

## The Follett Office

Barbara & Ken Follett

PO Box 708, London SW10 0DH, England

Phone: +44 (0)171 352 7759

Fax: +44 (0)171 352 5168

Office Manager: Terri McLachlan

Information Technology: Victor Galang

Diary & Media: Lynn Mitchell



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*To: Writers House*

**PLEASE GIVE THIS FAX TO AI**

Here are my current notes on the new story. Based on our conversation, I've created a completely new first part which can be full of action. I'm sure this is the right direction to go in, but there is a problem. I don't yet see how to bring into this scenario the richness of character interaction that came from those flashbacks. No doubt we'll think of something. I look forward to Sunday. Warmest regards, as ever—

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## I.D.

### Part I: Washington, DC—Wednesday, 29th January, 1958

1. A man wakes up terrified. He does not know what has happened to scare him, but he has been through some dreadful experience. It is like waking from a nightmare, except that the fear does not go away. He is cold, he has some kind of hangover, and he aches all over.

He opens his eyes. He is lying on the floor of a public restroom. He thinks: What the hell am I doing here?

He sits upright. He is fully dressed in dirty clothes. He looks around in bewilderment. He cannot remember how he got here.

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

He opens his mouth and yells: "Who am I?"

Another man lying nearby rolls over and says: "You're a bum, Claude, pipe down."

"I've lost my memory!"

"Yeah, yeah. The way you drank that whiskey, you're lucky you didn't lose your whole damn mind."

They stagger out of the restroom. It is morning. They are in the main railroad station in Washington, DC. They go in search of breakfast. Claude's friend leads him to a Salvation Army hostel where they get coffee and muffins.

Claude begins to feel better physically, but he is bewildered. What happened to him? How long has he been a drunken bum—a year, five years, three weeks? Has he ever tried to dry out? Does he have family who might help him? What was he before?

He picks up a newspaper. Today the US is due to launch its first satellite into outer space. Claude's interest is piqued and he reads on.

Four months ago (on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October, 1957) the Soviet Union launched Sputnik, profoundly shocking the entire free world, whose people had been taught to

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believe they must be technologically superior to the communists. A month later (on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> November) they launched Sputriik 2 with a dog aboard. The first American launch, using a Vanguard rocket developed by the Naval Research Laboratory, ended in disaster (on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December) when the missile exploded on the launch pad. American humiliation was complete.

Today's launch, the newspaper says, is America's last chance. The rocket has been developed by the Army Ballistic Missile Agency, under the legendary German rocket scientists Wernher von Braun. The US does not have a third rocket. If today's launch fails, the USSR will dominate space for the foreseeable future.

*That's right*, Claude thinks. All this seems very familiar to him. Maybe he was a rocket nut before he became a bum.

Still mulling over his situation, he starts to fill out the crossword. Five minutes later, he has finished it except for one clue: Small place in Denmark, 6 letters. A Salvation Army helper sees the filled-out grid, does a double-take, and says: "Oh, what a noble mind is here o'erthrown!" Claude immediately gets the last clue, Hamlet, then thinks: *How did I know that?*

*But isn't this his watcher?  
Library of Congress?*

He parts with his companion and enters a public library where he browses books about the psychology of memory. He finds there is a technical term for what has happened to him: global amnesia. The patient, he reads, forgets all information, including his own name, but retains skills such as languages, professional competence, ability to play chess, and so on. The condition may be caused by shock or drugs. Memory generally returns, sooner or later.

Next, Claude picks up a book about rockets. It is a technical volume, but he understands it effortlessly, whereas he found the psychology volumes challenging. Did he used to be some kind of engineer? He finds biology totally unfamiliar, chemistry better, physics easy. By this process he becomes convinced that he used to be a geophysicist with an interest in missile flight.

He looks in the *Dictionary of American Scientists* for a geophysicist named Claude, but there is none.

*Watcher should want him to do or not  
do something which he resists - opposes?*

Disappointed, he leaves the library, wondering what the hell to do next.

*Does a second watcher believe him?*

2. His companion, who is in fact a CIA agent, returns to headquarters and reports to his boss, Anthony Corell, 38. Anthony is with Tara Wiley, 37, small, dark and sexy, a neuropsychologist specialising in memory.

Anthony, Tara and "Claude"—whose real name is Luke—were together during the war in the Office of Strategic Service, precursor of the CIA. At that time Tara was working on a (real-life) OSS experiment, giving drugs and other treatments to PoWs in an attempt to (a) lower their resistance to interrogation and (b) make them forget the interrogation. The experiments have been continued (again in real life) by the CIA. The research Tara does at a mental hospital in DC is financed by the CIA as part of this project, codenamed ARTICHOKE.

Yesterday, Anthony called Tara in a panic. The CIA was about to kill Luke, he told her, and only she could save him.

His story was this. Luke, who works at the Army Ballistic Missile Agency in Huntsville, Alabama, had stumbled upon a Soviet agent and had come to Washington to give the information to the CIA. But the agent he had uncovered was a double, passing false information to the Soviets.

Luke refused to accept this, saying that the satellite launch was more important than the double agent. He raved and threatened, and in the end they subdued him and drugged him. But they will kill him unless an alternative solution can be found.

"I don't believe they would kill him," Tara said.

Anthony explained that the Soviet Union is so far ahead of the US in missiles that it would make sense for them to try a pre-emptive strike—but they do not know how far ahead they are, thanks to the disinformation coming out of Huntsville. Anthony is endangering not only a CIA gambit, but the security of the nation.

"And Luke refused to accept that?" said Tara.

"You know how important this satellite is."

"I still don't believe they would kill him."

1. Anthony ordered to kill L. Agree only if threatened. remove him as a threat. A himself is threatened.
2. Flashback L does something wonderful for A maybe even saves his life, saves Tara too?
3. Above scene with T. But we need a personal issue between T and A. It can't be only about L — an off-stage character. Change for an A-T flashback here to do it cause T to agree to do it

They do not want to. Anthony's desperate proposal is that Tara should use the experimental techniques she is developing to wipe Luke's memory, so that he will no longer have the knowledge that is endangering his life.

Reluctantly, Tara agreed.

Now they talk anxiously about Luke, worried about the trauma their friend is going through, anxious that his amnesia will hold.

Then Anthony gets a phone message to say his suit is ready to try on. It doesn't sound urgent to Tara, but he ends their meeting.

3. Walking the streets of Washington Luke realises he is being followed. Automatically, he runs a couple of checks (all the while wondering how come he knows how to do this stuff). Sure enough, he has a shadow.

*going where? Looking for what?*

He mulls this over. Every hour that goes by makes him more convinced he is not a bum. Something more complicated and sinister is going on.

He sets a trap for his shadow then jumps the guy and tries to question him. "Who are you?" he yells. The guy will not speak. They fight, and the guy escapes.

4. Anthony's message about a new suit was a coded summons to a meeting.

Anthony is a double agent, working for the Soviets. His story about disinformation was a hastily-thought-up lie. The truth is that he is protecting the Huntsville spy that Luke uncovered. The spy's job is to make sure that today's launch is a fiasco. The spy is ready to do this—provided Luke does not interfere.

Anthony now meets his control, a KGB man at the Soviet embassy whom he calls Bernard. Bernard is furious that Anthony is still alive. Anthony argues that this way is better. Everyone will believe that Luke's blackout was the result of a drunken binge—much easier to explain than a murdered rocket scientist.

Bernard does not entirely buy this. He knows that Anthony's friendship with Luke dates from before Anthony was recruited as a spy. He suspects, rightly, that Anthony is motivated by love of a friend. All the same, Bernard decides to go along with Anthony

*Maybe this meeting is instigated by B.  
L's beating up shadow who works for B.  
Both A and B are panicked.*

for now. "But if there is the least sign of his recovering his memory...."

"I'll kill him."

"Even though he is your oldest friend?"

"Today is the culmination of fifteen years' work for me. I'm not going to let sentiment spoil it. Believe me, if it's necessary, I'll kill him."

5. Luke wonders whether his family or friends might have reported him missing. The police should have descriptions of people who disappear. Maybe he can get a look at the list. He approaches a cop.

He has made an unlucky choice. The cop is a bully and a sadist. He tells Luke to fuck off. Luke says: "I asked you a polite question, mister." The cop pushes him into an alley and starts to beat him up.

Something clicks inside Luke, and he fights back. In seconds he has the cop on the ground, helpless. He takes his gun and shield. Then he deliberately breaks the forefinger of the cop's right hand, saying: "That will stop you beating up bums for a while."

But this incident makes him realise he will not get far looking the way he does.

He has to get a shave, a shower, and fresh clothes.

Maybe he goes into a police station. Gets locked up. He knows how to do this. *Two fight scenes in a row? And a car. Free a whole cell full of miscreants.*

6. Anthony returns from his assignation and learns, to his horror, of the fight between Luke and his shadow which resulted in the shadow losing Luke.

He panics. Unfortunately, he cannot mobilise the vast resources of the CIA to find Luke without alerting his bosses to what he is doing. So he has to manage with his own small team, who believe a cover story he has given them.

They begin to search the city. *start all this after earlier scene with B.*

7. Luke returns to the train station. In the car park, he waits until he sees a man of

*more likely a motel parking lot or a hotel garage*

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his own size and build get out of a car with a large suitcase. He jumps the guy, steals the case, and locks the guy in the trunk of the car. *if left, he could die?*

He steals another car and drives to a quiet residential street. He knocks on doors until he finds an empty house, then breaks in.

All the while he is thinking: *How come I'm so good at this?* *maybe glimmer of*  
He is also puzzled to find that while he is doing these things *he thinks in French.* *welt: me memory*

In someone else's house he takes a shower, shaves, and dresses in clothes from the stolen suitcase. *and from the house* *Will pay back all.*

He looks in the mirror. He sees a tall, fair man in his thirties, good-looking in a boyish way, apparently fit and healthy, though shaken and pale.

He goes to a diner, eats lunch, and thinks. *with what money? wallet of*  
*guy in car?*

If he was a geophysicist, there must be other geophysicists who know him by sight. If he meets some of them he may find out who he is.

He picks up the phone book.

8. Anthony checks Luke's hotel room, just in case he has found his way back there, but it is empty, the bed neatly made, Luke's stuff in a case. Luke's wallet, check book, and diary are here. Anthony takes them all.

He finds only one clue to Luke's whereabouts. He hears from the police of a cop

*Better if A is with someone. Maybe the wallet that L overpowered?*  
*What's the time pressure? This should be in play by now?*  
*Maybe A also finds something of Luke's which panics him all the more.*

9. Luke arrives at the one college in town that has a department of geophysics. He asks to see the professor, but he is refused as he does not have an appointment. After further difficulties he learns that the professor is giving a lecture across town. He goes there. The lecture has finished, and most people have gone. But one of the remaining people says: "Luke, what the hell are you doing here?"

He is so relieved, he wants to weep.

He learns that he is Dr Lucas Adderley, a civilian scientist employed by the Army

Set this up in  
first A scene  
7

Ballistic Missile Agency, which is responsible for today's launch.

But what if it has checked him out and taken everything?  
He calls the major hotels and finds that he is checked into one. He goes there and finds his suitcase.

He calls Huntsville and talks to his secretary. She tells him everyone is at Cape Canaveral for the launch.

? Mark, maternal. loyal.

He calls Cape Canaveral and finds that everyone there is terribly worried about him since he took off unexpectedly two days ago. He wonders what made him leave so precipitately. After all, this launch is the climax of his professional life. The only explanation would be some danger to the launch itself. *How does he know this? Does the secretary convey it in some way?*

Someone says: "You better talk to your wife." He learns that his wife also works for the army, as a secretary to von Braun.

He wonders what she is like.

He tells her what happened. She seems distant and cold, but perhaps that is because of the weird situation.

Luke speaks to the doorman at the hotel who remembers that yesterday morning Luke asked for a cab to CIA headquarters.

He is beginning to see a picture. He learned of some danger to the launch and dashed to Washington to tell the CIA. But what went wrong?

He calls his secretary in Huntsville and asks whether she knows who at the CIA he might have seen. "The appointment isn't in your diary," she says. "But I would guess you saw Anthony Corell, as he's such an old friend."

She gives Luke Anthony's home phone number and address.

Make secretary a mother hen who adores him. In the scene above, and after the first episode with the tail, he should constantly be looking over his shoulder, sensing he's in danger.

10. Anthony goes home to shower and change before returning to the office. He certainly will not sleep until Luke is found.

However, when he gets home, he finds Luke in his apartment, waiting for him.

At first he assumes Luke knows everything and is here to kill him.

But the first question Luke asks is: "What did I come and see you about yesterday?"

P.O.V. ? - A ?



Anthony breathes a secret sigh of relief. Luke has not recovered his memory.

Anthony says: "You didn't show up for our meeting—I've been worried!"

3 Luke seems to buy this. They talk some more, then he leaves to return to his hotel. *Call from B?*

Anthony turns on the radio. It is time for the launch. But there is a problem. A jetstream in the stratosphere could blow the missile off course. The launch is postponed until tomorrow.

Anthony curses. Another 24 hours for things to go wrong!

11. Luke now speculates that his memory was taken away deliberately, by some special treatment. Either this was done in a safe house somewhere in the city, or, more likely, in a psychiatric hospital. *Recall if he does something which brings this knowledge.*

He gets a list of such hospitals from the phone book (there were not so many in 1958) and starts to call on them. Using the police shield he stole from the cop, he poses as a detective and asks about a man brought in some time yesterday. He gives the name Lucas Adderley, but says the man may have been using another name. On the second or third try he strikes lucky. A night supervisor takes him to the records office and he finds the record of his own treatment. While he is reading it, Tara Wiley bursts in on him.

12. Tara-Luke interaction.

*Maybe A has a photo of three of them. He, A and T. Flashback to T and her wartime work and then he puts it together. Goes right to hospital where he knows she works, or maybe Walter Reed or NIH.*

**Part II: Long Island, New York—Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> December, 1941**

1. Anthony's birthday. Pearl Harbour.

**Part III: Huntsville, Alabama—Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> January, 1958**

1. Luke returns to Huntsville and searches for evidence.
2. Anthony tracks him down there.
3. Luke's mistress Julia shows up.
4. Tara tries to warn Luke that Anthony is going to kill him.
5. Anthony tries to kill Luke. Luke survives.
6. Julia has the evidence that Luke is searching for.

**Part IV: Long Island, New York—Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> August, 1945**

1. The whole gang together again when the Japanese surrender ——— ?

**Part V: Cape Canaveral, Florida—Friday, 31<sup>st</sup> January, 1958**

1. Luke persuades von Braun to change the self-destruct code on the missile.
2. Anthony has to learn the new code. He walks into Luke's trap and is arrested.
3. Luke & Tara make love.
4. Elspeth gives Col. Hyde a blow job and steals the new code. ——— ? Anthony  
now with the missile.
5. Luke's suspicions fall on Elspeth.
6. At the last minute, Luke stops Elspeth blowing up the missile.