

Outline

1st draft

9 December 1998

A DEADLY REMEMBRANCE

by Ken Follett

said to be

Historical note: The launch of the first American space satellite, Explorer I, was originally scheduled for Wednesday, 29 January, 1958. On that day there was ~~a~~ weather problem: the jet stream, a high-altitude wind that is always over some parts of the USA, moved unexpectedly south so that its edge was over Cape Canaveral. The launch was postponed for 24 hours. The unfavourable weather persisted, and on Thursday the launch was postponed again. It finally took place on Friday, 31 January.

“...from its beginning in 1947, the Central Intelligence Agency...has spent millions of dollars on a major program of research to find drugs and other esoteric methods to bring ordinary people, willing and unwilling alike, under complete control—to act, to talk, to reveal the most precious secrets, even to forget on command.”

—John Marks, *The Search for the ‘Manchurian Candidate’: The CIA and Mind Control*, 1979

Check TV schedule: was there breakfast news in 58?

Check whether newspapers carried advance stories
about the satellite launch.

Part 1: Wednesday

1. A man wakes up terrified. He does not know what has happened to scare him, but he feels as if he has been through some dreadful experience. It is like waking from a nightmare. He is cold, he aches everywhere, and he has some kind of hangover.

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

Panic overwhelms him, a moment later, 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, Luke, pipe down."

"I've lost my memory!"

"Yeah, yeah. You're lucky you haven't lost your entire goddam mind, the amount you drank yesterday."

That explains the hangover. The man is dismayed. Obviously he is a drunken bum called Luke. But how did he get this way? He begins to question his companion, Pete, but Pete has another idea. He says he knows a place they can get free breakfast.

They stagger out of the restroom. It is 8am. They are in ~~the main railway~~ ^{Union} station in Washington, DC. It is winter. Pete takes Luke to a Salvation Army shelter where they get hot oatmeal and coffee.

Luke begins to feel better physically, and he starts asking questions again. How long has he been this way—a month, a year, longer? What was he before? Has he ever tried to dry out? Does he have a family who might help him? Pete does not know the answers.

Luke picks up a newspaper to check the date. It is Wednesday 29 January 1958. The main story, all over the front page, is that the US will launch its first space satellite today at 10:30pm.

Luke's interest is piqued, and he reads on.

It is International Geophysical Year (actually July 1957 to December 1958). Both the USA and the USSR announced some years ago that they would launch earth-orbiting satellites

during the Year. Four months ago, on Friday 4 October 1957, the Soviet Union launched Sputnik, profoundly shocking the entire Free World, whose people had been taught to believe they must be superior to the communists. A month later, on Sunday 3 November, the Soviets launched Sputnik II, with a dog on board. Americans were dismayed. President Eisenhower said the satellite program "has never been conducted as a race with other nations," but no one believed him.

Ike promised an American satellite in December. On Friday 6 December the Vanguard rocket, developed by the Naval Research Laboratory, was launched in front of the world's press. It exploded, two seconds after ignition, still on the launch pad. American humiliation was complete. *Was there also human tragedy?*

Tonight's launch is America's last chance, the newspaper says. This rocket, named Explorer I, has been developed by a different group, the Army Ballistic Missile Agency, based at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama, under the direction of the legendary German rocket

scientist Wernher von Braun. The US does not have a third rocket project. If Explorer fails, *Better if all the above is on a TV screen, visual, possible interaction* tonight, the Russians will dominate space for the foreseeable future. *with Pete and others.*

That's right, Luke thinks. All this seems familiar. Maybe he had something to do with rockets, once upon a time. He suggests this to Pete, who thinks it hilarious.

Frustrated, Luke starts filling out the crossword. Five minutes later he has finished, 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!" Luke immediately gets the clue, HAMLET, then he thinks: *How did I know that?*

He must find out who he is. He questions the Salvation Army helpers, who say they have not seen him here before. He wonders why. He asks Pete, who says: "What we need is a beer."

Luke realises that Pete does not want him to inquire about his identity—maybe because Pete fears he will lose a companion. But Luke is determined, and he tells Pete he wants to separate.

He walks the streets, thinking what to do next. The police have lists of missing persons, don't they? Maybe his description is on such a list. He begins to look for a precinct house.

Then he realises he is being followed. He runs a couple of checks (all the while

wondering how come he knows how to do stuff like this). Sure enough, he has a shadow. He sets a trap then surprises the guy, saying: "Who are you? Why are you following me?"

The shadow says nothing. Luke gets him by the throat, yelling at him. Then he thinks: *Why am I acting like I'm going to kill the poor guy?* He lets him go, and the shadow runs away, terrified.

But Luke has recognised him as a man he saw speaking to Pete, briefly, when he left the shelter.

What the hell is going on?

Shouldn't he recognize now that he's in danger? Start to panic?

2. Pete has returned to CIA headquarters where he now reports on Luke to his boss, Anthony Corel.

Anthony, 38, is a veteran of the Office of Strategic Service, wartime precursor of the CIA, and is revered within the Agency. Tall and patrician, he dresses conservatively in beautifully-tailored suits, and speaks with dry, precise diction. Pete, a fresh-faced youngster, is fanatically loyal to Anthony.

Anthony questions Pete anxiously about Luke. He is troubled by Luke's growing suspicions. The crossword, the interest in the satellite launch, and most of all the persistent questions about the past, are all danger signs. For reasons we will understand shortly, Anthony is desperately concerned that Luke's amnesia should continue at least until after the satellite launch.

The Luke project is secret even within the CIA. Anthony's small team of agents have a cover story they tell colleagues. Only Anthony's boss, Carl Hobart, knows the truth, says Anthony. (In fact, Anthony is deceiving his boss, and Carl's questions and demands will be an increasing problem for Anthony.)

The conversation between Pete and Anthony is interrupted by a phone message saying that Anthony's new suit is ready to be tried on. Although this does not seem urgent, Anthony goes pale, ends the meeting, and leaves the office.

The message was a coded summons. Anthony is a double agent, working for the Soviet Union. The message comes from his controller, a KGB man at the Soviet Embassy, whom

didn't he'd be stationed there too much of a give-away.

New Ch. 2 : Elspeth at Cape Canaveral.

- 1) Some crisis in the launch
- 2) She is worried about Luke & calls Anthony for reassurance
- 3) She needs to achieve something e.g. learning what time the self-destruct mechanism is armed.

2. More on Nik's personal agenda: promotion, achievement, whatever.

Nik & Anthony need a history together to give their encounter flavor.

Their conflict not merely pragmatic, also emotional.

Anthony knows as Nik.

They almost never meet—it is too dangerous. They communicate by encrypted letter. But they have a series of coded messages for emergency meetings. This one is the most urgent, and means: “Whatever you are doing, drop it and meet me immediately.”

Nik is a blocky, tough-looking man who has been wearing the same cheap suit for seventeen years. He despises everything American except candy, his weakness.

Anthony’s air of superiority disappears, and we see that he is frightened of Nik. Nik is superficially courteous, but beneath the calm exterior he is dedicated and ruthless.

This morning, Nik received a written report from Anthony, which they now discuss.

Luke is a rocket scientist with the Army Ballistic Missile Agency, von Braun’s outfit, which is launching the satellite tonight. Three days ago, Luke was at Cape Canaveral, preparing for today’s launch, when he uncovered evidence of a Soviet spy within the ABMA. (He did not discover the spy’s identity.) He flew to Washington to inform the CIA of what he had found. He and Anthony were in OSS together during the war, so Luke naturally reported his discovery to his old friend Anthony.

Anthony and Nik already knew all about the spy, who is controlled by Anthony. The spy is planning to sabotage this rocket launch. The effect of another American rocket blowing up on the launch pad will be devastating. American prestige will suffer a dreadful blow, and outer space will become Soviet territory. All this was threatened by Luke’s discovery.

But Anthony was able to intervene and protect the spy. He spiked Luke’s coffee with a powerful sedative. Then he made use of a CIA-financed research program into memory. The research program has developed a technique of inducing total amnesia. Anthony was able to persuade one of the doctors in the research team to use the technique on Luke, and wipe his memory.

Nik is angry about this, which is why he has called an emergency meeting. Luke should have been killed immediately, he says. *Had A been ordered to do this in any specific manner?*

Anthony argues that this way is better. A murdered rocket scientist is hard to explain away. But Luke has told no one within the ABMA of his suspicions—for fear of alerting the spy—and now everyone will assume that his blackout was the result of a drinking binge.

3. Anthony is already a convinced communist.
Brilliant and shy. However, he has never
joined the party because he is afraid of his
father.

Both A and N also need agendas which also tag them in some other direction — either personal (probably) or business.

8

Nik does not entirely buy this. He knows that Anthony and Luke are old friends, and he suspects—rightly—that Anthony is reluctant to kill his friend. However, Nik is presented with a fait accompli, and he accepts it—for now.

Nevertheless, he questions Anthony closely about the surveillance of Luke. Anthony assures him that Luke's every move is watched. (Anthony does not yet know that the surveillance team has lost Luke.)

Nik asks how long the amnesia will last. It is permanent, Anthony says; but Nik presses him, and he is forced to admit the technique is so experimental that no one really knows. However, he points out that it needs to last only until 10.30pm tonight—another thirteen hours, he says, checking his watch.

Nik says: "But if there is the least sign of his recovering his memory before then..."

"I'll kill him," Anthony says.

"Even though he is your oldest friend?"

"Listen. Tonight is the climax of everything I have done for the last seventeen years.

Nothing is going to get in the way. If necessary, I'll kill Luke."

Nik gives him a long, hard stare, then says: "Yes, I believe you will."

These 2 need some controversial past history to give their encounter a personal flavor.

3. We flash back to 1941.

why? Transition? What triggers this?

Anthony is a student at ~~MIT~~ ^{Harvard}. The young Anthony is awkward and anxious, with none of the self-confidence we have seen in 1958. He is the downtrodden son of a bullying father. Admiral Corel comes from a modest background but has risen to the top in the Navy by reason of enormous force of will. He also married an heiress, Anthony's mother, and the family lives in high style.

Anthony hates his father, who takes every opportunity to humiliate him and his mother. Anthony is in timid rebellion, espousing everything his father despises, from communism to jazz, but always afraid of a direct confrontation.

Anthony's room-mate is the golden boy of his class at ~~MIT~~, Claude Lucas, known as Luke. He is the son of a successful banker and a French countess. The eldest of four children, he has a happy home life. He is smart and popular, with youthful good looks. A physics major, he

is fascinated by books and magazines about space flight. To women he is attractive if somewhat boyish.

Luke is kind to his awkward room-mate, introducing him around and including him in plans. In return, Anthony hero-worships Luke.

A third friend is Bernie Simons, Jewish communist intellectual, witty and wisecracking, a good saxophone player.

The three young men have girlfriends.

Odd name for the daughter of a poor Jewish tailor. Sara Wolff?

Anthony is dating Tara Wiley, small, dark and sexy. She is a brilliant medical student from a dirt-poor background and wins every scholarship. Her father was a poor Jewish tailor in ^{Try Worcester or Boston} Dallas who died young, and her mother brought up five children in grinding poverty. Tara is fiercely ambitious, aiming to become a medical research scientist, exploring the workings of the body and the mind, uncovering the mysteries of sickness and health.

She is fond of Anthony, but their relationship is not very physical, and she will not let him even touch her breasts. This is not because she is cold, but the reverse: she is afraid of losing control. *Unclear why she'd fear losing control if her feelings for him were only lukewarm.*

Luke's girlfriend is Elspeth, the bright and beautiful daughter of a conservative union boss. She is in love with Luke and wants to marry him. Luke, too, wants to get married, and he would like a big family like the one he comes from. He and Elspeth are unofficially engaged. They do not have sexual intercourse, because Elspeth believes what her mother told her, that boys do not marry girls they have already slept with. However, Elspeth deals with Luke's urgent physical desires by permitting ever-greater liberties while they neck. Unlike Tara, Elspeth does not fear losing control of her sexual urges.

Bernie's date is Peggy, who will disappear from our story. All three girls are at Radcliffe.

These young people are part of an elite. The bright children of mostly affluent parents, they dress in expensive casual clothes, can generally borrow a car any time they really need one, go to lots of parties, and share a relaxed conviction that without too much effort they will become the next generation of surgeons, judges, bank presidents, and professors.

They grew up in the Depression and lived through the New Deal, and the hot political issue for their generation—the Vietnam of the thirties—is the Spanish civil war. Consequently

M.I.T. students are fanatic Q.E.D. aspiring engineers and scientists. School is tough with exacting standards. Would this fit Anthony and Bernie?

Anthony tells Elspeth: I'm going to join the party!
She says: I have a better idea.

Contrast: Elspeth's rather shrewd, calculating
decision that he's in for her - with Tam's
uncontrollable passion for him.

most of them are sympathetic to communism and some are party members.

One Saturday in December, the six friends spend a day together. They watch a football game, go to a movie, eat hamburgers, and finish up in a bar where they drink a lot of beer. This is the first time Luke has met Tara, and there is an instant attraction between them. Elspeth fears she could lose Luke, and Anthony is profoundly threatened and jealous.

These feelings are well-grounded. At one point, Luke and Tara find themselves alone. They fall into a passionate embrace. Both become inflamed very quickly. They are almost at the point of no return when they hear someone coming. They manage a hasty cover-up.

Later, the six split into couples. Anthony persuades Tara to come to his room—strictly against the rules, and sufficient to get both of them expelled from their colleges. They are kissing when Anthony's father barges in, paying an unexpected visit. He insults Tara and humiliates Anthony. Anthony is totally incapable of standing up to his father, and comes close to tears, which makes the Admiral even more scornful and wounding.

Unfortunately, the row is overheard, and the college president swiftly learns that there was a girl in the room. Next morning, Luke and Anthony receive notes summoning them to the president's office at 9am on Monday.

They all spend much of the day agonising over their plight. Anthony has a long talk with Elspeth. He vows revenge on his father for ruining his life. Elspeth suggests that the best way for him to oppose everything his father stands for would be to become a Soviet agent. She is already a communist party member, her convictions forged by the Depression and the experience of seeing how impotent her father's moderate union was to help its members. Anthony lights up at the prospect. It will give him a vent for his rage, but it is safe: his father will not know what he is doing. Elspeth tells him he will probably have to pretend to be a conventional Republican and try to get a job in the intelligence community.

Meanwhile, Luke and Tara have an equally agonised conversation. They have fallen in love, but their love will devastate their friends: Luke is engaged to Elspeth, and Anthony would be destroyed if Tara left him for Luke.

That afternoon, Sunday 7 December, they all learn that the Japanese have bombed the US Navy at Pearl Harbour in Hawaii (at 8am local time, 1pm EST).

This flashback would work better if it came earlier, when A is unsure how to deal with L. Kill him or not? Then he has this memory, feels renewed gratitude to L, and opts for the amnesia. This would upset the chronology, but it could be worked as a flashback within a flashback in the scene with Pete.

Luke sees his way out of the mess his life is in. Next morning, he tells the college president that it was he who had a girl in his room, and she was a waitress at a Boston restaurant. Anthony and Tara are saved. Then he tells the president that he is dropping out of college to join the military. The president has no choice but to abandon the disciplinary action.

Luke ends his unofficial engagement to Elspeth. She is heartbroken.

This should spur A to do something in the present. Anthony goes on to finish his degree, eternally grateful to Luke for saving him. from? How serious is the danger?

4. Back in 1958, Luke reverts to his plan of checking the police missing persons list, to see if there is a description that fits him. He approaches a cop and asks for directions to the nearest precinct house.

The cop says: "Beat it, bum."

Luke is offended, and says haughtily: "I asked you a polite question, Mister."

This cop happens to be a bully and a sadist. He pushes Luke into an alley and starts to beat him up.

Luke is so startled that he falls over. While he is lying on the ground being beaten, something clicks, and he starts to fight back with ferocious skill. In moments, the cop is groaning on the ground. Luke empties the bullets from the cop's gun. Then he deliberately breaks the man's right forefinger, making him scream with pain. For a moment, Luke cannot figure out why he did this: it seemed automatic. Then he says: "That will stop you beating up bums for a while."

As he walks away, he wonders where and when he learned to fight like that.

The incident makes him realise that no one is going to take him seriously while he looks so bad. He needs a shave, a shower and a complete change of clothing.

Somehow, he knows exactly how to go about getting these things.

He hangs around a shopping strip until he sees someone park a car and leave the keys in. He steals the car. *Not likely if he's still in downtown Washington. Almost impossible. Maybe at some distance from it.*

He parks near the railway station which is full of people carrying complete changes of clothing neatly packed in suitcases. He finds himself thinking in French as he does this, and he wonders what that can mean. He watches passengers until he sees a man of about his own height and build, then he steals his suitcase.

*Who meanwhile is looking for him?
How conscious is he of being searched for?
Why does he imagine people have been following him?
Suggest you introduce a particular smell, a color, a food item, an article of clothing, something which he recognizes and feels close to as an inchoate hint of his past.*

5. Bernie's own agenda. He hates Anthony for ruining his life and he wants revenge.

But his wife has persuaded him to forget all that and constantly fights him, trying to persuade him not to help her.

6. Tara discovers that Anthony deceived her. He had one of her colleagues perform the operation on her under some false pretence. Now she is mad as hell.

Also, she is on the brink of some breakthrough.

6. Tara discovers the "patient" was her
7. flashback to pregnancy
8. Tara confronts Anthony & threatens to expose him.
9. flashback to abortion.

Now he needs somewhere to get cleaned up.

5. Bernie Simons now lives in a suburb of Washington and writes a successful series of children's books called *The Terrible Twins*. Two days ago he had a brief, enigmatic conversation with his old friend Luke. Luke was calling from Huntsville, Alabama, but he was on his way to Washington to see Anthony Corel. He hinted that he was involved in some kind of skulduggery and said he wanted to see Bernie on the following day, Tuesday. But he did not turn up and Bernie has not heard from him.

Bernie starts calling around. He calls the ABMA in Huntsville and gets Luke's secretary, a maternal black woman called Marjorie. She gives Bernie the name of the hotel she booked for Luke. Bernie calls there and verifies that Luke checked in on Monday night. However, there is no reply from his room.

Bernie tries Anthony, who is out of his office, then Tara, who is not at the Washington hospital where she works. It seems there is nothing more he can do, except sit and worry. *What's the agenda in his own life? He needs something else besides a worry for L.*

6. Tara, now 37, is divorced with a seven-year-old son, Coltrane. She lives with her mother, who helps her take care of the child. Tara has achieved her ambition, and is one of the country's leading medical research scientists. She is a neuropsychologist. Her research, at a mental hospital, is funded indirectly by the CIA, as part of the Agency's ongoing research program into mind control.

Because of the CIA connection, Tara still sees her old boyfriend Anthony. Their romance is over. When they meet, they usually talk about the past and about Luke, the mutual friend they both still love. *What has L been doing with them and for them through all the years?*

Yesterday, Anthony called her and insisted on seeing her immediately. He told her that Luke's life was in danger. Luke has been working for Moscow all these years, Anthony said, and now the CIA has found out and is about to kill him. But Anthony had another solution. He wanted Tara to use the experimental techniques she is developing in her CIA-financed program to erase Luke's memory. This would render him harmless to the US. He could be kept out of the way until the missile is launched, then perhaps he can begin to rebuild some kind of life—but

How would this be possible?

he need never know that once he was a spy. It is a hard fate, but better than death.

Tara consented, because it seemed the only way to save Luke's life, but she was deeply troubled, and now she is anxious to check up on Luke. She goes to see Anthony at CIA headquarters. He returns from a meeting (with Nik) to learn that his watchers have lost Luke. He is furios^{feeling what?} and Tara is desperately worried. But Anthony says to her: You have to trust me. You trusted me before, once, many years ago....

7. We flash back to 1943.

Tara has graduated and won another scholarship to do a higher degree. However, she wants to join the war effort, and the committee has agreed that she can take up the scholarship at any time.

Soon after joining up, she was transferred to the Office of Strategic Service. OSS is autocratically run by the millionaire Wall Street lawyer General William "Wild Bill" Donovan. It is staffed by a quarrelsome mixture of Republican businessmen, communist academics, and well-connected youngsters who have pulled strings to get what is generally regarded as a glamorous assignment. The mission of OSS is to encourage sabotage and unrest behind enemy lines. The organisation is famous for its lavish budgets and its independence from the normal military hierarchy.

When Tara arrives at the Washington headquarters, she finds her old boyfriend Anthony already there. But he has changed. The awkward college boy is rapidly disappearing, and a smooth bureaucrat is taking his place. There is no trace left of rebellion: Anthony dresses conservatively, holds right-wing views, and never mentions his father.

He tells Tara that he used his father's influence to get assigned here then arranged for his old friends to get the same assignment. Elspeth is working for OSS in London, and Luke and Bernie are working with the Resistance in occupied France. Tara is to be part of a hush-hush research program on the use of drugs in interrogation. Anthony has seen some action in Tangier, but is now a desk man.

He wants to resume his romance with Tara, but she rebuffs him. Nevertheless, they remain friendly. Tara speculates that Anthony is actually happier carrying a torch for someone

than actually dating—perhaps because his parents' marriage is so ghastly.

Soon after Tara arrives, Luke and Bernie return from France. Luke is much changed. Thin as a rail, strained by undercover work, and hardened by action, he has grown up fast. Tara almost wishes some of that boyish immaturity would come back.

They fall in love again. 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 pull back, enchant one another and infuriate one another.

After a few weeks, Luke is posted overseas again. Before he leaves, he and Tara make love at last. 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 has gone, Tara finds she is pregnant.

Again, what space does this memory, and how does it affect the present action? It should impel Tara to do or not do something - maybe it's this memory which impels her to confront A. Maybe place it before her scene with A.

8. Luke drives his stolen car to a quiet residential street in the suburbs. Taking his stolen suitcase, he knocks on doors until he finds a house where no one is at home. He breaks in.

He showers, shaves and dresses in the clothes from the suitcase, all the while thinking *How do they fit?* that he must find some way to compensate the people from whom he has taken these things. The thought comes into his mind: *After all, they aren't collaborators.* But he doesn't understand what that means.

When he is done, he takes a look in the mirror. He sees a tall, fair man in his thirties, apparently healthy and fit, though strained.

Looking and feeling like a regular human being at last, he leaves the house.

And doing what to leave no traces?

9. It is 2.30pm, and the launch is eight hours away. Anthony is desperately searching Washington for Luke. Unfortunately, he cannot mobilise the full resources of the CIA, as he would normally, without alerting his superiors that something unusual is going on. So he has to make do with his own small team. *How many?*

They comb places where bums hang out, showing a picture of Luke. They also monitor police reports, in case Luke is taken into custody. Anthony sees a report of a patrolman taken to hospital with a broken right forefinger. "Luke did that," he says. "It's his trademark. He used to

A seems to have no life of his own.
Is she meant to be thinking that the CIA is mobilised to kill Luke?
Tara

do it to the Gestapo—break their trigger finger.” They search the neighbourhood where this took place, without success.

Analysing the police reports, Anthony picks out three items: a car stolen at a shopping mall, a suitcase stolen at the railway station, and a house entered where the burglar stole nothing but took a shower. In each case the perpetrator was Luke, he believes. He gives the police a description of Luke and the stolen clothes which he is presumably wearing.

Tara calls him, and he is obliged to report failure. He again tells her to trust him, and reminds her of the time when she trusted him in 1943.... To do what? Protect L?

A seems a bit feeble. Good if he could do something to enhance his stature.

10. Tara comes to Anthony in great distress and tells him she is pregnant. Luke is thousands of miles away and may never come home. Her scholarship will be withdrawn if she has an illegitimate child—this is 1943. She contemplates concealing the child and trying to raise it while she continues to study—and she sees a nightmare vision of her own mother struggling to raise children in poverty. Tara 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 still wants Tara to himself, and the character weakness which makes him sly and devious has grown since he became a spy. He now tells her that Luke cannot possibly be contacted (which is not true). Then he goes to his father and asks for money for an abortion, saying that the baby is his. The Admiral is horrified at the prospect of his son marrying “a Jewess”, as he puts it, and he pays up. Tara has the abortion.

Are we supposed to love and admire A for having done this? Underline why he would need to go to his father. The next morning could be hid by a qualified doctor for \$300. Better if he alone looks after her.

11. Luke enters a public library and browses psychology textbooks for information on memory. He learns that there is a technical term for his condition: global amnesia. The patient forgets all information, even his own name, but retains skills such as foreign languages and professional expertise. The condition is brought about by drugs and/or shock, and may be permanent. However, the patient’s retention of skills means he is generally able to re-learn the forgotten information and resume normal life.

Luke leafs through a book about rocket science. It is a technical tome, but he understands

The problem with all this, though, is what stake, if any, do we have in Tara's destiny or in her relationship with A? Without some such stake, the scene will have little impact.

Here the guy who recognizes him could be an old friend from MIT who has followed L's career and kept up with him. He could tell L enough to prompt L's memory to return, but he realizes he may be safer if he pretends still to be amnesiac. L then puts on a show for several colleagues, feigning amnesia, expecting news 16 of this somehow to reach A.

it effortlessly, whereas the psychology textbook was hard going at times. Browsing, he finds maths and physics easy, chemistry approachable, and biology totally unfamiliar. By this process he comes to the conclusion that in his former life he was a geophysicist with an interest in missiles.

He looks in the *Dictionary of American Scientists* for a geophysicist called Luke Something, but there is none, and the only photographs are of the most famous people, such as Einstein.

However, he figures he must be personally known to quite a lot of geophysicists, so if he could find them he could learn his identity from them. Checking universities in the area, he finds that George Washington University has a Department of Geophysics.

Feeling excited and optimistic, he goes there. He half-hopes someone will recognise him walking along the corridor, but this does not happen. He finds the department secretary and asks to see the professor, but he is refused as he does not have an appointment. After further difficulties, he learns that in fact the professor is giving a lecture across town. The upside to this snag is that there will be fifty or sixty geophysicists in one room. He races to the venue, but arrives a few minutes after the lecture has ended. Only a handful of people are left. But one of them catches his eye and says: "Hello, Luke, what the heck are you doing here?"

He is so relieved he could weep.

What about his feeling that he's in danger? The police are on the
Any special kind? Lookout for him, no?
Could there be rumours of a threat to the launch?

This needs setting up earlier

12. At 5.30pm, with the launch five hours away, Anthony's boss, Carl Hobart, demands an urgent report on the activities of KGB personnel in Washington. Anthony makes an excuse to postpone the job. Irritated, Carl questions him about what else he is doing that is so damned important. Anthony talks his way out of it but realises remorsefully that he has now aroused suspicion and his activities will be more closely watched.

Then he is summoned by Nik again. Two meetings in one day is unprecedented—and unbelievably dangerous.

Nik has discovered that Luke was not totally candid when he told Anthony of his suspicions. Luke said he had found an envelope, addressed to a house in Washington, DC, containing Xerox copies of secret documents. The house is a dead-letter-box rented by Nik

himself, and the envelope has not arrived. This means that Luke did not just see the envelope, he took it as evidence. Anthony must find out where that envelope is and get it back, or Nik's career as a KGB man in Washington is over.

There is another problem. Nik has heard that, because of his earlier optimistic reports, the Kremlin is so confident of the launch being a catastrophe that the countdown is to be broadcast live on Soviet radio. If the launch turns out to be a triumph, Nik will at best be sent to Siberia. At worst he will be tried as a traitor and executed.

"Find Luke and kill him," Nik says to Anthony. "Otherwise you will be killed."

It is 6.30pm.

For this to work, we must feel for Anthony. He is his friend down. He's scared out of his pants. He'll never get to see his newly born child or grandchild. Suggest you mix menace with pathos.

13. Luke learns that he is Dr Claude Lucas, a civilian scientist employed by the ABMA at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama. The physicists at the lecture wonder what he is doing here when his team is at Cape Canaveral, about to launch America's first satellite—an event which must be the high point of any geophysicist's career. Luke does not answer that question, but he theorizes that what made him leave must have been something very important, perhaps a threat to the launch itself.

He calls Huntsville, learns that he has a secretary, Marjorie, and tells her he has lost his memory. She is very solicitous and concerned, and he gathers that she mothers him somewhat. She tells him that he left Cape Canaveral early on Monday, flew to Huntsville, stayed there a couple of hours, and flew on to Washington. She arranged his flights on the armed forces airline, Military Air Transport System (MATs), and reserved his room at the Carlton Hotel. But he did not tell her the reason for his trip. (By the way, he also did not tell Anthony that he stopped over in Huntsville.)

He asks Marjorie if she knows whom he might have seen in Washington. A disapproving note enters her voice as she says: "I assumed you would be seeing Dr Tara Wiley." She gives him Tara's work and home numbers and addresses.

She also tells him that his wife, who works as a secretary to Wernher von Braun, is at Cape Canaveral with the rest of the team.

Wife, he thinks. *I have a wife.*

What would his role have been at Cape Canaveral? Would people there be looking for him?

From here on L should operate on 2 levels. He feigns amnesia, while at the same time he does all he can to

- ① counter Anthony
- ② uncover the spy
- ③ protect the launch

* Elperth PoV from here. Do another big Cape
Canaveral countdown scene.

15. Mike does something clever that alerts
Bernie.

I've never heard of an American girl with that name. Liza, Elizabeth, Lisa, Elissa, Libby

18

I wonder what she is like?

He asks Marjorie what his wife's name is.

"Elspeth," she says.

* Luke calls Cape Canaveral. Everyone there has been very concerned about his sudden departure—though too busy preparing for the launch to do much about it. No one has much time for him, as it is now three hours to take-off, and the jet stream is unfavourable.

Luke speaks to Elspeth. She asks where he is calling from, and he gives her the name of the building where the lecture theatre is. He is relieved to have someone with whom he can share this nightmare, and he begins to pour out his heart. However, she is cool and unsympathetic, and she tells him she does not have much time to talk, because her boss, von Braun, is tearing his hair out. He hangs up, puzzled and disappointed.

How and why does he remember her? Has his memory returned?

He calls Tara Wiley and gets her mother, who tells him Tara has gone to a concert at

Schweitzer Elementary School where Coltrane is acting in a play. Luke decides to go there.

Would he not try to call von Braun? But he gets his wife who pumps him and then tells him VB cannot be reached?

14. Elspeth is the spy in the ABMA.

She now calls Anthony and tells him she just spoke to Luke.

Anthony is dismayed. Luke has rediscovered his identity in just a few hours. But it seems, from the conversation Luke had with Elspeth, that he has not yet figured out what happened to him. Anthony still has a chance of catching him before he can do any damage. "Where was he calling from?" Anthony asks.

She tells him. — If he's being cautious and circumspect, would he tell her?

Anthony and Pete rush there, but Luke has gone.

15. Bernie Simons, still anxious, calls Marjorie again. She tells him about her phone conversation with Luke.

? Bernie
Anthony is horrified to learn that Luke has lost his memory. He knows exactly how this came about. Tara must have done it. He can guess some of the truth and he realises Luke must be in bad trouble.

He calls the Carlton Hotel and leaves a message for Luke: "Your life is in danger. Call

Would he not be concerned that L's phone is being bugged?

He won't come alive unless he has some goods at his own. What does he want or need for himself at this point?

me as soon as you get this. Call from the lobby—don't go to your room! I'm waiting by the phone."

16. Tara comes out of the school with her seven-year-old son and finds Luke waiting for her. She is shocked and scared. Has he learned the truth and come to accuse her?

As soon as he speaks to her, she realises that his amnesia is holding. She is relieved—but also horrified that his investigative talents have enabled him to uncover so much in a few hours.

She takes him home. He tells her his story. Her heart goes out to him as he speaks of his bewilderment and fear. She longs to tell him the truth, but keeps reminding herself that the truth could kill him. *But how does he feel this strong bond with her if he has no memory?*

He is looking at her as if he has never seen her before. It is the way he stared at her on that Saturday in 1941. She realises they are falling in love for the third time. Impulsively, she embraces him. They kiss passionately. She tells him about their past together.

Still believing that Anthony has Luke's best interests at heart, Tara suggests Luke should call Anthony. Luke agrees, but then he kisses her again. Breathless, he says: "Why did we break up?"

She bursts into tears and says: "You got so mad at me, you didn't speak to me for ten years!" *Better if he's suffering amnesia trying to find out her role with Anthony. Maybe she confesses and then he does too—about his feelings. But he doesn't contradict her about A's trying to help him, even though he knows she's wrong about him.*

17. We flash back to 1945.

It is August. The five friends—Anthony, Luke, Bernie, Tara and Elspeth—meet up again on Long Island, where Anthony's family have a summer home. The Japanese surrender on Thursday 16 August, and there are parties all weekend.

The war has changed them all. They are weary, cynical, mistrustful, hardened.

Luke and Tara are happy, and Anthony is jealous. He still wants Tara for himself. He tells his father that Luke is probably going to throw himself away on "that Jewess". The Admiral predictably lectures Luke, saying he should not marry so far beneath him. Luke defends Tara and says the Admiral does not know what he is talking about. The Admiral then tells him about Tara's abortion. (The Admiral believes the baby was Anthony's, but Luke knows better.)

18. hulk realizes there is some threat to the launch and persuades WvB to postpone it.

He has me due. Elspeth tries to cover up, is almost revealed, and fails. The launch is postponed.

Anthony trying to stop hulk calling CC.

This flashback too would work better in the midst of the previous scene, with the memory leading to some decision either by L. or T.

Luke is wild with rage. He is a profoundly family-oriented young man, and he longs to have children of his own. He has been humiliated by the Admiral (who is a specialist in the art). But, most importantly, he feels he could never trust Tara again. He ends their relationship.

They will not meet again until Tara's wedding. *P.O.V.?*

18. It is one hour to take-off. Anthony is tearing his hair out, trying to locate Luke, when Luke calls him.

Anthony tells Luke they had an appointment, yesterday morning, but Luke did not show up. Luke believes this.

Anthony asks where Luke is now, because he wants to see him. Luke says: "I'm on my way back to the Carlton Hotel—meet me there."

Anthony and Pete rush to the Carlton. It is 9.30pm. If they can keep Luke under control for one more hour, their mission will have been accomplished: the missile will explode on the launch pad.

(Anthony may in the long term be unable to prevent Luke learning the truth, and Elspeth's career as a spy may well be over, but these things will be a small price to pay for destroying the American space program.)

From the hotel lobby, Anthony calls Nik and gives him the good news.

But Nik is listening to the countdown on his radio, and he tells Anthony that the launch has been postponed, because of the jet stream, and is now scheduled for the same time tomorrow.

This is bad news. It means Luke has another 24 hours to interfere.

"No more excuses," Nik tells Anthony. "Terminate the problem."

Anthony stations Pete in the hotel lobby with orders to call him, in Luke's room, on the internal phone, the second Luke walks in the door.

Then Anthony goes to Luke's room and sits down, facing the door, with his gun, a silenced pistol, ready in his hand. *Shouldn't A still be looking for a way not to kill L?*

19. Luke is bowled over by his strong feelings for Tara. But he has a highly developed sense of duty, and he feels very badly about Elspeth. *— Even though he doesn't remember her?*

Scene might be better if L. has some plan to confront A alone and he succeeds, but they both escape somehow unscathed. The novel badly needs at least one (and possibly more) head to head with the principal characters. Maybe in this scene he learns or senses that Elspeth is the threat.

hulle is bewildered. His wife is cold
and unsympathetic. Tam is warm and
sexy. Why the hell did he marry
Elspeth?

Driving back to the hotel, he decides he must talk to Elspeth before he does anything else. He stops and calls her from a pay phone. He asks her to catch a plane tomorrow morning and come to Washington to help him figure things out.

She refuses. "We're about to launch a satellite!" she says. "I'm not going to miss this because you've started behaving like a lunatic!"

"I'm in trouble and I need your help," he says.

He detects a tremor of emotion in her voice, but she is adamant that she will not come.

Puzzled, he asks her when they got married.

Do we care? At this point? Since we already know she's a spy? This doesn't in any way advance the present action.

20. We flash back to 1950.

Luke has completed his doctorate and is about to start working for the ABMA. He still longs to marry and have children.

He gets an invitation to the wedding of Tara and Bernie. There he meets Elspeth again.

Elspeth is in the CIA, but still working for the Russians. She is ordered to quit her job and marry Luke, so as to develop inside information on the missile program. She is also ordered to make sure she does not have children, for fear they would divide her loyalty.

Luke is feeling down because Tara is marrying Bernie, and it is not difficult for Elspeth to get him to take her home. That night, they make love for the first time. Next day, Luke proposes, and Elspeth accepts.

Before the wedding, she has a hysterectomy, so that she will never be tempted to have children.

Where her passion for the USSR? In this period? Most American lefties had become disillusioned with USSR. Some might work best from E's P.O.V. From the point of view, getting him to marry her is her assignment? Can she pull it off? ✓

21. Bernie calls Tara soon after Luke has left. He accuses her of wiping Luke's memory. She admits it, but tells him Luke is a Soviet agent. Is he hell, says Bernie. He knows that cannot possibly be true. Bernie himself was a Soviet agent in the war—and it was Luke who put an end to his career.

We flash back to 1944. Luke and Bernie are in occupied France. There are two main Resistance groups: 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. In the fracas,

Bernie saves Luke's life. As they are unloading the wagons, a large force of communists attack them and steal their booty.

Luke, knowing Bernie's politics, accuses him of tipping off the communists. Bernie admits it. He is serving two masters. He is trying to help the communist Resistance so that they will be in a strong political position after the war. (British intelligence is busy favouring the Gaullists for a similar reason.) But, Bernie says, he would never do anything against his own country.

Luke makes a deal. He will not denounce Bernie if Bernie ends his double life immediately.

Both men keep their promises.

22. Luke reaches the Carlton hotel at 10.30pm.

Pete sees him in the lobby, calls Luke's room on the house phone, and alerts Anthony. Anthony gets ready to murder his oldest friend.

Luke stops at the desk for messages. There is only one. He heads for his room, tearing the envelope as he walks. The message is from Bernie. "Your life is in danger. Call me as soon as you get this. Call from the lobby—don't go to your room! I'm waiting by the phone."

Luke hesitates, looks around the lobby, then goes to a pay phone and calls the number on the message.

Pete reports this to Anthony.

Bernie tells Luke that Anthony and Tara are responsible for his amnesia. He persuades Luke to leave the hotel at once and meet him. He gives the address of a night club.

Luke hangs up and walks outside.

Pete reports this to Anthony. Anthony comes running into the lobby and steps outside just in time to see Luke getting into a taxi. Anthony and Pete get in their car and follow.

Luke gets out of the taxi and goes into the nightclub. Anthony follows but he hesitates to kill Luke in front of hundreds of people. He loses Luke in the crowd.

Luke meets Bernie. There is a chase, but Luke and Bernie get away.

It is midnight.

More fun, I think, if L can be proactive earlier in the story. If the amnesia wears off, but he feigns the amnesia state he can make counter-moves.
Better if L is the proactive one rather than B, if it's he who organizes this phase

Part 2: Thursday

23. Bernie takes Luke to the hospital where Tara works. By a mixture of bluff and burglary, they get into Tara's office. Bernie says Tara is so high-principled that she would be sure to keep a patient record, even when what she had done was illegal. Sure enough, they find a record for "Luke Corel", who was brought in yesterday by his "brother", Anthony. He was treated for acute paranoia with a combination of drugs and electric shock. But he was discharged, at the insistence of his "brother", after 24 hours.

Bernie explains....

But don't we already know all the above? These details don't advance the action.

24. We flash back to 1953.

Bernie and Tara are married, though not happily. They have a son, Coltrane, aged two. Tara, a woman much ahead of her time, returns to work. It is only now that Bernie discovers exactly what her work is.

In the war, no one knew much about what she was doing, except that it was a hush-hush project to do with interrogation of prisoners-of-war. In fact she was part of a (real-life) OSS research project to find drugs and other treatments that would affect the mental states of prisoners, especially to (i) reduce their resistance to interrogation and (ii) induce amnesia. After the war (again in real life) the program was continued by the CIA. The Agency funded studies in universities and hospitals. When Tara had completed her education, she joined one such study (and will be its Director in 1958).

Bernie disapproves. He calls it brainwashing. Tara argues fiercely that this is cutting-edge research into the way the mind works, and no one has ever been subjected to treatment against their will. Not yet, says Bernie.

He is working as a radio scriptwriter, but wants to go to Hollywood. Now he writes a screenplay about a government agency that brainwashes unsuspecting citizens. The movie is a hit, and he is deluged with Hollywood offers.

Tara finds out what the movie is about when she goes to the premiere. She is mortified.

The film embarrasses her profoundly with her bosses and the CIA. She just manages to hold on to her job. But this is the last straw that breaks the back of the marriage. She has the mother and father of all rows with Bernie, and walks out, never to return. They get divorced.

The CIA takes its revenge on Bernie. Anthony arranges for him to be targeted by Senator McCarthy and the House Un-American Activities Committee. (Anthony has a double motive. Moscow is mad at Bernie for refusing to work for them after the incident in France in 1944. They are happy to hang Bernie out to dry.) Bernie is blacklisted by Hollywood and his movie career is over. He cannot even get radio work any more. He starts writing kids' books under a pseudonym.

Feels like another novel. Are we all that interested in Bernie and his history? Seems a discussion. Especially since both IT & T have no recent goals vis a vis one another.

25. Anthony is furious with himself for losing Luke a second time. He interrogates the hotel staff and turns up a copy of Bernie's message. He goes to the address he has for Bernie, but it is out of date. He is forced to call Tara and ask her where Bernie is.

She tells him she does not know.

He asks her whether Luke asked her to keep anything for him, or mentioned any documents. She says he did not.

P.O.V. ? Ideally, this should mark a change in their relationship. Either one of them now no longer trusts the other, or neither trusts the other.

26. She does know where Bernie lives—she even has her own key—but she now realises she was deceived by Anthony, and she is desperate to atone for what she has done by helping Luke. She now goes to Bernie's apartment and lets herself in. A few minutes later, Bernie arrives with Luke. She tells them everything.

Luke is very excited by the news that Anthony thinks he has documentary evidence of the spy. Luke feels sure that the reason he stopped over in Huntsville on Monday was to stash the evidence. (Anthony does not know about the stopover.) Luke and Bernie now decide to go to Huntsville.

It is 5am. They check flights and find an early plane going to Nashville. Once there, they can rent a car and drive the 100 miles to Huntsville. *L. by now should have fully regained his memory. Has 2 objectives -- keep A off his back and find out who is trying to sabotage the launch.*

27. Tara calls Anthony, tells him (now that it is too late) where Bernie lives, and says she has

this discovery should be a major event

Tara is tormented by guilt about her role
in Kalle's problems. She is keen to redeem
herself by saving him.

spoken to Bernie and learned that he and Luke are flying to Cape Canaveral.

Better if she does as the suggestion of L.

Anthony and Pete catch a plane to Cape Canaveral.

Why does she do this? What is it for her?

28. Tara is still in Bernie's apartment when someone quietly breaks in. She hides.

The intruder is Nik. He looks around, giving Tara several tense moments.

He takes the scratch pad from beside the phone, and leaves.

Tara follows him.

He seems to come out of nowhere. Do we really need him?

He goes to the airport and gets a plane to Huntsville.

Tara gets on the same flight.

Why? Is this in character for her? What about her child, other responsibilities? What does she think she can do?

29. Luke and Bernie arrive at Luke's house in Huntsville at 5.30pm, five hours away from the launch. Bernie, who has driven from Nashville, goes to sleep on the guest bed. Luke searches the place, but finds nothing that looks like evidence of a spy. He examines Elspeth's clothes and personal possessions, wondering what she is like. In one of her drawers, concealed, he finds a bundle of letters from an adoption agency. One says that he and she have been approved as foster parents. Subsequent letters ask why no replies have been received to earlier letters. It is clear that Elspeth has been intercepting and hiding these letters, and not replying to them. She has deceived Luke. But why? And why did she keep the letters, loving tied up and carefully hidden?

Could he have misplaced the papers rather than forgotten where he put them?

Leaving Bernie asleep, Luke goes to the base to search his office.

How does he now know where it is?

30. Tara and Nik land in Huntsville. Tara follows Nik to Luke's house. She watches as Nik creeps around the back and breaks in.

31. Luke finds nothing in his office. But a voluptuous young woman comes in. She is Julia, wife of Col. Hyde, the head of security at the base. She is seductive, and comes on strong to Luke.

He tells her he has lost his memory and he is looking for some papers he may have stashed in a safe place. She tells him they are lovers, and he probably hid the papers in their secret assignation place. She takes him to a storage hut near the static test firing pad.

Too late in the story to introduce this kind of relationship. If we keep this, she should have been leaving messages for him all over Washington.

There, she tries to seduce him, but he resists. Then she admits they were never lovers. She was keen, but he never yielded, and she cannot understand why he is so loyal to his iceberg wife. She certainly is not loyal to Col. Hyde, who is madly in love with Luke's wife, Elspeth.

The truth is that on Monday she saw him sneaking off here and followed him. She tried to seduce him then, but failed as she failed today. *suggest you cut this or find a way to make it an organic part of the story.*

Luke searches the hut and finds an envelope of Xeroxed documents.

The documents describe the self-destruct system of the missile which is to be launched in a little over one hour. Every missile has such a system. If the rocket should veer off course and endanger life or property, the range safety officer can blow it up in mid-air. The mechanism is activated by a radio signal. To avoid accidental detonation, it responds only to a complex signal on three different frequencies—like a code.

The photocopied documents include an exact specification of the radio signal. Anyone who has this information will be able to blow up the missile at launch. The person would not even need to be at Cape Canaveral: a powerful radio transmitter could do the job from any distance. *To convey all this info you may need rewrite present or some other character.*

The envelope bears a typed label with a Washington, DC, address, which Luke assumes to be a KGB letter-box.

Luke concludes that the big event which occurred on Sunday was that he intercepted this letter. However, not knowing the identity of the spy, he was afraid to share his discovery with anyone at Cape Canaveral, even the security officer. So he stashed the evidence then went to Washington to alert the CIA. But that gave Anthony the opportunity to intervene and protect the spy.

So the spy is still in place—and may well have found some other means to transmit this crucial information to the KGB. So Luke's urgent task is to warn Wernher von Braun at Cape Canaveral and get him to change the radio signal that activates the self-destruct mechanism.

It is 9.30pm. He has one hour.

He must get to a phone.

He leaves the hut and heads for his office—but then he sees Anthony and Pete entering the base.

By now he should have discovered that E is the spy, and A should know that he knows (or suspects that he knows) and must try both to stop L and to warn E.

He changes course and heads for his home. — ?

32. Anthony and Pete soon discovered, when they arrived at Cape Canaveral, that they had been deceived. Checking flights, which they should have done earlier instead of believing Tara, they learned that Luke flew to Nashville and deduced he must be in Huntsville.

Now they search his office and find nothing.

33. ^{How?} Tara warns Luke that Nik is in his house.

Luke knows that Bernie is in there. He and Tara sneak in. Silently, Luke moves through the house, stalking Nik. They meet and fight, and Luke kills Nik. But he is too late to save Bernie, who is dead. *For this to work it must have a profound effect on L. Not sure we need it.*

Luke makes the call to Cape Canaveral in time. But he learns that the launch has been postponed yet again. However, this will be the last time: if the jet stream remains where it is tomorrow, they will take a chance.

Von Braun changes the radio signal for the self-destruct mechanism. But the spy still has 24 hours in which to find a way to sabotage the launch.

34. Elspeth calls Anthony and tells him there is a new radio signal. He tells her: "Get the details of the new signal—at all costs!" *What is the personal component between A & E? What is at risk for each of them?*

35. Luke and Tara learn there is a late night MATS flight to Florida. They drive to the airport in the hope of getting on it. But, when they arrive, they spot Anthony and Pete getting on the plane.

They find there is a train from Atlanta that goes to Savannah then along the Florida coast to Cape Canaveral (and beyond). They set out to drive to Atlanta.

It is midnight.

Wouldn't L keep trying to get through to V.B. or the phone?

What did L tell him
and when? No mention
earlier of any contact
with him. 28

Part 3: Friday

36. Luke and Tara get a sleeping compartment and make love on the train.

37. Von Braun reports to the CIA what Luke has told him. The Agency orders Anthony to return to Washington immediately. He ignores the order. Pete, who for so long has been doggedly loyal, now realises his boss has gone rogue, and tries to arrest Anthony. Anthony kills him.

Need to prepare that he has the capacity for this.
Or does he?

38. One way to avoid catastrophe of what kind? Do they now all know the danger? now would be to postpone the launch. This is the recommendation of Carl Hobart, Anthony's boss. But it is vetoed by President Eisenhower. An indefinite postponement would be a political disaster. The launch must go ahead.

If she's to play so major a role, we'll
need more of her earlier.

39. Elspeth establishes that only two people have details of the new radio signal: the engineer who recalibrated the machinery, and the head of security, Col. Hyde.

She learns that Hyde has the details on a sheet of paper in a locked drawer. She watches, but Hyde does not leave his room. She racks her brains as to how to get a look at the document.

40. Luke and Tara arrive at Cape Canaveral as the countdown begins. They have a conference with Col. Hyde. Hyde says the photocopied documents, which Luke now has, bear a code which will reveal who made the copies. But when he checks, he finds the code is that of von Braun. Someone else must have used von Braun's code. (It does not occur to them) that that person might be von Braun's secretary, Luke's wife, Elspeth.)

Suggest they already
knew this?

All they can do now is hope to keep the new radio signal secret for another two hours.

41. With two hours to go until launch, Elspeth is ready to try anything to get the new radio signal. She enters Col. Hyde's office. Hyde has never made any secret of his lust for Elspeth and he cannot believe his luck when she starts kissing him. She slides his keys out of his pants pocket. Then she tells him to go to a particular storeroom and wait for her—she will be there in two minutes.

More credible if the affair has been ongoing.
Probably this is how she would have
got the code in the first place -
Also if we have this we don't
want the earlier seductress with L.

When he has gone, she opens the drawer and copies details of the radio signal.

42. Luke and Elspeth have a domestic confrontation. He shows her the adoption letters. She tells him she did not want children but, knowing how much he wanted them, she lacked the courage to tell him the truth; so she deceived him. Sobbing, she says this deception has undermined their marriage (which is not far from the truth), and she tells him they should divorce. You should marry Tara, she says; you have always loved her. But then Elspeth says she has always loved Luke and she always will. *I like this a lot*

Luke is left as bewildered as ever.

43. Elspeth leaves the base with only 30 minutes left to ignition. Listening to the countdown on her car radio, she races to her rendezvous with Anthony. *why must she race to him?*

Luke, suspicious, notices her leaving, and follows her.

She meets Anthony on the beach, where the world's media are gathered to watch the take-off. Anthony has a powerful radio transmitter in the trunk of his car.

Frantically, Anthony resets the transmitter to the new signal. He gets it done with a minute to spare.

Then Luke appears. He shoots and kills Anthony. *They need a personal final confrontation*

Elspeth confesses everything to Luke. The only thing she truly regrets, she says, is not giving him children. She begs him to let her catch a plane to Moscow. He agrees.

The countdown reaches zero. Elspeth makes a lunge for the switch. Luke shoots her.

As she lies dying in his arms, they both watch the rocket rise into the sky on its pillar of fire.

When it is at last out of sight, Luke sees that Elspeth is dead.

where is Tara?

The end.