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Dear Ken

THE THIRD TWIN

Congratulations. The thought and creativity you have put into your Second Draft have resulted in an even more persuasive novel. The transvestite scene is especially riveting and Porky revolts and fascinates and stays on the mind. To mention but two.

My one doubt is Will. Does he earn his corn? He does not seem to tell us anything we would not surmise?

Sharing some thoughts.

The intro with Harvey Jones is a powerful and effective scene-setter. It seemed however that when p369-376 he attempts to rape Jeannie that scene was a mite repetitive and could be even more chilling if tightened?

Jeannie tends to take rather a lot for granted from friends? More of that as we go through pages.

The DVA info is magnificent. Of course I do not understand all but that matters not. It is intriguing and very persuasive. The bureaucracy Steve endures in prison is counter-point to the horrors but maybe less would tell us enough?

Language. A difficult balancing act. But I wonder if the use of 'fuck' would be more effective if more restricted? Jeannie cares about the growing number of bad guys in the US. Might she care - a little - about what America is doing to the English language? To our astonishment and delight this subject was brought up by a teacher in her 40s at a party we were at in Manchester Village last September. Could she not show rage and distress at least as effectively without 'fuck'? And Steve, talk 'prison language' very effectively for survival and to show Quinn his backbone: otherwise 'shit'? And Berisford a very controlled gent...? Would there be a loss of colour or credibility?

Ending. Is it worth thinking of an intriguing element to add to the final scene? You will be totally unsurprised that I suggest thoughts of babe. Jeannie would look forward to the challenge. And with confidence in herself and Steve...?

As ever I have pencilled suggestions on the text. It seemed appropriate to send you back the complete manuscript, so that suggested amendments can be assessed in place. I do hope that some shared thoughts are of help.

Page4 'Twenty jams in a row' Jam sessions? Clarify?

18 Zip has a wife and two children.

At times I suggest you cut 'he/she thought' - and the like-when we are in the character's head. Also suggestions to curtail the 'embarrassed' and 'guilty'.

Chapt2 Small amendments suggested to tighten and keep tension.

Page 66 Steady date of whom we hear no more. Not too steady?
146 Teenage talk?

216etc Berisford is in danger of becoming repetitive about his womanizing?

224 Phones on planes now.

280 Cut? We have enough grey and black characters on stage?

329 Jeannie and Ghita. Jeannie and friends. Ghita is in deep trouble and will certainly lose her job. She lied but maybe we all might in the macho environment of the FBI. She had started out by trying to help Jeannie.

332 Thoughts re clinic as well as FBI list?

344 Now Berisford is overly repetitive in fantasizing about Jeannie?

369-376 The car attempted rape as already mentioned.

386 "There are three of you" 387 'two different women'.

414 Sorry I agree with Steve.

423 Is this quite accurate ? cf p250s?

442 Jeannie is in despair about her job, but she would still - and forever - want to know about the third twin?

449 Curtail so that Jeannie does not seem arrogant ? Expressions such as 'sex on a stick' would be appropriate as Berisford's view of her? Not her own?

470 Would it be appropriate for Mish to express shock/surprise that it was possible that there were more than two/three twins?

522 Colonel Logan under arrest. Would not Steve also have been more concerned about his father? Though vital that info should get to Jeannie asap?

529/530 Lorraine and Jeannie also more concern re Colonel?

534 Lisa. Jeannie and friends. Lisa was raped. Yes Jeannie was a tower of comfort and strength. But would she try emotional blackmail on a friend ? In head perhaps, Lisa thinking : I have to do this. Jeannie risked her life for me?

633 Chap 62. 657 Chap 63.

658 Three 'nice' Have suggested changing two?

One I missed:

114 Dorothy Dickson and Dorothy the transvestite earlier.
Worth a change?

Ken back to you with total confidence that THE THIRD TWIN
will be a memorable success! You have created a winner.
Do be in touch if there is any point you would care to discuss.

All best wishes

Wagon