

- L.
1. Get back his memory - Pretend not to have it
  2. Uncover the spy
  3. Stop the spy.
  4. Win back Tania - need an obstacle to this
- A.
1. Save L. from murder *she's married to A.*
  2. Discover L. again - threat
  3. Either try to kill or have L. killed - or -  
try to kill his confidant to protect L.
- I.D.

## I. SUNDAY

1. A man wakes up terrified. He does not know what has happened to him. He opens his eyes and stares up at a plain white ceiling. It is like waking from a nightmare, except that the fear does not recede. He grabs the bedclothes, holding on, afraid of falling. He feels 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, and 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 suit off or lying down to sleep.

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

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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 though visibly shaken.

He begins to investigate who he is. In the jacket is a tailor's label with the 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 articles, all about geophysics. He begins to read one. After a few lines he stops. He understands the material effortlessly--therefore he must be a scientist. As he reads on, scientific knowledge comes flooding back to memory. One of the papers is by Dr Claude Lucas. As soon as he reads the first paragraph, he remembers the rest--although he cannot remember sitting down to write it.

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

He needs to know the date. He opens the door and picks up the *Washington Post*. It is Sunday 26 January 1958.

2. Now he knows his name and profession, but he has discovered nothing truly important.

*To prevent his reaccessing his memory, wouldn't wipers have removed all clues? Make it harder for L. to find out who he is, where he belongs, what he does etc.*

Does he have a wife, children, parents, siblings? He does not know where to begin. He has an address book full of names and phone numbers, but he has no idea who any of the people are. He could call people at random, of course, and ask what would seem to be dumb questions, but the thought makes him hesitate. He is reluctant to make a fool of himself unless there is no alternative. He decides to check out of the hotel, catch the plane, and see what happens next.

As he boards, one or two men speak to him briefly. He replies politely, wondering who they are. None seem to be really close friends.

On the flight, he reads a long newspaper article about International Geophysical Year, which began in July 1957 and runs through December 1958. The article tells a story of bureaucracy and mismanagement which is dreadfully familiar to Luke.

Both the US and the USSR announced plans to put an artificial satellite into orbit around the earth during the Year. The US Army already had a tried-and-tested missile, called the Redstone, developed as a vehicle for nuclear warheads, but needing only a small power boost to reach outer space. Unfortunately, the Secretary of Defense chose the untried Vanguard missile being developed by the Naval Research Laboratory. As Luke reads, he remembers feeling baffled and angered by the Defense Secretary's decision, and he realises he must be part of this world of missiles and satellites.

The article reprises the consequences of the Defense Secretary's decision. On Friday 4 October last year, the USSR launched Sputnik, profoundly shocking the Free World, whose people had come to believe they must be technologically superior to the communists.

A month later, on Sunday 3 November, the Soviets launched Sputnik 2, with a dog on board. They seem on the verge of conquering space.

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.

Lucas re-experiences the frustration and anger of being beaten by the Russians because of foolish political decisions. He realises that sending rockets into space has been his burning ambition since boyhood.

However, the Defense Secretary has at last authorised the army to launch a satellite using the already-successful Redstone rocket. The launch is scheduled for Wednesday 29 January--three days away. Luke feels sure he is centrally involved in this, and his excitement mounts as

*In the mood, we'll have 4. spread out this  
exposition. Can't have it all in one fell  
swoop.*

his plane lands at Huntsville, Alabama.

3. A chauffeur in army uniform is waiting for him. "To the base, Dr Lucas, or home?" Being addressed as "Doctor" tells Luke he is a civilian employee rather than an army officer. He tells the driver to take him home. Consumed by curiosity and apprehension, he is driven to a large, pleasant-looking house with two cars in the driveway. A maid opens the door. Clearly Luke is prosperous.

In the living room is a beautiful woman of about his own age. Is this his wife? He can hardly breathe. She pecks his cheek and offers him a drink. She calls him Luke. She is 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. They have no children. She works as a secretary at the base.

She is cold and unsympathetic, and Luke soon realises, to his dismay, that he has a troubled and unhappy marriage. But why?

However, his vulnerability and distress seem to soften Elspeth. 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 changed? Did something go wrong? Why can't things be as they used to be?" She will not answer.

She becomes cool again and puts on her clothes. Luke is baffled by her changing moods. He realises the feeling is terribly familiar.

4. Desperate to understand what is happening to him, he goes to see the base doctor, seeking him out at home as it is Sunday. The man is way out of his depth, and suggests feebly that Luke may be under stress. Take it easy for a while, he says, and your memory will probably come back.

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

Luke finds his way to his office at the base and catches up with his professional life. He works for the Army Ballistic Missile Agency at Redstone Arsenal here in Huntsville. The ABMA

is commanded (in real life) by General John Medaris, but its scientific director is the legendary German rocket scientist Wernher von Braun. Luke is von Braun's deputy. Elspeth is von Braun's secretary.

Luke now eagerly reads through his files and learns the inside story of the satellite race. In the summer of last year, when it became clear that the Navy's Vanguard missile was in trouble, Luke wrote a report showing how Huntsville could put a satellite up within 60 days, using hardware off the shelf. Von Braun submitted the report to the Defense Secretary, who took no action.

When the Sputnik went up a few weeks later, Luke and many other people suspected that his 60-day report had been leaked to the Soviets, causing them to accelerate the Sputnik program. The head of security at Redstone Arsenal, Col. Hyde, conducted an in-depth security review, but found nothing. As he reads this, Luke remembers feeling dissatisfied with Hyde's review.

Luke and Elspeth are scheduled to fly to Cape Canaveral tomorrow morning, to join the launch team. All the excitement of the satellite project comes back to Luke in a rush. But one thing puzzles him. Wednesday's launch will be the culmination of his career. So why did he decide to spend the last three days at a routine scientific conference in Washington?

When he is about to leave, he finds a sheet of paper with some numbers written in handwriting which is not his own. The numbers are: 10 04 49. It looks like a date, but means nothing to him. However, he feels it might be important.

5. Luke continues to be bewildered by Elspeth, but she will not discuss their marriage. However, Luke must know why he is in this unhappy relationship, and he persists in questioning her. Over dinner, he asks her to tell him about their courtship, and at last she opens up.

From her point of view we flash back to a weekend in December 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 physics major at Columbia. Luke is the son of a successful lawyer and a French countess. He 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.

Elspeth is crazy about him. Her aim in life is to fight off <sup>how?</sup> all the other girls and marry him.

They do not have sexual intercourse. Elspeth believes what her mother told her, that men

*If this is to work, we'll also need her P.O.V. in the present, which now doesn't come in until the end of the story.*

do not marry girls they have already slept with. However, Luke's physical needs are urgent, and she is terrified of losing him to an "easy" girl. Walking a tightrope between chastity and surrender, she permits ever-greater liberties while they neck.

They are part of a young elite, the bright children of affluent parents, dressed in expensive casual clothes, comfortable at swanky parties, knowing they are future senators, judges, generals and surgeons.

Elsbeth and Luke have been invited for the weekend to the Long Island family mansion of fellow student Anthony Corell, to celebrate his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday.

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 house guests, and a hundred people are coming to the party on Saturday night.

Anthony is in hesitant 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 in Spanish Harlem. Tara, fiercely ambitious, has won every available scholarship, and is destined for great things. She aims to be a great medical research scientist.

She is small, vivacious and sexy, with light tan skin, dark hair and dark eyes--unmistakably Hispanic. Luke and all the boys are captivated by her. This worries Elsbeth, who feels Tara is the hot-blooded type who might well steal another girl's boyfriend.

The two girls share a bedroom for the weekend. Tara confides that she does not allow Anthony even to touch her breasts. It is not that she is cold--quite the reverse: she is frightened of losing control. Anthony does not mind her restrictions, she says: he seems to see her mainly as a symbol of rebellion against his father, who disapproves of inter-racial relationships.

Elsbeth feels reassured. She is confident that Luke would not long sustain an interest in such a prudish girl.

Also in the group is Luke's best friend Bernie Simons, Jewish communist intellectual, witty and wisecracking, majoring in French at Columbia.

The Admiral is barely polite to Tara. He does not want his son to marry a girl who went barefoot to school. He hints rudely that she must be after the family fortune. But his hostility to Tara seems to please Anthony.

On Saturday night, the house is lit up like a Christmas tree. In the ballroom is a large orchestra (playing dance tunes from the Admiral's youth, rather than the jazz the young people would prefer.)

Bernie gets into a blazing row with the Admiral about negro emancipation. Anthony is mortified: there is only one dark-skinned guest, Tara. Anthony screws up his nerve and intervenes in the argument, openly contradicting his father for the first time in his life. The Admiral's reaction is to humiliate Anthony mercilessly, sending him fleeing from the room close to tears. The party is ruined.

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Next day, Elspeth's anxiety about Tara is renewed. Looking for Luke, she enters the stable and finds him there with Tara. Both look guilty.

She decides to confront Luke about her suspicions--but, before she gets an opportunity, they all hear the news that the Japanese have bombed the US fleet at Pearl Harbour in Hawaii.

Luke ends his relationship with Elspeth and announces that he will drop out of college immediately and join the military. Elspeth is heartbroken.

Anthony does the same as Luke.

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

"I didn't," she replies. "We split up. I didn't see you again until the end of the war. It broke my heart."

This conversation is overheard, via concealed microphones, by a CIA surveillance team located in a house on the next street.

With the team are Anthony Corell, now 38, and Tara Wiley, 37. They are no longer a couple: their romance, such as it was, ended on Pearl Harbour day. But their lives have continued to intertwine.

Anthony is a CIA analyst. Tara is a neuropsychologist. She works at a Washington hospital and is writing the textbook on the psychology of memory. Her work is partly funded by the CIA.

Anthony and Tara know that Luke has discovered information which is dangerous to him. (We do not yet learn what the information is.) Only his amnesia is protecting him. But he seems determined to overcome his loss of memory, and the listeners are worried that he may succeed.

*As the main antagonist, he should be introduced sooner, probably no later than the second chapter.*

Tara's attitude to Luke is benevolent: she just wants to help him. Anthony's feelings are more complex. Tara sees in him a mixture of envy, resentment, and a puppylike longing to be liked and accepted.

Anthony now asks Tara what she was doing in the stable with Anthony when Elspeth happened upon them. *Dipping into another flashback initiated the supposed danger to L.*

We flash back to the same weekend in 1941 from Tara's point of view. She and Luke were irresistibly drawn to one another, even though they suffered agonies of conscience. On Sunday morning they found themselves alone together, more or less by accident, and fell into a passionate embrace. Both became inflamed very quickly. They were almost at the point of no return when they heard Elspeth approaching. They managed a hasty cover-up which did not quite fool her.

When Luke announced he was joining the military, Tara knew it was because of her, and she was as heartbroken as Elspeth. *Guilt?*

\*

Tara and Anthony now hear Luke tell Elspeth he has demanded to see a specialist. This scares them. They do not want some stranger trying to cure Luke's amnesia. They decide Tara can be the specialist.

Anthony can fix this with the army. He tells an underling to phone Luke and say that Dr Wiley will meet him at his office tomorrow at 8am.

Tara says: "He's still in great danger. He was the best undercover agent we ever had." (We do not yet fully understand this remark.) — *Do we ever? What spectacular thing did L. do?*

Anthony says: "You told me his amnesia would solve the problem!"

"I did not," she retorts. "I said he would forget what he knew. I never promised you he would be unable to find it out all over again."

"You know what will happen if he does."

"Yes," she says. "He will be killed." *Suggest we reveal this much sooner.*

## II. MONDAY

7. Luke sleeps poorly and gets up early. Desperately eager to see the memory specialist, he gets to his office at 7am, an hour early for the appointment.

He is visited by Col. Hyde, head of security at the base. Hyde, a vulgar, arrogant man, has been told about Luke's amnesia by the base doctor. Luke is embarrassed by his weakness, and hoped to keep it quiet. Now he is angry that the doctor has breached medical confidence.

"Are you serious?" Hyde says scornfully. "Security must be informed of any mental problems among the scientists."

Luke is dismayed by the thought that he is now classified as someone with mental problems.

Hyde questions him aggressively about the Washington trip. Why did he choose to go, so close to the launch? Luke has no satisfactory answer.

Hyde reveals that he has called some of the scientists at the conference who know Luke personally. None of them actually saw him there. And the reading of Luke's paper was cancelled. Did he even go? Again, Luke has no answers.

Undeniably, the conference appears to have been a cover story for some clandestine activity. Luke cannot argue with Hyde's conclusion. Hyde now announces that Luke is banned from Cape Canaveral while the investigation continues. Luke is bitterly disappointed but cannot argue with Hyde's logic. All he can do is try to find out what happened to him.

As Hyde is leaving, the medical specialist arrives. It is a woman, and she is gorgeous.

8. It is Tara, pretending she was summoned urgently by the army and flew in late last night. As always, her heart misses a beat when she sees Luke. She knows she should have married him. She kisses him on the lips and tells him they are old friends.

She asks him a series of questions about his amnesia, then she tells him his condition is called global amnesia. This can be caused by a shock, or certain drugs. It is short-term. Parts of his memory will return within days, and at some point everything will come back. But he should not try to rush it.

Luke, desperate to understand his own life, asks about his past relationship with Tara.

We flash back to 1943 from her point of view.

Tara gives up her studies temporarily to join the war effort. She is assigned to the Office of Strategic Service, wartime precursor of the CIA.

OSS is autocratically run by millionaire Wall Street lawyer General William "Wild Bill" Donovan. It is staffed by a quarrelsome mixture of Republican businessmen, communist

*(If she wants to inhibit his memory, why would she tell him all this stuff?)*



academics and well-connected youngsters who have pulled strings to get what is considered a glamorous posting. Its mission is to foster sabotage and political unrest behind enemy lines. The organisation is famous for its lavish budgets and resented for its independence from the normal military hierarchy.

Tara finds out that Anthony has been with OSS from the start. He used his father's connections to get in, and he has since brought in his friends--Luke, Bernie, Elspeth and now Tara..

Luke and Bernie, who speak French, have been sent to Tangier, where they organise gun-running to the partisans and plan the (real-life) assassination of the Vichy leader Admiral Darlan (on 24 December 1942)..

Elspeth is sent to London.

Anthony remains a headquarters bureaucrat. His radical views have melted away, and he is now a conservative Republican, but he still hates his father.

At first, Tara works with Anthony at headquarters.

A few weeks after she arrives, Luke and Bernie come home from Tangier. Luke is thin as a rail, strained by undercover work, hardened by action, more grown-up than he should be at 24. He and Tara fall in love. They are sexual dynamite, but they do not sleep together, and Tara remains a virgin, just. Their relationship is stormy. They quarrel and make up, get passionate and stop, enchant and infuriate one another.

Luke and Bernie are posted to occupied France to help the Resistance. Before they leave, Luke and Tara finally make love. They do it all weekend, crazy with desire and grief, knowing they may never see one another again.

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

\*

"Are you telling me I have a child?" Luke says, making the discovery that this is terribly important to him.

"No," Tara says. "I miscarried."

Luke distrusts her, on this and everything else. Her diagnosis of his amnesia is disappointingly vague. When he tells her about the hopeful sign of his scientific knowledge coming back to memory, he sees fear in her eyes, and he suspects that for some reason she may not want him to remember.

Despite all this, he is as drawn to her as ever. She is even more sexy and fascinating now than she was as a bony girl of 20. He can hardly restrain himself from grabbing her and kissing her--especially as he intuits that is exactly what she wants him to do.

So how come he is not married to her?

\*

Tara reports back to Anthony. Luke did not quite buy her story. Anthony is worried. They cannot stop Luke investigating what happened to him. They both fear their scheme is becoming unravelled. ?

9. Elspeth shows up at the airport to be told that her reservation on a flight to Florida has been cancelled by her employer. She calls the base and finds out that she and Luke are banned from Cape Canaveral.

This distresses her. She goes to see Hyde. He explains why he has taken this measure. She argues that there is no security question over her. Hyde admits that von Braun is angry about losing his secretary at such a crucial moment.

Elspeth piles on the pressure. Her job is everything to her, she says. Her marriage is dead. Luke is her husband only in name. If Hyde will do her this favour, she is the type of girl who knows how to show her gratitude. She acts sexy. He is bowled over. He agrees to withdraw the ban on her. She gives him a long, sexy kiss, and goes back to the airport. *shouldn't we know what she's up to if we're in her P.O.V.?*

10. Luke is now desperate to clear himself of suspicion so that he can go to Cape Canaveral. Checking his personal diary, he sees that he had an appointment in Washington on Friday, the first day of the conference, that did not appear on his itinerary. He was to meet Anthony Corell at 8am.

He has a number for Anthony in his book. He calls. The telephonist who answers says: "CIA headquarters." Anthony is not at his desk, so Luke leaves a message.

He hangs up thoughtfully. So Anthony is still in the espionage business. Was their breakfast more than a meeting of old friends? Did Luke want to see Anthony professionally? Was this the real reason for the untimely trip to Washington? And what was so urgent that it could not wait until after the launch?

Anthony returns the call within minutes. Luke asks him what they talked about at

breakfast. "You didn't show up!" Anthony says.

Luke concludes that something happened, after his arrival in Washington on Thursday night, but before 8am on Friday, to prevent his seeing Anthony--and to make him lose his memory.

Was there someone who wanted to stop him talking to the CIA?

Now he asks Anthony another question that has been bothering him.

Has Tara ever had a baby?

\*

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

Tara comes in great distress to see her old boyfriend. Can Anthony get a message to Luke?

No, Anthony says. This is not strictly true.

Tara confesses she is pregnant with Luke's baby. She is distraught. She has been guaranteed a research scholarship when she resumes her studies--but the scholarship will be withdrawn if she has an illegitimate baby. This is 1943.

She contemplates concealing the child and trying to raise it while she continues her studies--and she sees a dreadful vision of her own mother struggling to raise children in grinding poverty. She rejects that vision. For as long as she can remember, she has been working towards her goal of being a great medical scientist, and she will not give up that ambition.

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

*No drama unless A has a big stake in this. Does he?*

11. Luke feels angry about this when he hears the story in 1958. He locates Tara and demands to see her again before she catches her plane back to Washington.

They walk around the base. He shows her the scrap of paper he found with the series of numbers in someone else's handwriting. "Looks like the combination for a safe," she says. "People often used a birthday, it helps them to remember."

He shows her the static firing test gantry. In its giant shadow, they kiss passionately. He asks her why they never married.

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

\*

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

The five friends meet up again on Long Island in the summer. The Japanese surrender on Thursday 16 August, and there are parties all the following weekend.

They have all changed. Luke has acquired an inner stillness, a calm centre more appropriate to an older man. Anthony has become mean, secretive and resentful. Bernie has lost his political idealism and has become a weary cynic. Elspeth has lost her schoolgirl happiness. Tara herself feels a hundred years older.

The Admiral runs down Tara to Luke, trying to discourage him from associating with a 'half-breed'. Luke defends her hotly. The Admiral then tells Luke about her abortion.

The Admiral believes the unborn baby was Anthony's, but Luke knows it was his. He is wild with rage. Though he cannot rationally justify his feelings, he breaks up with Tara.

She is heartbroken, but hides it, and starts dating Bernie.

\*

Hearing the story, Luke is angry all over again. Confused and upset, he storms off, leaving Tara.

Tara reports to Anthony, emphasizing that Luke seems determined to account for his two days in Washington. Anthony says he will invent a cover story to assuage Luke's curiosity. He calls a CIA doctor and they work out the following scenario:

Luke fell ill on the night of Thursday 23 January and called Dr Barnes, having got his name from the hotel concierge. Luke had a fever all day Friday and Saturday. Dr Barnes cancelled the reading of Luke's paper but, at Luke's insistence, did not call anyone else.

The doctor agrees to call Luke and tell him this. *More than half way through, and we still don't know what's at issue.*

12. We cut to Moscow, and the office of the head of the KGB.

Nikita Khrushchev, communist party secretary and proponent of "peaceful coexistence" with the West, is locked in a power struggle with the old guard, led by the military. The KGB sides with the old guard.

Sputnik is the army's triumph, helped by brilliant inside information from the KGB on the American satellite program. Partly because of this triumph, the army comes daily closer to deposing Khrushchev.

The KGB chief, a traditionalist, is meeting with the head of the American desk, a younger man. The chief disapproves of the younger man, with his Madison Avenue suit and narrow tie.

But the youngster reassures him. "We know everything that happens in Huntsville. We have an agent in deep cover there."

"But your agent has been compromised."

"No." The young man hesitates. "There was a problem, but it has been solved. If you would like a detailed report--"

"No need. So long as you can assure me that the launch will not succeed."

"Yes." He smiles confidently. "That I can promise you."

13. Luke gets a phone call from a Dr Barnes in Washington, asking if he is okay. "I've been better," Luke says. "Who the hell are you?"

The doctor tells the story agreed with Anthony. He finishes by saying he called on Sunday to be told that Luke had checked out, apparently fully recovered.

Recovered hell, Luke says, I've lost my memory.

That can happen after a fever, says Dr Barnes. Try not to worry too much, it will probably come back of its own accord.

Luke is suspicious. This story is a little odd. Why cancel the reading of the paper but not the breakfast with Anthony? Why would Luke order the doctor not to call Elspeth? And what doctor would obey such orders from a hysterical patient?

He calls Washington information and asks for the number of Dr Barnes. He finds that Barnes is a real doctor with a real phone number. He calls it, and Dr Barnes answers.

Luke says: "I've been taking co-dranthamer for headaches--it is okay to continue with them?" This is a trick question: co-dranthamer is a drug Elspeth takes for constipation.

The doctor does not fall for it. "You're confused," he says. "Co-dranthamer is not a headache pill. But whatever you're taking, you should consult your family physician if the headaches persist."

Still dissatisfied, Luke calls Anthony and asks him to check out Dr Barnes. Anthony promises to do so.

*What don't they want L to find out?  
How imminent is his possible death?  
Who on the American side, if anyone,  
is fearful about the launch?  
How might this surpass the Russians?*

### III. TUESDAY

NB: Somewhere here, Elspeth tells Luke the story of how they courted and married in

1950.

14. Luke sleeps fitfully and wakes at four a.m. He calls Elspeth in Florida and asks her what he was doing in the last couple of days before he went to Washington. She tells him he spent a night at their hunting cabin in the Appalachian mountains, 100 miles east of Huntsville.

Luke gets up and drives there.

He arrives at dawn. The place has obviously been broken into. Luke's undercover instincts return. He creeps around, checking the place out carefully. Eventually he goes inside. No one is there. He begins to relax.

Looking for food, he opens the big freezer.

There is a dead man inside.

\*

When he begins to recover from the shock, Luke's first feeling is guilt. It looks as if he murdered the man--why else conceal the body? Then he looks more carefully at the evidence. Tire tracks and footprints suggest the dead man came here a few days ago, presumably last time Luke was here. Maybe he followed Luke here. He must have broken into the house, perhaps at night. There are signs of a fight. It could be that the dead man tried to kill Luke, and Luke killed him in self-defence. But then why did Luke hide the corpse and leave without even trying to secure the cabin?

*Alien element. Feels like a whole new and different story.*

While he is mulling this, he hears a car.

15. Luke conceals himself. A car door slams, and footsteps approach. Someone enters the cabin. He jumps out. A woman screams. They fall to the floor.

The visitor is Julia Goodall, the voluptuous young wife of an officer at the base.

She giggles. "Is this a new game? Shall I pretend to resist?" She wriggles under him. "Oh, sir, pray do not sully my virgin flesh!" She kisses him.

They get up. She kisses him again and obviously expects to make love immediately. He realises they must be having an affair.

She is gorgeous, but he does not want to make love to her. He still feels confused about Elspeth and Tara. Anyway, his mind is on the corpse in the freezer.

But Julia can help him in other ways, and once she realises she is not going to get laid, she settles down to answer his questions. She says: "You told me there was a spy in Huntsville. You knew his name, but you didn't tell me. You were going to tell the CIA--that's why you went

to Washington.”

Luke now guesses that the man in the freezer was sent to kill him to stop him exposing the Huntsville spy.

*NB This revelation should not happen by a lucky accident, but as the result of some effort Luke has made.*

*Maybe this is where the story should begin. Or perhaps how A should be introduced.*

16. Julia also tells Luke he became obsessed with the problem of radio communication with the satellite. “You kept telling me they get interference from taxicabs in Rio de Janeiro.” (A real-life problem.)  
*How does this relate to his job, to his technical mission?*

Luke thinks of the mysterious numbers on the scrap of paper. He says: “Is there a safe in the radio room?”

“Yes,” Julia says.

“What’s in it?”

“Who knows?”

“I’d better find out.”

*NB All the above is weak.*

Luke is now in a fever to return to Huntsville, but he is delayed by the local sheriff, who shows up to question him, in leisurely country style, about a stranger who went missing around here a few days ago. Luke has some tense moments, but at last the sheriff goes away.

\*

Meanwhile, Anthony phones the FBI and tips them off that the body of a murdered man is concealed at Luke’s hunting cabin.

17. Back in Huntsville, Luke sees the police at his house and evades them. After dark, he gets into the base, breaks into the radio lab, and opens the safe. There he finds the solution to the puzzle.

As he already knows, every rocket has a self-destruct mechanism. If it should veer off course and head for a city, the range safety office can blow it up with a radio signal. To avoid unintentional detonation (by interference from taxicab radios, for example) the mechanism responds only to a complex signal on several different frequencies--like a code.

What Luke finds in the safe is the code.

Now Anthony understands. The spy he uncovered is planning to sabotage the launch by activating the self-destruct mechanism.

Luke picks up the phone to call von Braun at Cape Canaveral and warn him.

Col. Hyde and a security team bust in and try to arrest Luke. There is a fracas a Luke escapes. He is on the run.

18. We cut to Moscow. The KGB chief and the head of the US desk have another meeting. The US head reports that the satellite launch is on schedule for tomorrow--but the missile will explode within seconds of ignition.

#### **IV. WEDNESDAY**

19. Luke begins to mistrust the CIA. Every time he tells Anthony something, there is a disaster. But who else can he turn to? Both Elspeth and Tara have told him that his oldest friend is Bernie Simons. He looks in his book and finds a Washington number for Bernie.

Their conversation is warm. Bernie is a librarian. Luke tells him all about his loss of memory. Bernie tells him that his amnesia was almost certainly induced by Tara.

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

Bernie and Tara are married, though not very happily. Bernie has for some years been a successful writer of radio scripts. We are at the Hollywood premiere of his first movie.

Tara has revealed to him what she did in the war. She was part of a (real-life) OSS research program, doing experiments in mind control, using drugs and other treatments to (a) break down resistance to interrogation and (b) induce amnesia so that the prisoner forgets the interrogation.

After the war, the CIA replaced OSS and (again in real life) continued the research program, always using the excuse that the Soviets were, or must be, or might be developing the same techniques. Tara's research is funded by the CIA as part of that program.

Bernie disapproves, calling it brainwashing. Tara argues fiercely, though in her heart she has misgivings about the way her results might be used by an unscrupulous government agency.

Bernie's movie, Tara now learns for the first time, is a thriller about a nameless government agency that brainwashes unsuspecting citizens. It is a wow, the premiere audience



love it, and Bernie is immediately deluged with offers. But Tara is furious. The movie breaches her personal confidence and threatens her career. Whatever the politics of the situation, she says, Bernie should have put his personal loyalty to her first.

The ensuing row brings to a head all the tensions in their marriage, and Tara files for divorce.

Bernie is targeted by Senator McCarthy and the House Un-American Activities Committee. He is blacklisted, and his brief Hollywood career ends. He cannot even get radio work any longer, and he becomes a librarian.

20. Luke calls Elspeth and <sup>why?</sup> tells her all this. She warns him not to trust Bernie, because he is or was a Soviet agent. Luke asks her how she knows. "You told me," she says.

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

Luke and Bernie are in occupied France, where there are two main Resistance groupings, the Gaullists and the Communists. Luke and Bernie and a small group of Gaullists daringly blow up a railway bridge and capture a German supply train. During the skirmish, Bernie saves Luke's life.

As they are unloading the railroad cars, a large force of Communists appear and steal their booty.

Luke accuses Bernie of tipping off the Communists. Bernie admits it. His task here is to help the Communists dominate the Resistance so that they will be in a strong political position after the war. (British Intelligence is busy trying to boost the Gaullists for the same reason.) But he swears he would never do anything to harm the Allied cause, which is his first loyalty.

What about your personal loyalty to me? says Luke, just as Tara will say nine years hence.

They make a deal. Bernie promises not to do anything behind Luke's back. Luke agrees not to tell OSS that Bernie is also working for the Russians. Both men keep their promises.

21. Unsure what to believe, Luke calls Bernie and arranges to meet him in Washington.

Anthony tries to kill Bernie, but Bernie escapes. — Too big a distraction

22. That night, they break into Tara's hospital. They find Luke's records. Bernie was telling the truth. Luke was here for two days, and was given a treatment involving drugs and electric

shock which caused him to lose his memory.

23. They go to Tara's apartment, break in, and hold her at gunpoint.

She admits having wiped Luke's memory, but says it was for his own sake.

Luke met Anthony last Friday morning and told him the name of a Soviet agent at Huntsville, Tara explains. Anthony then said he already knew this. The agent had been uncovered a year ago by the CIA. This was why Huntsville was excluded from the satellite program; it was insecure. *But then why would this agent still have been in place?*

Instead of arresting the agent, the CIA left him in place and used him for disinformation. Anthony explained to Luke that the Soviets were so far ahead of the US in missiles that it would make sense for them to try a pre-emptive strike--if they knew about their lead. But the CIA 's disinformation campaign has made sure they think they are actually behind in missiles.

Luke refused to accept this, Anthony told Tara. He said the satellite program was more important than the missile gap. *What's the difference between their gap? Unclear what L wants vs. what CIA is supposed to want.*

Anthony knew that the CIA would kill Luke rather than let him blow the disinformation campaign. Desperate for an alternative solution, Anthony asked Tara to use her experimental techniques to wipe Luke's memory. Reluctantly, she agreed.

His memory will return, she says; perhaps bit by bit, but possibly all at once, after a shock.

24. Bernie tells another story.

We flash back, a third time, to Anthony's birthday party in 1941.

After the Admiral's cruel humiliation of his son, Anthony and Bernie sit up all night, smoking and talking. Anthony vows revenge on his father and decides that the way to break the Admiral's heart would be to become a spy and betray America. Bernie puts him in touch with a KGB recruiter.

Anthony's disinformation campaign is a fiction, they now realise. The truth is that Bernie is protecting the Soviet agent in Huntsville.

Luke calls von Braun in Cape Canaveral and persuades him to change the self-destruct code.

But the launch is postponed (in real life) because of a jetstream in the stratosphere--giving

the spy another day to arrange the sabotage.

## V. THURSDAY

25. The Secretary of Defense calls General Medaris at the Cape and questions him angrily about the postponement. "We can't afford another fiasco!"

26. Luke takes Bernie to see a high-up in Army intelligence. They spill the beans on Anthony. The army is sceptical at first. But they put Anthony under immediate surveillance, and catch him meeting his KGB control. He is arrested. *So quick and easy?*

27. The launch is postponed again, for the same reason.

Luke and Tara travel overnight to Florida. They make love on the train.

## VI. FRIDAY

28. When the Admiral learns that his son has been arrested as a Soviet spy, he commits suicide. Bernie visits Anthony and brings him this news. Anthony is pleased. "This makes it all worth while," he says. *about what?*

Bernie asks him if there is anyone he should contact. Anthony says he is married, but he won't say who to. *Are we meant to. intel B is still a spy for Soviets?*

29. At Cape Canaveral, Elspeth goes into the office of the range safety officer, who has the self-destruct code for the missile. She makes up to him and gives him a blow job, then gets the code from him. *Again too quick and easy. Smacked at Monica and Bill.*

30. Bernie calls Luke and tells him about Anthony's statement. Luke realises that the Huntsville spy could be a woman. He sees Elspeth leaving the base, and follows her. *Huntsville or Cape Canaveral?*

31. Elspeth has the trunk of her car full of radiotransmitting gear. She parks several miles from the launch site and turns on the car radio, listening to the commentary on the launch.

Luke catches up with her.

She admits being a Soviet agent. In the thirties, she explains, she saw that her father's

union was helpless to aid its members during the depression. Then, after she broke up with Luke and was aimless, Anthony recruited her. They got married.

She always loved Luke, but she married him bigamously on orders, as soon as he got a job with the ABMA. She also had a hysterectomy on orders, so that her loyalties would never be confused by children. This, she tells Luke, is the only thing she did that she believes to have been wicked, for she knew how badly he wanted children. She cries. Their marriage has always been a lie--but she has always loved Luke.

While they talk, they can hear the countdown on the car radio.

Luke agrees to let her go. She will catch a plane to somewhere in Europe, then a connecting flight to Moscow.

The countdown reaches zero. Elspeth pulls a gun. She is going to blow up the missile. She opens the trunk. The transmitter is all set--she just has to throw a switch.

They see the flare of the rocket as it takes off.

Luke jumps her. She shoots, but misses. He wrestles her to the ground and holds her there. They both watch the rocket out of sight.

The radio announces that the launch is a success.

Elspeth says: "Will you let me catch my plane?"

Luke does not answer.

*she needs to be more of a player  
earlier in the story if we're to  
feel for her now.*

(She's married to A, and is raising L's child)

- T.
1. Save L.
  2. Grow suspicious of A based on specific incident
  3. Try to warn L, maybe through Elspeth, so warning doesn't get through
  4. After hearing of L, narrow escape, she warns him personally (at great risk to herself)

#

E. ?

Need a U.S. character in addition to L. for whom launch is most important thing in the world. Its meaning and significance must be felt as enormous.