

26<sup>th</sup> November 1999

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Dear Ken,

**A DEADLY REMEMBRANCE**

Et voila – my notes on the first draft. The usual mix, some of which I know you'll take with a pinch of salt! I've really enjoyed it. You've handled the structure so well – and it was an ambitious one, not only because of the flashbacks but of course because of Luke's amnesia too. But you carry the reader forward with just the right mix of explanation and revelation. The notes at the beginning of each chapter are cleverly chosen and the chapter endings are particularly strong. Glad not too many bodies littered the final scene: suicide was the only way out for Elspeth and the denouement is really well worked out now.

I have just a couple of general comments to make, one being about the political background. I've steered clear of this in my notes because, frankly, the simple approach you take to the politics of the time in America struck me (this not being my strong subject!) as clear and appropriate in the emphasis you give it. I'll leave it to my American colleagues to comment further if need be.

The other thing is Luke. I think he's a little flat and restrained at times. Not quite sexy enough (perhaps make that charismatic). He's damn clever, but stifled by his overriding sense of moral duty. Is it unfair to call him a bit of a prig sometimes? I think perhaps with Billie I was wishing he'd throw caution to the wind more. And become more assertive and determined when the jigsaw of who and what he is is complete, to contrast with his earlier tentative steps to find out the truth.

Well, I hope some of what I've pointed out makes sense. Please, as ever, query or ignore any, or all, of it.

And last but not least, many congratulations on a terrific first draft.

Yours ever,



Suzanne Baboneau

## A DEADLY REMEMBRANCE

### Editorial notes on first draft 27/10/99

Page	Line	Comment
PART ONE		
7	5	✓ delete 'of shock' because 'shocking' is in line above
8	18	✗ would a hobo wear a jacket? Jacket and pants sounds like a suit
10	2-5	✓ avoid repetition of 'out' on each of these lines
11	3	✓ 'silent, taciturn' – similar meaning
	15	✗ 'trenchcoat' - was 'raincoat' on page 8, line 18. 'coat' here would be sufficient
12	2	✗ thirsty rather than hungry
13	17	✗ 'relieved' rather than 'pleased' ?
18	1	✓ 'the most important day of her life' – see also p 88, line 13 'the most important day of Anthony's career'. Intentional repetition?
19	8	don't like 'pointed like space rockets'! Do we need this para about Elspeth's underwear in fact?
	12	✓ describe colour of the belt (blue/white?) so we can envisage colour of the shoes in the next line
23	5	✓ ICBMs – ?
24	11ff	✓✓ I'm still concerned about Theo Packman. I think because he is such a linchpin of the whole operation and yet he remains a shadowy, rather inept figure who is offstage for most of the book. Elspeth and Anthony are putting enormous trust in him to pull off the final coup – but he seems to me to be the weak link. Is this deliberate?
	20	✓ Theo, not Leo
34	15	✓ 'That's terrible' is rather a stock response from Luke here.



- 97            8, 9 & 12        ✓ awkward repetition of 'pack' (Packman, pack, package)
- 98            13                × 'He was an expert at this' – how does he know?
- 99            18-19            ✓ Would it ever cross Luke's mind to try to tail Packman to see where his possession of the documents will lead him?
- 100           20ff              ✓ Could not Luke simply call von Braun on the phone in Washington to alert him? After all, he's put through to him with no problem later on (page 547)
- 105           15                ✓ cut 'Women sometimes knew... given no hint' - it's a bit of a woolly concept
- 112           last line        × 'spongebag pants' ?
- 118           10                ✓ 'lovable' – odd word to describe Luke (suggests cuddly which he isn't)
- last para        ✓ 'Luke who had generously... from expulsion' – suggest we cut this as we know/have seen this already

## PART TWO

- 121           11-12            ✓ cut these two lines – I think the next two are plenty
- 124           4                 ✓ change 'little finger' to 'forefinger' as per page 196, line 11
- 13                ✓ cut unnecessary 'She looked as if she did not eat very well'
- 20                × 'Sure' sounds less formal than 'Yes, please'
- 130           10                ✓ Anthony has asked the guys to sit down here but in last line they're still standing. Also avoid repetition (in lines 10 and 22) of 'He sat behind his desk'
- 134           13                ✓ '... from the other direction *with his father,*' is clearer
- 19                ✓ Harold's profession is repeated on page 239, line 18
- 20                ✓ and page 135, first line – awkward repetition of 'touch/ed' in different contexts

- 135 2 / 'concern' rather than 'fear'?
- 141 17 / unnecessary to mention Sandra's name here – simply '*They could hardly believe...*'
- 143 3-4 x cut 'but she did not know... passing constantly' 'She wanted to hug him. Instead she took a deep breath' is tighter and the reader will know that she is exercising restraint
- 147-148 ✓ I found the sudden switch of mood on Billie's part a little hard to take without more justification. In other words, her emotions are running so high that, yes, she could give way to anger but more as a defence mechanism against giving in to her feelings. Keep the passionate undercurrents here so that we can see that she is using her anger to cloak her vulnerability. See also page 154, line 12
- 150 4 ✓ 'impossibly dangerous' - I suppose nowadays we'd be asking why they couldn't get it together (neither are married)? Can you qualify this statement a little more here?
- 155 16 / 'masculine nipples' ?
- 17 x also cut unnecessary 'Oh God, you look great'
- last line / why 'shockingly hairy'?
- 158 2<sup>nd</sup> para / weirdly struck by repetition of 'him' eight times!
- 159 6 x assume Ford Fiesta okay for 1950s America as I queried this in outline
- 163 3 / Track 9 was Track Twelve on page 161, line 20
- 14 / don't need to state the obvious -'his clothes would be too tight on Luke's frame'
- 18 / why would a leather jacket and jeans be conspicuous?
- 168 8 / 'tipping off reporters on a confidential basis' suggests a contradiction in terms! Can they really trust the press?
- 15 / 'As usual, he was too absorbed... pretty Elspeth was' – cut as her attractiveness to men is mentioned elsewhere and seems redundant here
- 169 2 / 'This was *bound* to be' because of 'Sure' repeated on line 4

- 170            14            / something stronger and more male needed here than 'heartbroken' - 'devastated' ?
- 173            7              / we've already had Col Hide described on page 92, line 12ff. Amalgamate the two descriptions?
- 182            9              X do we need to be reminded that Anthony is Billie's former boyfriend and big shot in the CIA?
- 12 & 15        / 'OSS' or 'the OSS' ?
- 19 & 22        / 'not sure the Agency got much for its money' contradicts 'the American taxpayer was getting first-class scientific research for his bucks'
- 185            6ff            X 'A red Thunderbird' – obviously Billie's but a coincidence too far ?
- 186            last line      / Is Luke risking drawing too much attention to himself? He might not suspect that someone across this residential street could be watching him? Also page 187, 15 – 'No one was looking' seems a little naïve on his part
- 191            4              X 'a smooth indoor face' – also on page 210, line 20 But would he have such a complexion after he's been through the war (see eg description on page 142, line 17ff). More weathered, lined is likely?
- 193            18             would Luke really have risked driving back down the street he'd broken into? Was it, for instance, the only route he could take to get out of the neighbourhood? *Yes.*
- 194            8              / Cut from here to page 195, line 4? Do we need this background about Cuba – is it too quick and intrusive?
- 200            16             / 'he sensed that other people knew it'. On last line they remarking on it, so they obviously do
- 202            4              / 'if Donovan asks for me' is clearer
- 206            21             / 'I don't want the baby...' I'd like to see Billie struggle more with her emotions in this scene, particularly as it is Luke's baby she is aborting. It's a hell of a decision whatever the circumstances, especially to someone like Billie
- 207            7              / 'visible *in* her eyes'
- 14              / 'hard to refuse him anything *now*' – ie since his offer of support

- 209            15            / 'elated' rather than 'thrilled' here?
- last line        X 'he knew the words of...' is also mentioned at top of page 122, so cut here
- 210            12            / 'gratitude' – to whom or to what?
- 213            11            X does Luke recognise von Braun from his photo? No.
- 217            11            / is 'thrilled' excessive here? Simply 'pleased'?
- 228            16-19        X how does Luke know which way to go to get to the Smithsonian?

**PART THREE**

- 233            13            / given that this is the moment of revelation for Luke, his responses here and on lines 16 and 19 seem flat and unemotional
- 235            17            / can we inject a greater sense of urgency and drama into this exchange between Luke and Marigold? Nothing over the top as I imagine Luke is still shell-shocked, but he's making his situation sound a touch boring! And lose eg 'You poor man'
- 239            8            / cut 'She had no wish to destroy Anthony' as really this is spelled out later in line 16
- 240            10            / 'legs twinkling'?
- 241            9            / funny, I didn't picture Bern as 'thin and nervy' (when we first meet him on page 5) – it suggests a bit nerdy which he isn't
- 246            9            / 'There was normally some joshing... the scientists were all men, of course – but' – cut as this point is becoming laboured?
- 247            4            X 'like the triumphant shout ... wretched' - doesn't work for me!
- 7            / 'she guessed she would... any problem' - how would he have got in touch with her? This all seems vague given the vital importance of Theo's mission and underlines the current vagueness I'm associating with his role
- 265            17            / 'Obviously he had only been pretending to be a bum' – unnecessary, so cut ?
- 21            / 'dissembling' rather than 'dissimulating'

- 266 1 ✓ 'It looked as if Pete...' isn't this rather overstating the point?
- 269 4ff ✓ suggest rearranging to read: '... Anthony intended to kill him. [np] Luke was sweating under his heavy winter coat. He felt as if this sort of thing had happened to him before, more than once, but a long time ago. He wished now that he had kept the gun of the cop whose finger he had broken. He was scared, but not desperate...'
- last line ✓ 'old-fashioned' – even in 1950s?
- 271 13 ✓ would he still be wearing a hat even after all the scuffles and in steamy Florida?

- 277 3 / wouldn't Anthony have cleared up in the room to avoid any suspicion of a disturbance? He would have had time after all
- 285 11 & 14 / something awry here: repetition of 'that has been in the newspapers' and 'Our answer to Sputnik'
- 291 3 & 9 / 'That's/It's the truth' repeated
- 292 10 / Dan should be Bern (also p 314, line 14 and p 315, line 9) PS Bern is a great name for him
- 293 6 / 'Light footsteps' rather than 'Small footsteps'
- 296 17 / 'He hero-worships you' is v closely repeated on page 319, line 17. Although it's Billie saying it the first time and Bern the next, it's essentially the same observation
- 297 6-7 / suggest cutting awkward 'was vaguely surprised ... continuing romantic life'. What follows is enough
- 299 5, 6 & 8 / awkward repetition of 'were/was here'
- 300 1 / cut 'and furnished... Spanish theme' as already described on page 279, line 2
- 314 12 / 'not in the mood for booze' but Billie has already drunk Harold's martinis (line 4)
- 315 17 / delete 'pleasantly' – a bit meaningless anyway but also clashes with 'pleasure' in line 19
- 321 2 / Luke can't identify von Braun yet he saw him in a photo in the library book (page 213, line 11). Wouldn't there be a chance he'd remember this?
- 9 / 'very worried' – shouldn't it be something stronger eg 'extremely anxious'? Also 'worried' is used in line 8
- 10 / cut 'I'm suffering from amnesia, which makes things difficult, but' – unnecessary as becomes clear a few lines down and also the second part is a real understatement!
- 322 3 / cut 'I think'. Luke must sound more purposeful

#### PART FOUR

- 326 11 / we already know (pages 167 and 247) that Frederickson is the launch conductor, so lose here?

- 327      16      ✓ doesn't quite work grammatically here so move 'She had to suppress the urge to flee' to after 'a few minutes asking questions.'
- 329      12      ✓ 'Anthony was having a defeated moment' – sense?
- 13      ✓ 'she shouted' – but isn't Elspeth in an open plan office and thereby she risks being overheard?
- 334      2-6      ✓ These sentences come across as rather disjointed and rambling. Perhaps simply build into one para and run the two reasons for her crying together: '... for fear that her marriage was over, and because she knew how badly Luke would be hurt if he learned that their love was based on a lie' ?
- 10      ✓ 'She dialled Anthony's number *again*' is clearer
- 336      12      ✓ the Explorer rocket – is this the same as the Jupiter C? Has it been called this before? (also page 345, line 14)
- 338      20      ✓ such a minor point but can we switch to 'Pete and Harry and Steve' so it doesn't sound like 'Tom, Dick and Harry' ?
- 342      2ff      ✓ Perhaps Anthony would recall here the night in 1941 when his father lay in wait for him and Billie in his Harvard room ?
- 349      6      ✓ 'It's my car. I'll drive.' But back on page 317, last line, Billie is happy to let Luke drive
- 350      3      ✓ Keep momentum going and cut 'She drove fast... in admiration'
- 353      2      ✗ pink pyjamas on a man?
- last line ✗ 'smiled' rather than more flippant 'giggled'
- 360      7      ✓ cut 'as he thought of it'
- 362      4      ✓ cut unnecessary 'It was him, wasn't it?' The 'oh, shit' speaks for itself
- 368      1      ✓ we'll need reminding here about Peg (that she used to be Bern's girlfriend)
- 9      ✗ cut 'even her magnificent breasts seemed a little smaller' ?
- 369      14 & 17 ✓ repetition of 'regain/ed'
- 18      ✓ Luke, not Anthony, is handing round the cups

- 375 3 ✓ is 'bemused' the right word here? Something like 'dazed' ?
- 16 ✓ 'She looked sad' is anticlimactic here given Luke's ultimatum
- 380 5-10 ✓ suggest we cut 'Want me to go with you... He liked to be independent' as it's more or less a repetition of page 365, lines 6-10
- 15-19 ✓ likewise, this dialogue is too close to lines 15-19 on page 365, so needs reworking
- 383 3 - new sentence for clarity here: 'He would not remember any of the reasons...'
- 8 ✓ cut unnecessary 'She would be asleep but'
- 388 14-16 ✓ Peg has already been described back on page 368, lines 9-11. Careful the two don't overlap. Also, is 'dowdy' really the same as 'bluestocking'?
- 393 5 ✓ 'Bern offered to drive them' is more straightforward and cuts back on the number of 'said's
- 394 7 ✓ 'over a decade ago' to avoid repetition of 'more than' in same line
- 14 ✓ 'She looked a question at him' - sense?
- 401 14 ✓ 'his voice became urgent and impassioned' – but don't forget that they're still whispering in the back row
- 402 9 ✓ similarly, would Elspeth be able to see Nik tying a knot in the dark of the cinema? This exchange between them seems too impassioned to be conducted in whispers!
- 420 7 ✓ would his intention have been to kill Billie here? The reason he didn't ('hours of questioning') seems callous and weak even for Anthony
- 422 15ff ✓ What about Anthony's plan to go to Europe? See page 336, line 4 ('Europe was his best option'). And when had he packed his suitcase with passports etc? Am I losing the thread here?
- 19 ✓ how exactly and by whom would Anthony be unmasked? More specific here?
- 426 5 - 'the adults who needed comfort *too*' is better?
- 15 ✓ is Billie a little too hasty in thinking that Larry is

okay after his ordeal, and dismissing his needs too quickly? Also v casual when she leaves (page 428, line 16 'See you later') or is this deliberate to maintain a semblance of normality? After all, she is a psychologist. She just struck me as a little offhand towards Larry in this scene

last line suggest we cut 'She loved Luke, even though she knew she could never have him' - more effective here if left unsaid, but implied

**PART FIVE**

- 433 13 X run this conversation on as 'Then I took you to the airport. That's all I know' to speed up the dialogue
- 443 20 / also Pete saw Billie at Arlington cemetery when Anthony was holding Larry hostage
- 446 8 X cut 'She wiped her lips... half-eaten' to step up the pace
- 450 20 / 'it would be unwise' is more emphatic
- 462 17 / Anthony has so much experience that wouldn't he have covered his tracks here and washed up?
- 467 14 / 'after he discovered his identity' is unnecessary here?
- 468 last line / 'old rugs, books and records everywhere' – see also page 464, line 13ff. Cut here?
- 470 18 / first mention, I think, that Billie has brought the gun with her. Make the point earlier?
- 472 4 / 'At the end of her search' – but she still has the living room to check (next para). 'Nearing the end of her search' better?
- 484 2 / cut this line? (sometimes Luke's responses are too routine)
- 495 21 / 'put an end to agonizing over ethics' - at face value, is this all Anthony's beliefs add up to? Better something like, simply: 'putting an end to it all' ?
- 497 6 / we know on page 483, line 5, what Billie is wearing so cut here
- 498 last para Luke sounds clumsy here: 'I've been carrying... something more urgent to do' - could you rework?

501            13-15            / cut rather dilatory "What?... I guess"  
 last line            / cut 'and enjoyed the sensation'

**PART SIX**

508            3                    / 'a spy had been arrested' – who? Theo got away  
 - or is this the spin doctors at work? Or, more  
 likely, have I missed something here?

509            last line            / add 'Elspeth asked' here so it's clear who's  
 speaking

512            8                    / 'you've divorced me in your heart' – doesn't sound  
 the sort of thing Elspeth would say!

523            9                    / should Hide be kneeling here? Just that he does  
 on page 544, line 13, as does Elspeth on page 539,  
 line 3

526                    / remind us quickly here that Nik has brought the  
 new transmitter with him ?

535            last line            / 'I was afraid of this' – again a rather dull response  
 from Luke. Especially at this moment, I'd love to  
 see him express more emotion/passion

538            6                    / water coolers in offices okay in 1950s?

550            6                    / should we see the cars even more spaced out now  
 - so that there isn't any risk of a bystander  
 witnessing the confrontation and hearing the shot  
 in the next chapter?

**Ends...**

**SB**  
**25/11/99**