

I.D.

I. Friday, 24 January

1. A man wakes up terrified. He does not know what has happened to him. He opens his eyes and stares at a plain white ceiling. It is like waking from a nightmare, except that he is still scared. He grabs the bedclothes, holding on tight, afraid of falling. He feels as if he is dropping through space, out of control.

He tries to calm himself. He looks around with frightened eyes. He is in a hotel room. He sees a bag on the floor, a tweed jacket hanging up, a radio, an almost-full bottle of whiskey and a single used glass. It is a normal room—but he has never seen it before. He has no memory of checking in, having a drink, taking his clothes off or lying down to sleep.

Panic overwhelms him again as he realises *he cannot remember anything at all.*

*

He manages to calm down. He looks in the mirror. He sees a man in his thirties, tall and fair, boyishly handsome, apparently fit and healthy although visibly shaken.

In the tweed jacket is a tailor's label with his name: Dr Claude Lucas.

He thinks: *Claude?* It doesn't seem right.

The hotel stationery tells him he is in Washington, DC.

On the desk is a small stack of offprints of scientific papers, all about geophysics. He finds he can understand them effortlessly. He must be a scientist, then. Yes—one of the papers is by Claude Lucas. It is about using computers to model the behaviour of missiles in flight. It is highly technical, but he has no trouble understanding it, even though he has no memory of writing it.

A typed itinerary tells him he is attending a two-day scientific conference as part of International Geophysical Year. After the conference he is scheduled to take a plane from Andrews air force base.

He opens the door and picks up the Washington Post to check the date. The year is

1958.

with another character
Hotel staff? Or someone has come to take
him to his plane?
Newspaper article about space race? ✓ something
to set up ending either in perch or his personal

2. The plane takes him to Huntsville, Alabama, where he arrives late in the afternoon, feeling anxious and somewhat scared by what has happened to him. A chauffeur in army uniform is waiting for him. "To the base, Dr Lucas, or home?" He decides he had better find out where he lives—and who with—before he tries to deal with his job.

He arrives at a pleasant house in a large garden. He is obviously fairly prosperous. A maid opens the door. In the living room, a beautiful woman pecks his cheek and offers him a drink. She calls him Luke. She seems cool and detached, not very affectionate. She might be his sister.

He takes a deep breath and says: "The strangest thing has happened. I've lost my memory. I don't know who you are."

When she gets over the shock, she tells him she is his wife, Elspeth. They have been married eight years, but they have no children. She works as a secretary at the base. *need a better name*
too low level for the wife of so important a guy.

At first she is cold and unsympathetic, and he feels he must have a bad marriage. But his vulnerability and distress seem to soften her.

He takes a shower and she changes her clothes. They make love. After initial awkwardness, they become passionate. When it is all over, she cries. She says: "It was like it used to be."

He says: "Used to be? What happened? Did something go wrong? Why can't things be like they used to be?"

She will not answer. She becomes cool again and gets dressed. Luke is baffled by her changing moods.

Over dinner, he asks her to tell him about their courtship.

3. From Elspeth's point of view, we flash back to New York in 1941.

Elspeth is the pretty, clever daughter of a conservative union boss. She is studying history at Barnard, the sister college of Columbia University. She is dating "Luke" Lucas, a math major at Columbia. He is the son of a successful lawyer and a French comtesse. Luke has an open, candid face and an appealing grin. He is keen on sports and loves to read books and magazines about rockets and outer space. Despite these youthful traits, he has an inner

and who else? Wouldn't colleagues attend a conference of this sort? Introduce a kindred spirit? 3

By now, the pl. should have at least started to kick in. Wouldn't he be in a hurry to see a doctor?

4

stillness, a calm centre that makes him seem more grown-up than most of his contemporaries. Elspeth is crazy about him.

They do not have sexual intercourse. This is 1941. Elspeth believes what her mother told her, that boys do not marry girls they have already slept with. However, she permits ever-greater liberties when they neck.

They are part of a young elite, the bright children of affluent parents, dressed in expensive casual clothes, comfortable in the upper reaches of New York society, knowing they are future senators, senior partners, surgeons, generals and bank presidents.

daughter of a union chief would not fit in this world. New d. they attend Columbia.

We meet them on a weekend in December. They are headed for the Long Island family mansion of fellow student Anthony Corell. They are invited for the weekend to celebrate Anthony's 21st birthday.

(young elite)
?

Anthony is the downtrodden son of a bullying father. Admiral Corell comes from a modest background, but he married an heiress, and the family lives in high style. There are a dozen or so house guests and one hundred people are invited to the party on Saturday night.

Anthony is in nervous rebellion against his father, espousing everything the Admiral hates, from jazz to communism, but avoiding open confrontation.

He is dating Tara Wiley, a brilliant medical student from a dirt-poor background. Her father, a New York beat cop, died young, and her mother, a Puerto Rican nurse, raised five children in poverty. But Tara, fiercely ambitious, has won every available scholarship and is destined for great things.

Tara is small, vivacious and sexy, with light tan skin and dark hair and eyes, unmistakably Hispanic.

Sharing a bedroom with Elspeth, Tara confides that she does not allow Anthony even to touch her breasts. It is not that she is cold—rather the reverse: she is frightened of losing control of her urges. Anthony does not seem to mind her restrictions. She thinks he sees her mainly as a symbol of his rebellion against his father.

Elspeth is pleased to hear this. She has noticed that Luke, like most of the boys, is attracted to Tara, and she feels Tara is the kind who would take another girl's boyfriend. But Luke is a very physical person, who finds it difficult to hold himself back, and he would never put up with Tara's prudishness.

Also in the group are Luke's best friend Bernie Simons, Jewish communist intellectual, witty and wisecracking and a good saxophone player. Bernie's girlfriend is called Peg.

The Admiral is coldly polite to Tara. He does not want his son to marry a girl who went barefoot to school and looks Mexican. He hints that she is after money. But his hostility seems to please Anthony.

On Saturday night the house is full of people, lit up like a Christmas tree, with a large orchestra in the ballroom playing dance music from the Admiral's youth, rather than the jazz the youngsters would prefer.

Bernie and Peg get into blazing row with the Admiral about ^{civil rights} negro emancipation. Anthony is mortified: there is only one dark-skinned person at the ball, and it is Tara. Anthony tries to intervene in the argument, whereupon the Admiral humiliates him mercilessly, ruining the party.

quite normal for this period

*

On Sunday, Elspeth's anxiety about Tara is renewed when she happens upon Tara and Luke alone together, and they look guilty. She decides to confront Luke about this.

Then they all hear the news that the Japanese have bombed the US fleet at Pearl Harbour in Hawaii.

Luke breaks off his relationship with Elspeth and announces that he is going to drop out of college and join the military. Elspeth is heartbroken.

Anthony does the same.

What is our stake in these relationships? With whom are we meant to empathize?

4. Back in 1958, Luke says to Elspeth: "How did you talk me out of it?"

"I didn't," she replies. "We broke up. I didn't see you again until the war was over."

This conversation is overheard, via concealed microphones, by Tara Wiley and Anthony Corell.

technology?

Tara, now 37, is a neuropsychologist specialising in memory. She works at a Washington hospital. She is in love with Luke and has been since 1941. She is now desperately worried about him. He has discovered information which could be very dangerous to him. Only his amnesia can save him.

After 17 years?

Needs setting up? Technically possible in this period, but the techs would need to be close by.

Tara? After 17 years?

Tara's thrust.

Anthony asks her what she and Luke were doing
Elspeth came upon them.

We flash back to the same weekend from Tara's p
irresistibly drawn to one another, even though both were
agonies of conscience. When they found themselves alone,
passionate embrace. Both became inflamed very quickly. T
return when they heard Elspeth approaching. They manag
quite fool her.

Anthony's infernal
thrust.

Tara tells Anthony some of this. Anthony is not in
always, he is using her. But this makes him tense, for she
she was.

They talk anxiously about Luke's mental state. T
total, and relieved he is taking the shock relatively calmly.

Tara says: "He was the best undercover agent ~~were~~

Anthony says: "You told me his amnesia would sol

"I did not," she replies. "I told you he would for
he would be unable to find it out all over again."

"You know what will happen if he does?"

"Yes," Tara says. "You'll kill him."

Both need their own thrusts, what they want for themselves, for Luke, and for their relationship! By now, we definitely must know the overriding issue.

II. Saturday, 25 January

5. First thing in the morning, Luke goes to see the base doctor, determined to find out what is wrong with him.

The doctor is way out of his depth, and suggests feebly that Luke may be suffering from stress. Take things easy for a while, he suggests; your memory will probably come back of its own accord.

The hell with that, says Luke. He is not willing to allow something so devastating to go unexplained. He insists on seeing a specialist. The doctor promises to arrange it.

Luke now catches up on his professional life. He is a civilian scientist with the Army Ballistic Missile Agency at Redstone Arsenal here in Huntsville. The ABMA is commanded

How serious? If they send someone to meet him, he must have status equivalent to a colonel or general and must have a staff working under him.

Good if we could give him a small role in the story.

7

by General John Medaris but its scientific director is the legendary German rocket scientist Wernher von Braun, who is Luke's boss. *would L. be #2?*

The ABMA has developed the "Redstone" missile as a delivery vehicle for nuclear warheads. It has many successful launches to its credit. With a small power boost it could put a satellite into earth orbit. *What goal was what at the time? Who was it?*

However, for the US satellite program, the Secretary of Defense has chosen the relatively untried Vanguard missile being developed by the Naval Research Laboratory. This decision was dismayed and baffling to von Braun, Luke, and everyone at Redstone.

In the summer of 1957, when it became clear Vanguard was in difficulties, Luke wrote a report that von Braun submitted to the Defense Secretary, saying that Redstone could put a satellite into orbit in sixty days. The 60-day report, as it became known, was ignored.

Soon afterwards, on Friday 4 October, the USSR launched Sputnik, profoundly shocking the Free World, whose people had been taught to believe they must be technologically superior to the communists.

The head of security at the base, Colonel Hyde, suspects that Luke's 60-day report was leaked to the Soviets, causing them to accelerate their Sputnik program.

On Sunday 3 November the Russians launched Sputnik 2 with a dog on board. They seemed to be on the verge of conquering space for communism. Finally, on Friday 6 December, the highly-publicised launch of the US satellite ended in disaster after two seconds, when the Vanguard missile exploded on the launch pad at Cape Canaveral. American humiliation was complete. *What about his particular role in all this?*

All Luke's science comes flooding back to memory as he reads his reports, his research journal and his lab notes. He also re-experiences the anger and frustration of being beaten by the Soviets because of apparently stupid political decisions. He realises that sending rockets into space has been his burning ambition since boyhood. *But what, if anything, does not come back, from his P.D.V.?*

After Sputnik 2, General Medaris put into action Luke's 60-day plan without authorization. It became official following the Vanguard fiasco. Now the launch of the US satellite, using the Redstone missile, is scheduled for next Wednesday, 29 January.

So why wouldn't he already be at the launch site? Where are his colleagues and staff?

Feeling tremendously excited about this, Luke wonders why he chose to go on a non-essential trip to Washington at such a critical moment. But the reason is just another of the things he has forgotten.

6. His thoughts are interrupted by a visit from Colonel Hyde, a vulgar, arrogant man. Hyde has heard about Luke's amnesia from the doctor. Luke is angry that the doctor has breached medical confidence: he is embarrassed by his condition and would prefer it to be kept as secret as possible.

"Are you serious?" Hyde says scornfully. "Security *must* be informed of any mental problems among the scientists." Luke is dismayed to realise he is a mental case.

Hyde questions Luke aggressively about his trip to Washington. Why did he go, so close to the launch? Did he meet any foreign nationals? What about the Russian scientists at the conference? Did he go to any embassies?

Luke cannot answer any of these questions, of course. But he swiftly realises he is suspected of a breach of security, if not outright spying. He is appalled. He cannot even deny it—because he cannot remember anything.

Now Hyde reveals that he has spoken to several scientists who attended the conference and know Luke personally. None of them saw him in Washington. Furthermore, the reading of Luke's paper was cancelled.

It looks as if the conference was a cover story for some clandestine activity, Hyde says, and Luke has to agree.

Hyde now tells Luke that, a week ago, he was seen by a security guard entering the radio lab at night. He gave the guard a story that does not make much sense. Radio is not his field.

Finally, Hyde says he believes Luke gave the 60-day report to the Russians.

To his horror, Luke is escorted off the base by security and banned from continuing his work, pending further inquiries.

7. Tara Wiley is on her way to Huntsville. She will be the specialist that Luke has demanded to see.

From where?
Thought she was there already.
Include this in first doctor scene. But how does he remember to ask for her?

How many locations could they have
 bypassed?
 of what?
 How?
 9

She calls Anthony. He has listened to Luke's conversation with Colonel Hyde. Both Anthony and Tara are scared by Hyde's intervention, which can only complicate an already-tortuous situation.

Tara goes on to see Luke. She kissed him on the lips and tells him who she is.

Luke, desperate to understand his own life, asks her to tell him about their past together.

8. We flash back to 1943 from Tara's point of view.

When Anthony joined the military in 1941 he used his father's influence to get himself a glamorous assignment, the Office of Strategic Service. OSS was autocratically run by millionaire Wall Street lawyer General William "Wild Bill" Donovan. It was staffed by a quarrelsome mixture of Republican businessmen, communist academics and well-bred youngsters like Anthony. Its mission was to foster sabotage and unrest behind enemy lines. The organisation is famous (and resented) for its lavish budgets and its independence from the normal military hierarchy.

Anthony has used his influence to bring his friends into the organisation: Tara, Luke, Elspeth, Bernie and Peg.

Luke, who speaks French, was sent to Tangier, where he organised gun-running to the partisans and was involved in the assassination of the Vichy leader Admiral Darlan (on 24 December 1942).

Elspeth was sent to London and spent the war there.

Bernie was assigned to the OSS Labour Branch, liaising with socialist and union groups in the Resistance.

Tara was given a mysterious scientific job which she would not tell anyone about.

Anthony remained a headquarters bureaucrat. His radical views seemed to melt away, and he became a conservative. However, he still hates his father, the Admiral.

Tara joins OSS about the time Luke returns from Tangier, and they fall in love. They are sexual dynamite, but they do not sleep together, and Tara remains a virgin. Their relationship is stormy. They quarrel and make up, get passionate and stop, enchant and infuriate one another.

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Luke and Bernie are posted to Greece to work with the Resistance there. The weekend before they leave, Luke and Tara finally make love. They do it all weekend, crazy with desire and sadness, knowing they may never meet again.

But what is her underlying fear in telling him all this? The drama resides in what just at stake for her now.

They use no contraception, and soon after Luke has gone, Tara finds she is pregnant.

9. "Are you telling me I have a child?" Luke says, suddenly realising this is terribly important, for he has always wanted children.

"No," Tara replies. "I miscarried."

Pinpoint when this starts

He mistrusts her, on this and everything. Her diagnosis of his amnesia is vague and unsatisfactory. When he tells her about his scientific knowledge coming back to memory, he sees fear in her eyes, and he suspects that she does not want him to remember.

Despite all this, he is as drawn to her as ever. She is even more sexy and fascinating than she was seventeen years ago. He can hardly stop himself ^{Does he?} putting his arms around her—especially as he can tell she feels exactly the same.

10. Tara calls Anthony. *where is he?*

Anthony says: "Do you think you reassured him?"

"Hell, no," says Tara. "Remember who you're dealing with."

"Damn. He could ruin everything!"

We now learn that Huntsville is the centre of a crucial disinformation program being run by Anthony, who is a senior figure in the CIA, the peacetime successor to the OSS.

The problem, according to Anthony, is that the US is a long way behind the USSR in intercontinental ballistic missiles. If the Russians knew how far ahead they are, they would be tempted to a pre-emptive strike. But they do not know—thanks to Anthony's disinformation.

Luke has threatened this situation in a way we do not yet understand. Tara believes that Anthony would have killed Luke rather than let him ruin the project. But she offered an alternative way to silence Luke. And now she is desperate to make sure it works.

Need to know this at the outset?

But if Tara and A are P.O.V. characters, we must understand this.

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11. When Tara has gone, Luke asks Elspeth to tell him how he proposed to her, and we flash back to 1950 from Elspeth's point of view.

She meets up with Luke again when he has got his doctorate and has just been given a job with the missile program. She is determined not to lose him this time. She gets him all worked up, as she used to. They sleep together and he proposes.

After they are married, she finds she cannot have children. *Does he ask this because at his proposal with Tara? One stake?*

III. Sunday, 26 January

12. Desperate to understand what is happening to him, Luke checks his personal diary and sees that he had an appointment, in Washington at 8am on Wednesday last, 22 January, the first day of the scientific conference. He had breakfast with Anthony Corell.

He dials Anthony's number. The telephonist who answers says: "CIA headquarters." Luke leaves a message for Anthony, who is not at work on Sunday, and hangs up thoughtfully. So Anthony is still in the espionage business. Did Luke see him *professionally* last Wednesday? Is this to do with the leaking of the 60-day report to the Russians?

Anthony returns Luke's call promptly. Luke asks if Anthony remembers what they talked about last Wednesday. "You didn't show up!" says Anthony. *Does he now remember A?*

Luke concludes that something happened, after his arrival in Washington on Tuesday night, but before 8am on Wednesday, to prevent his seeing Anthony.

Then he asks Anthony whether Tara ever had a baby. *Are we meant to understand he knows only the stuff from the flashbacks and nothing else?*

13. We flash back to 1943 from Anthony's point of view.

Tara comes in great distress to talk to her old boyfriend. She is pregnant with Luke's baby. Luke is somewhere in the Greek mountains, out of communication, not expected back for a year, if ever. *Doctors were needed and were encouraged to remain in school*

She has broken off her medical studies for the war effort, but is guaranteed a research scholarship whenever she wants to resume. However, the scholarship would be withdrawn if she had an illegitimate child. (This is 1943.)

She contemplates concealing the child and trying to raise it while she continues her studies—and she has a dreadful vision of her own mother struggling to raise children in

Since he is the antagonist, we'll need his P.O.V. almost from the beginning.

12

grinding poverty. She rejects that vision. For as long as she can remember, she has been working towards becoming a great medical scientist, and she will not give up that ambition.

Anthony saves her. He goes to his father and says the baby is his. The Admiral is horrified at the prospect of having a coloured grandchild. He arranges and pays for an abortion.

Our stake? But isn't this her story not A's? Is he meant to have some hold over her because of this?

14. Anthony and Tara talk. Luke must be given some false explanation for his amnesia before he learns the truth—which is as follows.

Luke became convinced ^{why?} there was a spy at Redstone, though he could not figure out who. He mistrusted Colonel Hyde, ^{why?} so he decided to go to his old friend Anthony at the CIA.

Anthony already knew about the spy at Redstone. He explained to Luke that he was using the spy as the central plank in a disinformation gambit. (He had, however, been obliged to tell the Secretary of Defense that Redstone was insecure—which is why the Secretary chose the Vanguard missile rather than the Redstone.) *Even though Redstone is known to work? and threatened to do what?*

Luke refused to be satisfied with this. Anthony tells Tara that Luke insisted the satellite program was more important than the disinformation gambit. So Luke had to be silenced.

What about conflict between A and T? How different are their motives and goals?

Now Anthony and Tara action a cover story which they hope will mollify Luke.

15. Luke gets a phone call from a Washington doctor who tells the following story.

Luke fell ill, on the night of Tuesday 21 January, and called Dr Barnes, having got his number from the phone book. Luke had a fever all Wednesday and Thursday. The doctor cancelled the reading of Luke's paper but Luke asked him not to make any other calls. The doctor was surprised to learn, when he called the hotel on Friday, that Luke had checked out, having apparently made a complete recovery. Dr Barnes has finally tracked Luke down and just wants to make sure everything is all right.

Is it hell, says Luke. I've lost my memory.

"That can happen after a high fever," says the doctor. "Be patient, it will probably come back."

Luke mulls this over while getting ready to go to a lunchtime cocktail party ^{always in the evening} at the home of an officer. He calls Anthony in Washington and asks him to check out Dr Barnes.

Odd. Wouldn't he have called a friend or acquaintance for a recommendation?

L. must be suspicious. Doctors rarely follow up this way, especially with patients who are strangers.

But how could she have put the note there?

13

When he puts on his jacket, he finds a typed, unsigned note in his pocket: "I must see you—don't fail to go to Major Cooper's party!" He is dismayed by this further indication that he is involved in some kind of clandestine activity.

It is a typical fifties party, everyone smoking and drinking hard liquor, big-band jazz on the radiogram. Julia Hyde, the wife of the head of security, flirts outrageously with all the men while her husband sulks. ~~Any reason why Elspeth would not have been invited? Or is she meant to know about this affair?~~

Julia tells Luke he has been behaving oddly. He has become obsessed with the problem of radio communication with the missile. "You keep telling me they pick up interference from taxicabs in Rio de Janeiro," she says.

When Luke goes upstairs to the bathroom, Julia follows him, and pushes him into a bedroom. "Did you get my note?" She kisses him lasciviously and unbuttons his fly, saying: "Come on, we can do it here if we're quick!"

Obviously they are having an affair. But Luke's amnesia has given him a new perspective. He feels ashamed of cheating on Elspeth, especially with someone as cheap as Julia. He fobs her off.

Unfortunately, Elspeth sees them coming out of the bedroom together, and assumes the worst.

Back at home, Luke levels with her. He is sorry he had an affair with Julia but he will end it. He really wants to make his marriage work.

Elspeth's response is scornfully rejecting. "You tried before. It never lasts." She has a way of being nasty to him and making it seem like his fault.

This could be a good scene, but not clear how it advances the plot.

16. Luke sees Tara again before she returns to Washington. They walk to a place from where they can see the static test firing pad at the base. The conversation becomes sentimental and nostalgic. Luke is aching with desire. He says: "Why the hell didn't you and I get married?"

She bursts into tears. "You got so mad at me, you didn't speak to me for ten years!"

17. We flash back to 1945 from Tara's point of view.

What else, if anything, does she do in Huntsville?

The six friends meet up again on Long Island in the summer of that year. Tara is ecstatic that Luke is home safe. The Japanese surrender on 16 August, and there are parties all the following weekend.

The Admiral runs down Tara to Luke, trying to discourage him from associating with a "coloured" girl. Luke disagrees hotly. The Admiral then tells Luke about Tara's abortion.

The Admiral thinks the unborn baby was Anthony's, of course, but Luke knows it was his. He is wild with rage. He ends his relationship with Tara. She is heartbroken. To conceal her grief, she starts dating Bernie.

But how do we leave L and T now, in the present?

IV. Monday, 27 January

18. Anthony calls to say that Dr Barnes checks out fine, but Luke can't shake a feeling of suspicion. Why would Luke order the doctor not to call Elspeth? Why cancel the reading of the paper but not the appointment with Anthony? And what doctor would obey such instructions from a patient in a high fever?

He calls Washington information. Sure enough, there is a Dr Moswell Barnes. Luke calls the number and the doctor answers. (No receptionist?) Luke asks him a few inconsequential questions, then throws in: "By the way, I've been taking co-danthramer for headaches—is it okay to continue with them?"

Yes, the doctor says. Luke thanks him and hangs up. That was no doctor. Co-danthramer is a laxative. *Hard to imagine the CIA would have a phony doctor listed with the phone company.*

Yet Anthony said he checked out.

What the hell is going on?

based on what? does he say?

Colonel Hyde arrives to tell Luke he believes there will be an attempt to sabotage the launch on Wednesday. Consequently, Luke is banned from Cape Canaveral. *what would L's role have been there?*

This is a bitter disappointment—but more worrying is that the real spy is still at large and able to carry out the sabotage plan. *— sounds fully formed. Do we need to flash back to L's discovery?*

Who can Luke turn to?

He recalls Tara saying he was in Greece with Bernie Simons. Bernie now lives in Nashville, a hundred miles west of Huntsville. Luke calls him.

By now, is the amnesia all gone? Sounds like it must be, with his remembering B. and that he now lives in Nashville

But wouldn't it be more likely that L would have a colleague friend maybe a junior researcher, and L would first turn, so try to turn, to such a person.

But as L's wife, I think she would be considered contaminated.

15

At first, their conversation is warm. Bernie is making a living playing the saxophone on rock-and-roll records, the latest craze.

Luke says he must see Bernie, and gives an indication of the kind of problems he is facing. Bernie becomes cagey. Eventually he says he will call Luke back.

Elsbeth is about to leave for Florida for the launch. (She is von Braun's secretary.) She tells Luke that Bernie used to be a Soviet agent. Luke asks how the hell she would know a thing like that.

"You told me," Elspeth says.

19. We flash back to 1944 from Luke's point of view.

Luke and Bernie are in Greece. There are two rival resistance groups, the conservative EDES and the communist EAM-ELAS.

Luke and Bernie and a small EDES group daringly blow up a railway bridge and capture a German supply train. Bernie saves Luke's life. As they are unloading the railroad cars, a large force of EAM-ELAS appear and steal their booty.

Luke accuses Bernie of alerting the communists and being a Soviet secret agent. Bernie admits it, but swears he would never do anything to harm the Allied cause.

They make a deal. Bernie promises not to do anything behind Luke's back. Luke promises not to tell OSS that Bernie is a Soviet agent. Both keep their promises.

20. After overhearing Luke's call to Bernie, Anthony panics. Luke and Bernie cannot be allowed to team up—they will be too dangerous! He orders Bernie arrested.

We may need one or two introduced early on.
But when his agents arrive at Bernie's place in Nashville, Bernie has gone.

21. Luke knows that last weekend he spent a night at his hunting cabin in the Appalachian mountains, a hundred miles east of Huntsville. Desperate for clues about what has happened to him, he drives there.

He arrives shortly before midnight. The cabin has been broken into. Luke's undercover instincts return. He creeps around the back, checking the place out. Eventually he goes in. He checks every room. There is no one here.

He relaxes. Looking for food, he opens the freezer.

There is a dead man inside.

?

V. Tuesday, 28 January

22. At first Luke becomes convinced he is, after all, a traitor. Why else would he have killed this man?

Then he starts to look at the evidence. A card in the wallet gives the man's name as Bewler. Tire tracks and footprints indicate that Bewler followed Luke here. He broke into the

house, probably during the night. There are signs of a fight in one of the rooms. It seems he tried to kill Luke—perhaps to prevent Luke telling the CIA what he had found out?

Luke suffers a tense hour when the local sheriff arrives, early in the morning, and questions him about a missing man called Bewler, last seen headed this way.

Did A send Bewler, and then the sheriff?

23. Anthony is now hysterical. He decides to have Luke picked up. But Luke is not in Huntsville. He starts a nationwide manhunt for Luke and Bernie.

24. Luke hears someone creeping around outside. He jumps the guy. It is Bernie.

Bernie's undercover instincts are still operating. Assuming Luke's phone was tapped, he pretended reluctance to meet with him only to confuse the listeners.

How does B know to find L here? Needs setting up somehow.

25. We flash back to 1953 from Bernie's point of view.

Bernie and Tara are married. Bernie has long ago gotten out of the spying business. After the war he stopped working for the Soviets. They ordered him to stay in OSS and spy for them, but he was never willing to betray his country, so he simply told them his cover was blown.

He started writing radio scripts with some success, and now he is trying to make it as a Hollywood screenwriter.

Tara has told him what her mysterious wartime scientific job was. She was involved in a (real-life) OSS research program, doing experiments in mind control, using drugs and

other treatments to (a) break down prisoners' resistance to interrogation and (b) induce amnesia so that the prisoner would forget the interrogation.

After the war, OSS's research was continued (again in real life) by the CIA. Now, in 1953, the Agency finances much of Tara's research into memory.

Bernie disapproves, calling it brainwashing. Tara argues fiercely with him about it, although in her heart she harbours misgivings.

Bernie writes a thriller screenplay about an unnamed government agency that brainwashes unsuspecting citizens. The movie is a hit and makes Bernie's reputation in Hollywood.

Tara is furious. She leaves Bernie and files for divorce.

Bernie is targeted by Senator McCarthy and the House Un-American Activities Committee. He is blacklisted and his Hollywood career ends. He takes up the saxophone again.

26. Luke and Bernie return to Huntsville. That night, they break into the radio lab. They need to know what is here that is so special.

They find out.

Every missile is equipped with a self-destruct mechanism. If the missile should veer off course and head for a city, the range safety office at Cape Canaveral can activate the self-destruct mechanism with a radio signal.

But there is a danger of accidental activation by stray radio signals—from taxicabs in Rio de Janeiro, for example. So the mechanism responds only to a complex signal on three different frequencies—like a code....

Someone who knew the code could destroy the missile without even entering mission control.

Luke is now convinced that this is the plot he discovered and tried to report to Anthony.

And the launch is tomorrow.

VI. Wednesday, 29 January

Only now, after 85% of the narrative, do we learn what's at issue. My sense is this should be brought in no later than Chapt. 2.

18

27. Anthony and his men burst into the radio lab. There is a fight. Bernie is captured but Luke gets away. *Needs setting up.*

28. Luke calls Tara and asks her to meet him at the spot where they looked at the static test pad.

As Luke had anticipated, she tells Anthony, who sets a trap.

Luke, observing the trap from distance with binoculars, calls a pay phone and gives Tara a new rendezvous. This time she comes alone.

She tells him the truth as she knows it. When Luke told Anthony there was a spy at Redstone, and refused to co-operate in the disinformation gambit, Anthony was ready to kill Luke. But Tara knew about their meeting. She persuaded Anthony to let her try an experimental technique and wipe Luke's memory. She did it over two days at her hospital in Washington, using a combination of drugs and electric shock treatment. She thought she was saving Luke's life.

By now wouldn't at least suspect someone?
He tells her that he believes the Redstone spy is going to sabotage the launch. He asks her if someone in the CIA could be a traitor. Then she has a flash of memory. *And how does he feel about it in light of all this?*

29. We flash back to 1941 and the weekend of Anthony's party.

After the Admiral's cruel humiliation of his son, Anthony and Tara sit up all night, smoking and talking. Anthony vows revenge on his father and talks about ways to achieve it. The way to break the Admiral's heart, he decides, is to become a traitor and betray America.

But the first thing a spy should do is appear patriotic and conservative. And the second is to get a job in intelligence.

Tara does not take this seriously, and in the years that follow she forgets it, even while Anthony is methodically carrying out his plan. But now she realises that the Huntsville disinformation campaign was a lie he told her. He has been a Soviet agent all along, and he is protecting his spy among the rocket men. That spy gave the 60-day report to the USSR, sent Bewler to kill Luke, and is now at Cape Canaveral ready to sabotage the launch.

Need more on-stage stuff to push her to these conclusions. Too late in the novel for yet another flashback.

19

30. Luke calls the Cape and persuades Major Hyde to change the self-destruct code at the last minute. Disaster is averted.

But there is a (real-life) freak jetstream in the stratosphere, which might throw the missile off course, so the launch is postponed until tomorrow—giving the saboteur another chance.

VII. Thursday, 30 January

31. Luke and Tara dash to Cape Canaveral overnight.

Anthony is there.

Luke sets a trap for Anthony. Making sure Anthony knows where the new code is kept, Luke and Hyde put the room under surveillance.

Anthony steals the code and is arrested by the FBI.

32. Luke and Tara make love.

33. When the Admiral hears that his son has been arrested as a Soviet spy, he kills himself.

Luke brings this news to Anthony in his jail cell. Anthony smiles and says: "Then it was all worthwhile."

The stratospheric jetstream continues, and the launch is postponed again, extending the danger period one more day.

*I thought she went with
Von Braun.*

VIII. Friday, 31 January

34. Among the few people who know the code is Colonel Hyde.

? Elsbeth now enters Hyde's office, looking for the code. She is the Redstone spy.

He surprises her. She acts sexy and seduces him, giving him a blow job. While he is still dazed and happy, unable to believe his luck, she copies the code without his noticing.

She has radiotransmitting gear in the trunk of her car. She leaves the base, ready to blow up the missile as soon as it leaves the ground, scoring another huge propaganda victory for the Soviet Union.

*Doesn't need to be
close to the launch?*

35. Luke sees her acting suspiciously, but does not think anything of it.

Then he gets a call. The FBI, checking Anthony out, find he is married.

To Elspeth.

They married in 1943, around the time Anthony arranged for Elspeth to work for OSS in London. Anthony must have recruited her as a Soviet agent. And her marriage to Luke is bigamous.

Luke goes after her in his car. He catches her and stops her. She is listening to the countdown on her car radio.

She tells Luke she became a communist in the thirties, when she saw how her father's union failed to help workers in the Depression. She was ordered to marry Luke when he became a rocket scientist. She was also ordered to have a hysterectomy, so that her loyalties would never be confused by children. This, she says, is the only thing she is ashamed of, because she knew how badly Luke wanted children. She cries. Their marriage has always been a lie—but she has always loved Luke.

He agrees to let her go. She will catch a plane and go to Moscow.

The countdown reaches zero. Elspeth makes a grab for the radio transmitter. Luke stops her. They both look up and see the flare as the rocket takes off into space, and the radio announcer confirms a successful launch.

Elspeth drives away.