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## The Follett Office

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*To: Zuckerman residence*

*Copy to: Writers House*

**PLEASE GIVE THIS FAX TO AL**

I spent my last few days in Barbuda mulling over your comments about THE THIRD TWIN. Obviously I've failed to get you involved in the destinies of Steve and Jeannie, but it's not clear to me exactly how I failed, and that makes it difficult to decide what to do.

At the moment my theory is that Jeannie is not sufficiently set into a web of rich relationships. I have given her lots of relationships, but they're all somewhat negative: her father is a good-for-nothing, her mother has Alzheimer's, her sister's in Europe, her boyfriend left her, and her boss just wants to bone her.

This is actually fairly typical of a first draft: I've pushed all these people to the periphery so they can't interfere with the smooth development of the plot. But it would not be difficult to bring them all closer. I could open with Jeannie checking her Mom into the old folks' home. Then she could visit with her sister, who could be living in the same city, and discuss what to do. Her

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old boyfriend could drop by and admit that leaving her was the worst mistake of his life. One or two of the psychology faculty, and maybe some of Jeannie's students, could put in an outraged protest at her firing, because they like and admire her so much. And so on.

I still have an open mind about your suggestion, that Jeannie too should be a clone and that Berisford should plan to use the clones' computer wizardry to set up a company bigger than Microsoft and take over the world. However, I have to admit that so far it just hasn't started any fires in my imagination.

If your convalescence is progressing, I'd love to spend an hour or two discussing all this with you. The best date for me would be Monday 22 January. I would fly to New York the day before, 21 January, so we could meet on Monday morning, or any time you like. I would probably try to see Ann Patty on the same visit.

Let me know if this seems all right to you. I need to know as soon as possible because I have to cancel some appointments. If you think you will feel well enough, but you're not sure, we could make the arrangements anyway, then cancel at the last minute if you change your mind.

Warmest regards,

Ken.