



25 Eccleston Place
London SW1W 9NF

Tel: 0171 881 8000

For the attention of **Ken Follett**

Company

Fax no 0171-352 5168 Date 06/06/97

From Suzanne Baboneau

Company Macmillan

Our fax no 0171=881 8291 Total pages ²~~3~~ incl

Fax

Message

Dear Ken

On to the third and, yes, final outline for OUT OF THE MOUTH OF THE DRAGON. I like it very much. Herewith a few comments:

page 6ff: when you first introduce Melanie in the context of Jess, I got the impression that their relationship had been running for a while (although 2 lines up from bottom you use the word 'lately'). I think it's important to establish from the outset that they've only known each other for four weeks (see p 15) to define the speed - and thus intensity - at which events are moving

page 10: a timing query: when, in relation to the first scene (pp 4-8), does Jess issue his first Stop Now threat - before or after he steals the seismic vibrator. And did he issue it after visiting Michael?

page 17: How long after Melanie and Jess visited Michael did Judy go to see him? Sorry to be getting hung up on timing; I'm sure it will all become clear, but here I'm getting a little confused about the train of events

page 19: Can Jess become a millionaire *and* be illiterate (page 7)

page 20: lines 11 - 13 repeats fairly closely last para on page 6 ²

page 21, top para: is this a significant diversion to the errant Flower? At the moment, it isn't really followed up except on page 25 where we see a change of character (as babysitter to Dusty)

page 22: You say on page 19 that Star is the only one strong enough to stand up to Jess. I think we need to see evidence of that early on. Here could we see more of the dynamics between the two - see Jess having to justify his plans for destruction more forcefully to Star (and thereby to the reader)?

page 24: Star's message threatens an earthquake in another week. Has the four weeks threatened back on page 10 run its course? How do the two deadlines coincide?

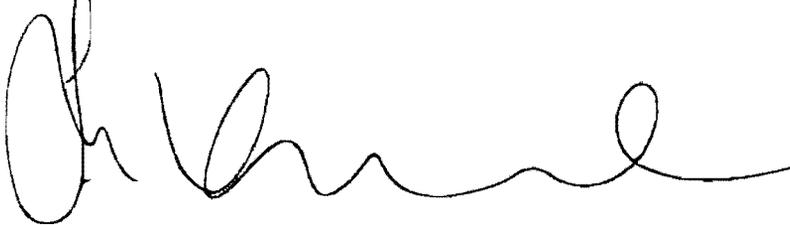
page 28: isn't it rather late in the day to give the reasons for the hippies' desperation? I think more crucial to tell us earlier what is motivating Jess to go to such extremes?

page 29: how come Michael has Dusty?

page 33: how easy is it to buy voice distorters in suburban shopping malls?!

Hope the above is of some help. Happy writing. Can't wait to see the first draft.

All best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Suzanne', written in a cursive style.

Suzanne