

Ann Patty notes on the first draft

Meeting on 19 December 97 at the Four Seasons Hotel, New York

What if Melanie got rejected for her PhD? Michael was on the panel but excused himself,. However, she still thinks he should have made it right for her. This rejection makes her feel no more than a housewife.

At the end, she is determined Michael will not defeat her yet again? After Felicitas, she knows that if she gives in she will go to jail and lose Dusty.

Melanie must have *rage*. She uses her seismic knowledge against the academic community. When she proposes the earthquake she says: I'm a seismologist, I should be a professor except the committee was against me.

She wants to take Dusty out of that world so that he will never have to suffer as she has. She tells the world: I'm doing this for my kid. But Michael guesses it's revenge.

She gets some kind of validation from Priest. He tells her how smart she is. You're so brilliant, together we could take over the world. She is an attractive woman who uses sex big-time, but Priest tells her he loves her brain. He says the PhD committee were men who were threatened by her combination of beauty and brains.

When they realise they truly have the power to cause earthquakes...a bigger reaction.

Say how unusual the commune is. Others have compromised.

The group should all chant the same mantra.

"Om" for 10 seconds, three times aloud then silently for 20 minutes. Then lessons?

Not "all you need is love".

They could see themselves as a back-to-the-earth group. Then the earthquake is a way of the earth helping them rebalance the forces of the universe. We are true to each other because we're true to the earth.

The carnival ride was with them from the beginning. It never made money, and Priest abandoned it. (It drew revenue, but the money was always used up in

maintenance.)

Priest's illiteracy:

He buys his driving licence. A bank account scene with the bottler.

The Capitol building meeting: Priest meets Judy to receive a piece of paper, a contract.

Judy doesn't shoot down the door. She gets into the building with the neighbour, then knocks at the apartment door. Michael, not warned, invites her in. Then Melanie walks in from the bedroom, or bathroom, stark naked.

We need a scene where Michael and Judy deal with the aftermath of her seeing him in bed with Melanie, and decide to work together.

More of the government giving out earthquake instructions on TV.

After Owens Valley (p190) some members of the public disbelieve the government line that the earthquake was natural. Some news coverage of these people.

A scene with Judy, the governor, Honeymoon and others in which someone says: I know we can't give in to terrorism, but...and gives all the arguments for giving in, even saying how Priest could conceivably get away. Then, when Priest is considering his position, echo these arguments.

Why is Michael always around? "This may at any moment turn into an intense negotiation, so we need you on the spot to say what Melanie will or won't agree to."

The things Michael likes about Judy are all the things she likes about herself.

F:\WP60\KEN\QUAKE\notesann.wpd