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April 11, 1996

Mr Ken Follett
92 Cheney Walk
London SW10 ODQ
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Dear Ken,

Here are your last 150 or so pages with my notes; and in terms of pure action, these work quite well. All the improvements you've made are great assets; and although the outline of this sequence is relatively unchanged from the previous draft, it's now richer and much more exciting.

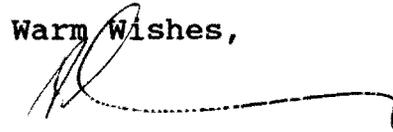
My notes may seem to you like a bit of a bore because they are so repetitive; but that's only because I keep finding the same problem in these pages and throughout much of the manuscript. You are excellent in terms of keeping the story moving excitingly and filling us in at all times on what the characters are saying and doing. And I think what goes on as you do this writing is that you yourself experience what the characters are going through emotionally in these scenes, their fears, trepidations, exhilarations, feelings of vast relief and pain, and you assume that the reader is equally aware--but he is not. So, as you go back through this manuscript, I think in almost every scene you have to ask yourself, what is the prevailing emotion? Is it being clearly and richly expressed? If something wonderful or terrible happens, is the character to whom it's happening having an appropriate emotional reaction? I'm not eager to sound pedantic; but I don't know how else to express this. This is, after all, a thriller; and for the reader to share the perils of Pauline which

our characters are undergoing, you as the author need to keep flashing the emotional temperature. As you'll see (or as you may have already seen) I've done a lot of marking of this kind; but I'm not even sure that I've done it enough.

I'm eager to know what you think of all this; and I'll call you next week and maybe we can chew some of this over.

I also thought I'd let you know that I'm going to be in England the week of May 6th, primarily to attend Ridley Pearson's wedding, which is taking place on May 7th at Charingworth in the Cotswolds. If possible, I would like to spend a bit of time with you on May 9th or 10th.

Warm wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name 'Al', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Al