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Memo: To Al
From: Amy

I read the draft of THE THIRD TWIN with your notes in the margins. I agree with most of your comments and made some additional notes on the first 46 chapters which is as much as I've read so far. Let me know if you think we should pass them on to Ken.

Page 33: I wondered why Jeannie was the only one on the stairs during the fire since they seemed the most likely escape route.

Page 93: It seems odd that Jeannie would fail to anticipate the responsibility associated with the information she's about to give Steve. We know she's obsessed with research, but she isn't portrayed as a person who is that out of touch.

Page 94: Steve's reaction to the news of his twinship and possible adoption seems odd--he seems more anxious to please Jeannie than he is shocked at this strange twist of fate.

Page 124: Why doesn't she catch on--he asked her out earlier after the tennis game?

Page 140: Are they in the faculty bar or at Jeannie's house?

Page 161: I don't understand why Jeannie and Lisa need to be in Dennis's cell. They simply need to ask questions which don't require close physical contact. And wouldn't Lisa be a little leery of being so close to a man who looks just like the man who raped her?

Page 183: I agree with you that Berisford's dreams need to be made a lot clearer.

Page 235: Does Jeannie ever speculate on the genes she inherited from her father? In this way, she, like Steve, has a very personal interest in the result of her research which makes the bond between them stronger.

Page 266: Steve's volunteering to stay away from Lisa seems a little lame. It also implies that he knows who she is and what she looks like.

Page 287: Steve's decision to defend himself seemed silly to me--the charges are too serious. In fact, he doesn't seem to be as offended and outraged by his circumstances as I would suspect. Shouldn't he be fearful about going back to jail after his awful experience there. Shouldn't he be more frightened after he learns that the DNA evidence incriminates him?

Page 313: Why shouldn't he say too much on the phone?

Page 444: Why doesn't Jeannie see that getting back at Berry can help her too?

Page 467: Why does Mish ask Jeannie if she wants to stay out of jail?

Page 494: Ironic how B feels sneaky spying on Jeannie but years ago had no problem falsely impregnating women.

I wonder if there should be a scene which takes place in Washington, D.C. with more focus on the Senator so that the wider implications of Genetico's plans will be more palpable to the reader.

I love the structural change Ken has made. By arresting Steve early, Ken allows the twinship to be used in a much more dramatic fashion. But some of the tension built into Steve's early arrest is weakened by Steve's response--he seems more interested in pursuing his personal relationship with Jeannie than in finding the evidence which will keep him out of jail. I think his sense of urgency can be heightened without compromising the romance.

The other larger point is one which you mentioned. It's not as clear in the beginning what Berisford is so frightened of and it's not clear what his ambitions are. Berisford's partners are also very shadowy right now. Perhaps by learning more about them we could learn more about their ultimate goals.