He takes Lisa to a hospital. Jeannie goes too. The patrolman questions Lisa aggressively, challenging her statements and asking her what she may have done to provoke or entice the rapist. When a busy doctor brusquely orders her to spread her legs so he can take a vaginal swab, Lisa bursts into tears and announces that she is withdrawing the allegation of rape. The patrolman threatens her with a charge of perverting justice. Now Jeannie

steps in, mad as hell. She tells the patrolman and the doctor to leave the room, retrieves Lisa's clothes, and takes her home.

## II. MONDAY

5. Steve spends the evening and night with a cousin who lives here, then shows up next morning at the Human Biology building, where he meets his parents, who also are subjects for study.

To his surprise and delight the scientist who is studying him is the fascinating tennis player, Dr Ferrari. Last night she gave him a perfunctory brush-off, but today she is charming.

She begins by explaining that she studies identical twins who have been reared apart, to measure the effects of different upbringings on the same genetic raw material. (Identical twins have the same DNA.) Then she astonishes Steve by saying she believes he may have an identical twin brother.

However, Steve's mother, Lorraine Logan, says this is impossible. He is not adopted, and she is quite sure she gave birth to only one baby. Steve can see that Jeannie does not believe his mother.

His first question is: Who is the other twin? The answer is another shock: Dennis Pinker is in jail in Richmond, Virginia, for murder. Jeannie explains that her specialty is aggression and criminality and the extent to which they may be genetically determined.

Steve is rocked by the possibility that he has an identical twin who is a murderer. He has often reflected on his love of aggressive sports. Does he have the potential for murder within his heart?

Jeannie introduces Steve to her boss, a short, beautifully dressed man of about 60--Professor Berisford Jones. Now a strange thing happens. Jones goes pale, looks distressed, mutters an excuse and leaves the room.

Jeannie appears mystified. Steve takes advantage of this moment of intimacy to ask her for a date. She turns him down. He suppresses his disappointment and good-humouredly asks her if she considers him too young. Yes, she says; right now I'm dating a man twice your age.

6. Berisford goes to his office and thinks for a few moments. What do I do about this? he asks himself. Shut up and hope the problem will go away? No. He calls his old friend Dr Paul Barck, president and co-founder of Genetico. "Paul, Steven Logan is right here in my department, being studied by one of my goddamn scientists," he says. Barck goes ballistic and Berisford has to calm him down. "Take it easy," he says. "Something like this was bound to happen eventually. I'll find out more and call you again."

He calls Jeannie in and asks her how she selects the subjects of her study. She explains.

The subjects are of course volunteers, and therefore most of them are respectable middle-class Americans who feel they have a duty to support scientific research: few hoodlums put themselves forward. To get a less law-abiding sample Jeannie has to be proactive and seek subjects out rather than waiting for them to propose themselves. So it is key to her work that she has devised an ingenious system for identifying people who are twins but do not know it.

Berisford's heart gives a lurch as he hears this, and he thinks: We could lose all that money! But he struggles to keep his expression impassive.

Jeannie goes on. Identical twins have similar fingerprints, brainwaves, teeth and electrocardiograms. Such information about millions of people is nowadays held on giant databases by government agencies and insurance companies. Jeannie has devised a computer program that searches databases for pairs (not as easy as it may sound). In any large database there will naturally be many thousands of sets of identical twins. To identify those reared apart, Jeannie selects only those who have different surnames. She excludes married women, who may have taken their husbands' names.

She has tried out this technique on a national database of dental records held by an insurance company. (Identical twins even get cavities in the same teeth.) This

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# And Another Thing:

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"No way," says Berisford. "It the whole 636575 © RPP, Inc. . But this girl isn't going to uncover the whole story in a week." As he says this, he recalls the way she played tennis, and in his heart he wonders if he is right to be so confident.

They decide to think things over and meet tomorrow in Washington.

7. Jeannie did not tell Berisford that the large database she hopes to sweep next is the FBI fingerprint file. The Bureau is very interested in her search engine, which could help them enormously. Her contact there is Ghita Serena, an Asian woman of about Jeannie's age who handles IT for the Bureau. Now, worried by Berisford's questions, Jeannie tries to accelerate the next phase. She calls Ghita and asks if the sweep of the fingerprint file can be done this week. Ghita promises to do her best. Jeannie uploads the search program by modem.

*SUMRA*

Jeannie's interest in criminality is in part due to the fact that her father, whom she hardly knows, is a criminal, and is currently serving his third jail sentence for burglary.

On her way home she goes to see Lisa. While she is there a detective knocks on the door: Sgt. Michelle "Mike" Delaware from the Sex Crimes Unit, a black woman of about 40. She apologises for the patrolman and says she sympathises with Lisa's decision to withdraw the rape allegation. Then she goes on to talk about the

incident and the kind of man the rapist probably is. She feels sure he set fire to the gymnasium building to create chaos as a cover for rape. Most rapists are serial offenders and he will probably attack another woman in a week or so unless he is caught. Mike presses Lisa to cooperate in finding the guy. Jeannie supports Mike, and Lisa is persuaded.

That evening Jeannie has dinner with Berisford. He makes a serious pass. She turns him down. He points out how much he could help her career, a line that makes her even more resistant to his advances. He tries to insist, and there is a nasty scene. Jeannie leaves knowing she will not be dating him again.

She has been unlucky in love and now, as often before, she wonders if all men are creeps.

**And Another Thing:**

She tells Benny that  
her father is in jail

### III. TUESDAY

8. Jeannie flies to Richmond, Virginia, with her laboratory assistant Kiana, to see Dennis Pinker.

First they meet his parents. To Jeannie's dismay they, like the Logans, deny that their son could possibly be a twin. So she is pessimistic when she arrives at the jail. If her technique proves a failure she does not know how she will find the right subjects for her study. Besides, the search program is the cleverest thing she has ever done: it has to work!

The prison governor warns her that Dennis Pinker is clever and dangerous. He turned off the electric power in a cinema, molested several women in the confusion, and then killed a girl who grappled with him. Jeannie must have an armed guard with her all the time she is interviewing Dennis.

Duly warned, she is taken to the interview room. As the door opens, she holds her breath....

9. Berisford Jones meets with Paul Barck in Washington. They are joined by the third co-founder of Genetico, General Jim Proust, former deputy director of the CIA, now widely tipped as a Republican presidential nominee.

They talk about the past. In the seventies the Russians were known to have a program for breeding perfect soldiers, perfect scientists, even perfect chess players; and the US military, afraid of being left behind, needed to start a similar project; but it had to be done clandestinely for political reasons. That was why Genetico was set up.

All three stand to lose millions if the truth comes out and the Genetico takeover is thwarted. But even more important than the money is the political

fallout. The three have for years planned and dreamed of a president who would realise that the welfare state undermines natural selection and breeds inferior Americans. Now they have the chance of making Proust president. But Jeannie Ferrari threatens to destroy their dream.

Barck is panicky, saying: "We should confess everything." Proust, the hard man, is scornful of his old colleague, and accuses him of weakness. "I still have loyal friends in the intelligence community," Proust says. "We could just have Jeannie Ferrari *disappear*."

Berisford keeps a cool head and mediates between them, saying: "This is not a *crisis*, this is a *problem*. The takeover will be finally signed at a press conference next Monday morning. All we have to do is stop Ferrari using her search program. I'm her boss, I can deal with her." Barck points out that he will need some kind of pretext. "I'll think of something," Berisford says.

10. As soon as Jeannie sees Dennis Pinker, she breathes a sigh of relief: he is obviously Steve's identical twin. It would be impossible to tell them apart. Kiana takes a blood sample, so that Jeannie can do a DNA test, but she is sure of the result already.

Dennis is polite and charming, like Steve, until he suddenly says: "You're going to give me your panties." Jeannie tries to ignore this and carry on.

Jeannie is fascinated by the results of the tests on Dennis, and how they compare with Steve's. Dennis scores high on intelligence and aggression: his psychological profile is very similar to Steve's. The difference is in their socialisation: Steve is normal, Dennis is at the level of a kindergarten child.

Later he points at the guard and says: "Robertson is terrified of rats." A few moments later, when Kiana is out of the room, he takes a live rat from his pocket and releases it. Robertson screams (Jeannie does not). Robertson attacks the rat with his

nightstick. Meanwhile, Dennis draws a homemade knife and holds it at Jeannie's throat. She can hardly believe this, it happened so quickly. He tells her to take off her panties. She pulls down her K-mart white cotton briefs. She is terrified of what he will do next, but he just puts them in his pocket.

He hides the knife, sits down and looks innocent. Robertson kills the rat. Jeannie realises that Robertson did not see the incident with the panties. She makes a split-second decision to say nothing about it.

A few minutes later she walks out of the jail with no panties on.

Her technique has been vindicated, she has been scared half to death, and a mystery remains. Why are the Pinkers and the Logans so sure their sons are not twins?

Perhaps Lorraine Logan and Charlotte Pinker went to the same hospital and got one each of someone else's twins. Jeannie calls the two women and learns that Dennis and Steven were born in different hospitals *five weeks apart*. The mystery deepens.

After she has spoken to Lorraine Logan, Steve comes on the phone. He is horrified to get confirmation of the murderer who is his double. When Jeannie tells him the DNA test will establish beyond doubt whether they are twins, he insists on driving to Baltimore to watch as Kiana carries out the test.

11. Berisford casts around for some pretext upon which to order Jeannie to stop using her search program. After rejecting several ideas he reluctantly makes a phone call to an editor on the *New York Times* whom he knows to be sympathetic to his political views. "We're not having this conversation," he says. "And you're never going to ask me why I told you this." Then he goes on to tell the editor about Jeannie's search program and suggest a news story about the civil liberties implications of trawling through medical databases and uncovering paternity secrets. The editor

says this will fit in with a major article on scientific ethics that is almost ready for publication.

12. Steve has mixed motives for rushing to Baltimore. He is still keen on Jeannie. Nevertheless he watches horrified as his genes are compared, one by one, with the murderer's, and they all are identical.

He is so shaken that Jeannie takes pity on him and invites him back to her apartment for a cup of coffee. This cheers him up: he could stand having a murderer for a twin if it meant he got to see more of Jeannie Ferrari.

Jeannie then wonders if she has done the right thing: she is about to go home with the identical twin of a psychopath.

Inside her apartment they find a dirty, unshaven, somewhat drunk middle-aged man. "You need better security here," he says. "I picked your lock in about ten seconds." Jeannie tells Steve it is her father, and asks him to take a rain check on that coffee. Disappointed, Steve leaves.

13. Jeannie's father, is just out of jail. She takes him in and makes him bathe and shave. She borrows fresh clothes, cooks him dinner and gives him a bed for the night. But when he asks her for money she hardens her heart. "I have to pay so much for Mom to be looked after--I'm in debt for thousands of dollars," she says. "I don't have any money to give you."

#### IV. WEDNESDAY

14. First thing Wednesday morning, JFU's provost calls Berisford in a panic. He has received an aggressive phone call from a *New York Times* reporter who says that people's privacy is being invaded by a computer program in use in the psychology department. The provost is just a fund-raiser and he hates anything controversial. Berisford tells the provost he has grave doubts about Jeannie's program, which is anyway not very successful. They agree that Jeannie should stop using it.

They summon Jeannie and tell her that neither JFU nor Genetico can afford this kind of publicity. They offer her a raise and a more elevated title, but insist she must put her name to a press release that admits mistakes were made and says the offending computer program is no longer used.

Jeannie refuses angrily. The only reason she came to JFU was because they promised her the freedom to follow her own research program. She intends to hold them to that promise.

Berisford points out that the program has so far produced only one pair, the parents of whom vehemently deny that they are twins. Jeannie shocks him by saying she met Dennis Pinker yesterday and he is Steve's double. Then she shocks him again by saying she has already run the DNA tests that prove the two have the same genes.

Berisford calls Proust and tells him Jeannie refused to stop using her program.

"Then fire the bitch before she gets any further."

Too late: she saw Dennis Pinker yesterday.

"Damn."

Berisford reminds Proust of what he said about his old CIA contacts. Berisford does not know whether Proust was bullshitting about this or not. "Could they help Dennis escape from jail? Then disappear?"

Proust promises to have it done. Berisford wonders if he can.

15. Mad as hell, Jeannie calls the *Times*. She defends her work vigorously and says she is continuing with it. She points out that her employment contract guarantees her the freedom to pursue her chosen course of research.

After she hangs up, she realises she is in deep trouble. No matter how this turns out, she has quarrelled with her professor and the leading man in her field. She can kiss goodbye to that dream of a highly-paid research job: she is going to find it tough to get any kind of job after this.

She goes home. Her father has gone. So has her TV, her CD player and her car.

The phone rings: it is Steve Logan. She bursts into tears, says she has had the rottenest day of her life, and hangs up.

16. Steve gets in his car, drives to Baltimore, and arrives on Jeannie's doorstep with flowers, wine, pizza and ice cream. Of course she lets him in.

He is thrilled to have this chance of playing the knight in shining armour, and he does everything he can to cheer her up. He is good at it and soon she is feeling better. Trying to find out where he stands, he casually asks her about her date who is twice Steve's age, and she says brusquely: "That was a mistake." Steve's optimism takes another happy leap upwards.

He shows her today's newspaper, which announces the takeover bid for Genetico, and suggests this may be why so much fuss is being made about bad publicity.

They talk about the puzzle of Dennis and Steve. Jeannie realises that both Lorraine Logan and Charlotte Pinker gave birth in their late thirties and only once. Did they have subfertility problems? Steve says his mother certainly did: she has written about it. They call her. She says she was sent for hormone treatment to a clinic used by the US Army's Health Services Command, the Cotswold Clinic in

Jeannie's superparent theory.

Philadelphia. Jeannie calls Charlotte Pinker. Did she have a subfertility problem? Yes. Did she have hormone treatment? Yes. Where? Well, Desmond was in the military at the time, and they sent her to a place in Philadelphia, the Cotswold Clinic....

A phone call establishes that the clinic still exists. She makes an appointment to visit tomorrow. Perhaps they can help to unravel the mystery.

Jeannie is softening towards Steve, and he hopes for an invitation to stay the night. But Jeannie kisses him and sends him away.

17. Berisford Jones gets a call from Barck, panicking again. "Jeannie Ferrari has made an appointment to visit the clinic tomorrow." Berisford feels a mixture of anger and admiration as he says: "Jesus Christ, that girl never gives up! All right, I'll deal with it."

## V. THURSDAY

18. The *New York Times* appears with an article about ethical problems of scientific research that uses Jeannie as a prime example. She is quoted as vowing to continue her work in defiance of the university authorities.

She is again summoned to the provost's office. This time she is fired. She says they can't fire her: she has an employment contract. Berisford points out that she has breached it by talking to the press about internal JFU affairs without the permission of the university's public relations office.

Faculty cannot be dismissed without a hearing by the disciplinary committee. The hearing has been arranged for tomorrow. Meanwhile Jeannie is "suspended". She learns what this means when she finds her office locked and her personal belongings in a plastic bag on the floor outside the door.

She is in despair. Yesterday she had the world at her feet: today she is finished. And the whole thing is so unfair!

And what will happen to her mother when Jeannie stops paying the bills?

She calls the FBI. Ghita is reluctant to talk to her. Her bosses have read the *Times* and they are afraid the bad publicity will touch the Bureau. However, all this blew up *after* Ghita ran the program, and the results have already been emailed to Jeannie. Jeannie says she cannot retrieve her mail because her computer is locked up in the office. Ghita says she did not keep a copy, and she hangs up.

Jeannie tries to access her JFU computer by modem from her home PC but her codes have been cancelled.

Feeling that the mystery of Steven and Dennis is somehow at the heart of all this, she rents a car and drives to Philadelphia to keep her appointment at the Cotswold Clinic.

19. In the lobby of the clinic Jeannie picks up a glossy brochure. She is taken to the records department. She explains her task and shows the releases signed (routinely) by Charlotte Pinker and Lorraine Logan authorising Jeannie to check their medical records. But as she is doing this she realises a clerk is feeding records into a shredder. She asks what is happening and he tells her: "I'm up to 1980." The very records she has come to see have been shredded this morning.

MN Edelman  
 Looking in the glossy brochure she sees that the clinic is part of Genetico, Inc. She leaves. Over a cup of coffee at a lunch counter near the campus of the University of Pennsylvania, she leafs through the brochure and learns that the company pioneered *in vitro* fertilization. This, she suddenly realises, is how Charlotte and Lorraine were impregnated with identical twins. But how come they don't know? They must have been experimented upon without their knowledge. Is *that* why Berisford is so desperate to shut Jeannie up?

Looking up she sees Steve. What is he doing in Philadelphia? She calls him. He acts funny and she feels strange. She kisses him and she gets a weird feeling that this is not Steve. But he likes the kiss and starts to feel her up. She pushes him away. Suddenly he shouts: "There's a guy with a gun!" This creates a panic as people scream, dive for the floor, run from the diner, run into the kitchen. In the confusion, "Steve" pulls Jeannie into a storeroom and tries to rape her. She escapes.

She drives home, thinking that her worries about Steve being like Dennis were all too well-founded.

When she gets home, Steve calls. He swears he was not in Philadelphia.

Could there be a third twin? Jeannie calls the jail in Richmond and learns that Dennis Pinker has escaped.

She is relieved that Steve was not the man who attacked her, but Dennis's escape means her proof has disappeared.

Nervously she agrees to see Steve again tonight. She is remembering that his

psychological profile is similar to Dennis's. But when he arrives she feels safe.

She tells him her IVF theory. Steve, who is a law student, sees immediately that if Jeannie is right the two mothers could sue Genetico for millions. The mere announcement of such a suit would bring the share price tumbling down and cause the takeover to be cancelled. No wonder Berisford is so determined to stop Jeannie investigating.

Over dinner, Steve asks Jeannie what lawyer she has hired to represent her at tomorrow's disciplinary hearing. She has not even thought about it. But the university will have a lawyer, he says. Looking through the wad of rules she has been given, he sees that she has the right to be represented by a lawyer or other person provided she notifies the chair of the committee in advance. Steve proposes that he should represent her. She calls the chair and notifies him. Then they spend half the night rehearsing the arguments and questions.

## VI. FRIDAY

20. Berisford gets a call telling him that Jeannie has asked Steven Logan to represent her. He calls the police and anonymously tips them that Steve is the man who raped Lisa Hoxton.

21. Steve is arrested moments before the hearing begins. Jeannie asks Mike Delaware where the tipoff came from. Mike won't say. Jeannie pressures her, saying: "You wouldn't have an investigation at all if I hadn't persuaded Lisa to cooperate. You owe me!" Mike confesses that they traced the call and it came from Berisford Jones.

Jeannie has to defend herself in front of the discipline committee. The previous evening's rehearsal has put her in command of the arguments and she does brilliantly, making a fool of the University's fancy lawyer and of the hostile chair. But the committee consists of professors and there is no way they are going to find for her against a professor. She is fired. The decision has to be ratified by a full meeting of the Senate, the university's governing body, but that is a formality.

Jeannie dashes off to jail to see Steven. She arrives at the same time as Lisa Hoxton. There is an identity parade that Jeannie is allowed to watch. Lisa looks straight at Steve and says: "That's him. He's the one who raped me."

Jeannie is devastated. Her intuition was wrong after all. Steven is a psychopath like his twin.

And how come Berisford knew this?

But then she gets over the shock and begins to think straight. In her heart she knows Steven is not a rapist. She goes to talk to him. They agree there must be a third twin: if Genetico impregnated two mothers, why not three? The way to find the third twin would be to use her database search program. (No doubt this is why

Genetico have been trying so frantically to make her stop using it.) If she could find the third twin she would be vindicated and she could prove Steve's innocence.

She knows Dennis's fingerprints are on the FBI file. So are Steve's because of a minor adolescent offence. If there is a third twin who raped Lisa and attacked Jeannie he is likely to be on the file too. She calls Ghita from police headquarters. Just one question: Was there a set of triplets in the results? No, says Ghita. Then, just before she hangs up, she says one more word: "Quads."

Jeannie stares at the phone. Four identical quads foisted on unknowing army wives by Berisford and his colleagues 23 years ago. And their names are in Jeannie's computer!

It is maddening that she cannot get into her office. She fantasises breaking into the building like Spiderman, or overcoming the security guards.

Then her father walks in.

He apologises. He says he stole her stuff because he no longer has the nerve to do real burglaries. His career is over. He is going to have to get some kind of legitimate job.

Jeannie says: "Dad, before you retire, I want you to do one last burglary."

That night they break into the Human Biology building. Dad has truly lost his nerve but Jeannie manages to keep him calm. He picks the lock on her door in a few seconds. She sits at her desk and retrieves her email. She copies the FBI file on to a floppy. On the way out they are almost caught by security but they escape.

Back at home she prints out the results. The "quads" are Steve and Dennis plus two new names, Henry King and Harvey Jones. Henry has an address in California but Harvey is in Philadelphia.

As dawn breaks over Baltimore, Jeannie calls Mike Delaware and gives her the news.

## VII. SATURDAY

22. Jeannie goes with Mike to Philadelphia. Accompanied by a Philadelphia P.D. patrolman, they go to Harvey Jones's address. He is not there, but the apartment is full of Nazi memorabilia, sadistic pornography, whips and chains. Mike shows the neighbours a photograph of Steve Logan and they say: "Yes, that's Harvey Jones." Mike looks for some clue to where he might be but finds none. Of course, he will turn up, but it is going to take time.

23. The newspapers carry a report that General Jim Proust will bid for the Republican nomination, and his campaign will be financed by his longtime friend Paul Barck, who is about to become a multimillionaire from the sale of his company, Genetico Inc. Proust's main proposal is to phase out welfare in ten years.

Jeannie looks up Proust on CompuServe and learns that he began his military career with the US Army's Medical Research and Development Command at Fort Detrick, in nearby Frederick, Maryland. Both Paul Barck and Berisford Jones served there with him. The three of them started Genetico together.

She theorises that IVF was an accidental, highly profitable offshoot of their real interest, which is the genetics of aggression. Both Steven and Dennis have abnormally high aggression, and to this day Genetico finances research into aggression--including Jeannie's own project. Steven and Dennis were part of some early attempt to breed the perfect soldier, with innocent army wives used as the unknowing hosts. Now the three men are desperately trying to cover up this early experiment so they can sell their company and finance a run at the presidency. And if Proust becomes president, children like Jeannie Ferrari will never go to college.

24. Berisford's son Harry comes home for the weekend. Berisford confronts him and

accuses him of raping Lisa Hoxton. Harry admits it.

Berisford now tells Harry that he is a clone, with three identical siblings. But, Berisford says, although I'm not your biological father, I love you just as much and I want to help you.

They desperately need to find out how much Jeannie Ferrari knows.

25. Steve gets out of jail and goes to Jeannie's place. But she is paranoid and cannot get rid of the thought that he might be Harvey Jones. "Why would he come here?" Steve says. "I don't know--to spy, maybe," says Jeannie. Steve leaves.

Jeannie feels guilty, calls his answering machine, and leaves a message asking him to come back in the morning.

## VIII. SUNDAY

26. Next morning when Steve shows up she throws her arms around him and kisses him.

They discuss the situation. Jeannie needs to prove that she is a good scientist and that her dismissal was unwarranted and malicious. She also wants to stop Proust from becoming president. The only way she can do these things is to produce another clone to stand alongside Steve for the world to see. But of the three, one is dead and two have disappeared.

They begin to make love. As he is kissing her breasts, Jeannie realises with total certainty that *this is not Steve*. What can she do? Whichever one he is, he is a psychopath. But she cannot let him make love to her!

Then he does something that reminds her of Berisford. A flashbulb goes off in her head and she puts it all together in a moment of intuition: Harvey is Berisford's son Harry.

"I know who you are, Harry," she says.

He tries to laugh it off but she persists. Then he becomes angry and she gets very scared. At the last moment the real Steve shows up. He hits Harry so hard he passes out. They tie him up.

Together they devise a plan. They will keep Harry prisoner and produce him tomorrow at the press conference. But, to allay suspicion, Steve will pose as Harry and go to Berisford's house.

27. Steve has a series of tense moments as he orients himself in the house he is supposed to know well. There is a maid who says: "Please don't hurt me today, I'll do what you like later." Berisford also has a live-in lover, a woman of about 30 called Debbie.

Berisford asks Steve what he learned at Jeannie's house. Steve invents a reply. That night Debbie climbs into Steve's bed, saying: "I've given him two sleeping pills-- he's out for the night." Steve weighs the odds and decides he had better oblige her. Afterwards she says: "You're not him. But I won't tell."

28. Harry is securely tied up at Jeannie's apartment, being guarded by Lisa Hoxton, who is holding a baseball bat and ready to use it at the least excuse.

Jeannie tracks down Michael Madigan, CEO of Faber, the pharmaceuticals giant that is buying Genetico, and manages to get him on the phone. She tells him the story. Naturally he is reluctant to believe her. Furthermore, he has been warned by Proust that a disgruntled ex-academic is going around peddling slanders about Genetico. She tells him that in that case she will bring two clones to the press conference tomorrow.

## IX. MONDAY

29. The maid serves breakfast. Steve accidentally jostles her, making her drop a plate of rolls. He apologises and bends and starts picking up the rolls. After a moment he notices that the other two are staring at him in disbelief, and he realises he is behaving in a way completely uncharacteristic of Harry. There is a long silence, then Berisford says: "What have you done with my son?"

30. Jeannie gets a call from Berisford: he has Steve at the point of a gun, he says. He proposes an exchange. She says she has a better idea. She points out that Henry King is dead and Dennis Pinker has vanished. How long, she asks, will Harry be allowed to live, once the takeover is achieved and Proust is on the road to the White House.

There is a long silence, then Berisford says: "What have you got in mind?"

31. As the press conference opens, Jeannie and Berisford show up together, with Steve and Harry in tow. The event becomes chaotic and the takeover is cancelled in a blaze of publicity.

32. JFU gives Jeannie her job back and apologises publicly. Then Madigan gets her on one side and asks her about her search engine. He finishes by offering her a job at twice the salary. She accepts. Steve asks her to marry him. She says she will think about it.

The end.