

# JACKDAWS BY NIGHT

## by Ken Follett

Outline—2nd draft  
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### **AZ: GENERAL—**

- A. *Some sense that the Resistance people are intimately involved in the making of champagne: growing grapes, making wine, bottles, corks, labels. Some of them might be called away to urgent tasks in the vineyards. (KF: May is the crucial flowering period.) NB The Germans in this region behaved "correctly" and, among other courtesies, allowed the French to continue with their business of making champagne.*
- B. *Flashes of excitement about what's happening in the rest of the war. KF: Actually, all the excitement is right here at this point.*
- C. *For commercial reasons, it would be useful to have a good German and a good Frenchman running through the story. The good German could be Dieter's sidekick. KF: The good Frenchman could be Dr Claude.*
- D. *Make it clear that it was a continual problem for the Resistance to get motor vehicles and the fuel for them. Put in some bicycles and maybe even horse-drawn transport.*

Exactly 50 women were sent into France as secret agents by the Special Operations Executive during the Second World War. Of those, 36 survived the war. The other 14 gave their lives. This novel is dedicated to all of them.

## THE FIRST DAY: SUNDAY, 28 MAY 1944

### Chapter One

*AZ: Some conversation between Dieter and Flick in this scene would intensify their later personal conflict. They could experience one another's charm, flirtatiousness, and shared love of France.*

1. Sainte-Cecile is a small town near the cathedral city of Reims, in the champagne district of north-east France. The country has been under Nazi occupation for four years. The square in the town centre is dominated by a chateau in a walled garden on its north side. It is a beautiful seventeenth-century building, and a German tourist and his wife are taking photographs of it with a large camera. It has been bombed by the Allies, and parts of it are in ruins, but the central portion is intact.

On the east side of the square is the church. The bell is ringing a languid toll for the evening service, and a good-sized congregation is drifting toward the church door. Opposite the church, on the west side of the square, is the Mairie, run by a retired military man with Fascist sympathies who collaborates happily with the Germans. On the south side of the square is a row of shops and a café.

2. At a pavement table outside the café sits Felicity Clairet, 28, known as Flick, a beautiful English girl in a shabby dress. She is a British officer with the rank of major. Officially, she is with the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry (FANY), the all-female military service that consists mainly of drivers and wireless operators. In fact she works for a secret organisation, the Special Operations Executive, which is responsible for sabotage behind enemy lines, in its F Section (for France). Her job is liaison between SOE headquarters, at 64 Baker Street in London, and Resistance groups in northern France.

The job is dangerous. She has to parachute into enemy territory at night, move around with false papers, meet Resistance cadres who are being actively sought by the Nazis, then rendezvous with a small plane for the return journey. The men and women doing this work do not last long. Of 22 women sent in up to the end of 1943, eight have been captured, some because of simple blunders or sheer bad luck, others betrayed by double agents who infiltrated Resistance circuits. Those captured are interrogated, tortured, and sent to concentration camps in Germany, where some die of ill-treatment and others are executed, hanged with piano wire or shot.

Flick is an extraordinary woman. Coming from a humble background, she won a scholarship to Oxford University, where she studied French and German, then began work on a doctorate at the Sorbonne, interrupted by the war. She intended to become a university teacher, passing her love of French culture on to young people, to broaden their minds and stimulate their imaginations. She despises narrow patriotism and believes the best cure for it is knowledge of foreign cultures. Two years of undercover work have made her physically and mentally tough, occasionally ruthless, and security-conscious to the point of paranoia. She is hero-worshipped in the Resistance and revered by a small circle in London. Her codename is Leopardess.

3. Beside her sits her French husband, Michel Clairet, 35, leader of the Reims-based Resistance circuit codenamed Bollinger. Handsome and charming, Michel won

her heart when she was a student in Paris before the war. But their passion has cooled, and Flick is wondering how she can win back his love. In the Bollinger circuit is a beautiful but stupid French girl, Gilberte, 19, and in the last few days Flick has noticed signs—a look, a touch, a shared smile—that make her think Michel has his eye on Gilberte.

4. The chateau, once the residence of the Comte de Sainte-Cecile, now houses the largest telephone exchange in Europe. If you draw a line on the map from Berlin to Paris, and another from London to Milan, they intersect at Sainte-Cecile. Perhaps more important, the government minister responsible for siting the exchange ten years ago was born in Sainte-Cecile.

Allied bombers have failed to put the exchange out of action. The building has been hit, but the damage was quickly repaired. MI6, the British Secret Intelligence Service, believes that the most vulnerable, hard-to-repair equipment is housed in bombproof rooms in the basement. There is also a Gestapo post in the basement but, says MI6, it is not heavily staffed, with only about a dozen men.

SOE has ordered the Bollinger circuit to attack the building by frontal assault. Flick has brought these orders with trepidation, knowing that guerilla fighters rarely prevail against regular troops in direct confrontation. However, if MI6's intelligence is correct, they should face a mere handful of enemy soldiers.

Michel has accepted the assignment with alacrity. He is a courageous and charismatic leader. But he is all verve and dash, no good at organisation and planning. However, Flick has helped him produce an attack plan. In this they have been helped by Antoinette, not a member of the Resistance though a sympathiser. She is in charge of the group of local women who clean the chateau every evening between seven p.m. and ten p.m. (Right now Flick can see them, showing their passes to the sentry at the gate. Maybe it occurs to Flick right now that if the Resistance men could have disguised themselves as cleaners they could have got inside without firing a shot.) Antoinette has provided a floor plan of the chateau showing the entrance to the basement. However, she does not know the layout of the basement as it is cleaned by German soldiers.

5. Flick's mind is on the Resistance men and women who are about to risk their lives. She thinks of Bertrand, an 18-year-old who begged to be allowed to join in the fight; Albert, whose wife has just given birth; Genevieve, a beautiful girl who insists on fighting like a man. She thinks of the possibilities: death, agonising wounds, capture and torture, or triumph.

6. While she waits for the attack signal—an explosion—she looks at the German tourist taking photographs. He is a handsome man of about 40, beautifully dressed. His English sports car is carelessly parked next to the church. The woman with him is not his wife, Flick decides; she is too glamorous and too interested in him. Flick's instincts tell her that he is not a tourist. There is a watchful quality to him that makes him seem dangerous. The hairs on the back of Flick's neck stand up.

## Chapter Two

7. The "tourist" is Colonel Dieter Franck, an attractive, cultured man, bon viveur and womanizer, fond of champagne and foie gras, Bach and pornography. He prefers

civilian clothing, and buys shirts and ties from the legendary Paris chemisier Charvet. He is a Francophile, like Flick, in love with all things French. In his Paris apartment is a priceless collection of purloined Impressionist paintings.

His father was a professor of music, but Dieter (displeasing his parents) became a police detective and, at the outbreak of war, was head of the criminal intelligence department of the Cologne police. Now he is an intelligence officer in the German army. In the desert with Rommel he became an expert at interrogating prisoners-of-war and getting military information out of them. He speaks French and English well. He uses torture when necessary, but prefers trickery and emotional manipulation.

Dieter is not a stupid Nazi, but he has a Nietzschean philosophy: he believes war is a good thing, existentially, because it enables people to become what they really are—the sadists become torturers, the psychopaths make brave front-line troops, the bullies and the victims alike have scope to play their chosen roles to the hilt, and the whores are always busy.

8. He has a wife and two children in Cologne. The woman with him is Stephanie, a half-Jewish French woman, beautiful and sophisticated, but corrupt.

9. Dieter is on a mission for Rommel. Everyone expects the Allied invasion in the next few weeks. Rommel's task is to repel the invading forces quickly, preventing them from establishing a beachhead. Not knowing exactly where the invasion will come, he has adopted a policy of flexible response, keeping his battalions some distance from the coast, ready to be swiftly deployed wherever needed.

Because there has been a big increase in the quantity of arms and ammunition being parachuted in to the French Resistance (the Germans know because they intercept some of the drops) Rommel has concluded that the Resistance will try to undermine his strategy by blocking his communications and supply lines during the crucial period.

Dieter's mission is to identify vulnerable targets and report on their security and the potential of the Resistance to attack them. According to the Gestapo, the Resistance is a bunch of ragtag troublemakers who cut telephone wires and derail trains but have no organisation. Dieter is not so sure.

10. The telephone exchange at Sainte-Cecile is a key military target. All telephone traffic from the High Command in Berlin to German forces in northern France must pass through this exchange. That includes teleprinter traffic, the way most military orders are transmitted. If the exchange were to be disabled it could take weeks to repair—and German military communications would be crippled at the most vulnerable moment.

11. Dieter is here to check on the security of the chateau, and is posing as a tourist to see how long it will take the Gestapo to notice him. Before long a pompous officer comes out and begins to berate him for taking photographs of a military installation. Dieter is pointing out that it has taken the Gestapo half an hour to notice, when he realizes that he knows this officer. It is an old enemy of his, Colonel Weber.

12. The church bell stops ringing. Dieter's instincts sound a warning. He frowns. Looking around the square, he sees several men lounging around, nothing unusual, but most of them are wearing topcoats, despite the warm weather. He realizes that he has subconsciously noted a surprisingly large number of single men entering the church for

the service. It crosses his mind that Sunday evening might seem to the Resistance to be a good moment to attack the church, and he is about to warn Weber, when there is an explosion.

### Chapter Three

13. The north side of the church building forms part of the wall around the chateau. In the old days, the comte had a private entrance, long since blocked up. The Resistance has just blasted it open, and a group of men now rush through the gap into the chateau grounds.

14. In the square, Michel and others open fire on the guards to prevent their going inside.

15. Flick takes cover and notices that the handsome tourist has done the same, but is watching the action with fearless interest.

16. Things go wrong. Men come pouring out of the chateau to fight off the Resistance. Within seconds Flick realizes that the MI6 intelligence has underestimated the number of defenders.

17. She sees Bertrand, the youngster, fall wounded, and then Genevieve, the girl. Albert is killed.

18. Michel falls wounded. Flick is under orders to observe and report back, and not risk her life, but now she dashes through the crossfire, picks up Michel in a fireman's lift, and carries him out of the square.

19. There are several getaway vehicles waiting nearby. Flick bundles Michel into the nearest, a car driven by Gilberte, and they drive away.

*Or: They go first to Antoinette's house, where Flick steals Antoinette's pass. Antoinette is Michel's aunt?*

### Chapter Four

20. Dieter is dismayed by the ability of the Resistance to mount such a serious attack, even though it has failed. He was impressed by the courage and discipline of the troops. He noticed, and took photos of, the cool-headed young woman who rescued a wounded man and disappeared with him.

*AZ: Dieter sees Flick as the sort of superwoman and female counterpart that he has always dreamed of.*

*KF: OK, but later.*

21. He enters the chateau and goes down to the basement where the Gestapo post is located. He watches as the wounded prisoners are brought in and locked up. He will learn a great deal about the Resistance by interrogating these men. He notices a girl (Genevieve), a tough-looking man (Marcel), and a boy (Bertrand).

22. Wolfgang Weber, his old enemy, orders him to leave. Dieter explains his mission and says he must interrogate the prisoners. The Germans need urgently to know the strength of the Resistance. If he can learn details of other Resistance groups he can take action against them before the invasion. But Weber is a bull-headed bureaucrat and refuses to allow him to speak to the prisoners. Dieter leaves in a fury.

## Chapter Five

23. Flick is heartbroken about the failure of the attack and the death of Bertrand. She thinks with horror of the tortures that will be inflicted on the prisoners. She vows their sacrifice will not have been in vain.

24. She realizes she cannot take Michel to his own house. Every member of the Resistance knows his address, and it is inevitable that at least one of them will talk under torture. But no one knows Gilberte's address, a small house in Reims. Gilberte does not want to go there, but Flick insists.

25. When they get Michel inside, Flick sends Gilberte to fetch a sympathetic doctor. She looks at Michel's wounds and finds they are painful but not life-threatening. Looking around the small house, she finds unmistakable evidence that Michel has been staying here overnight.

26. She confronts him immediately, accusing him of infidelity. He admits it, begs forgiveness, and promises to be faithful in the future. Flick forgives him.

27. Flick, brooding over the chateau, conceives a new plan for taking it out. She drives back to Sainte-Cecile and sees Antoinette, the supervisor of the cleaners. With some difficulty, she persuades Antoinette to give her the special pass she has for getting into the chateau. Antoinette will have to say she lost hers.

28. With Gilberte and the wounded Michel, Flick drives to a field north of Reims. A small plane lands and picks her up, and she flies back to England.

**THE SECOND DAY: MONDAY, 29 MAY 1944** *Half moon.*

## Chapter Six

*AZ: Flick's relationship with Paul should already have begun. He should have been in love with her for some time, although he has made no move because he knows she is married. We should feel an ache burning in him from their first encounter. He should have sent her a coded message or two while she was in France. He should meet her plane when she comes back to England.*

*KF: This would make it more difficult for them to have conflicts about operations.*

*AZ: Flick's marriage to Michel is unusual and should not be glossed over. Maybe she did not tell SOE about it at first, and by the time they found out she was too useful to fire.*

29. She lands at RAF Tempsford, the airstrip north of London where most SOE flights start and finish. She is immediately driven to SOE headquarters at 64 Baker Street.

30. Her immediate boss is Percy Thwaite, 50, hero of the First World War, rabble-rousing labour organiser in the twenties, and veteran of the legendary Battle of Cable Street (1936), when Cockneys attacked Fascists trying to march through a Jewish neighbourhood.

31. She tells what happened at Sainte-Cecile. She explains that she guessed, before the attack began, that her intelligence about the numbers of German defenders was an underestimate, but by then it was too late to do anything about it, so she went ahead anyway.

32. Flick pitches her new plan. She will return to Sainte-Cecile with a team of undercover agents. They will have forged passes (copied from Antoinette's) and they will enter the chateau as cleaners. This means the whole team will have to be female.

*AZ: Soldiers are sex-hungry young men who pay great attention to all the women with whom they come into even distant contact, and I found it hard to believe the men in this chateau would not notice and flirt with the cleaning women daily; so the appearance of a strange crew would be noticed.*

*KF: For various reasons Flick thinks this will not be a problem, and though Percy is sceptical, the risk is worth taking.*

*Another problem: Among the telephone operators there may be some anti-Allied sentiment, heightened by the bombing of the chateau.*

*AZ: Why not recruit women in France? KF: They would have to be known and trustworthy Resistance women. There aren't enough of these in the Reims Resistance. Gilberte is no good and Geneviève has been captured. Could she find enough from other circuits? Too difficult to get them all together and briefed in time. Getting their photos on the passes.*

Once inside, they will somehow get into the guarded basement—*she is not sure how because she doesn't know whether it is guarded etc*—and find the most vulnerable and hard-to-repair machinery, then place small quantities of explosives at points where they will wreak havoc with the complex wiring and switching of the telephone exchange, causing damage that will take a team of engineers weeks to repair.

33. Percy immediately points out a problem. Flick is the only person who could conceivably lead this mission. No other woman in SOE has the ability or experience necessary. But Flick has already parachuted into France too many times. She has met most of the main Resistance leaders in northern France. She knows too much. If she were captured and interrogated, she could give the Germans enough information to destroy half the French Resistance.

Says Flick: "That's why we all carry a suicide pill."

## Chapter Seven

34. Supreme Commander of Allied Forces is General "Ike" Eisenhower. Commander of 21st Army Group, in charge of the invasion of France, is General Sir Bernard Montgomery. Monty's headquarters have been set up in an evacuated school, St Paul's in West Kensington (by coincidence, the school he himself attended). The D-Day invasion is imminent. It will begin on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday, depending on the weather. Monty will make the final decision.

35. One of his young aides is Paul Chancellor, 30, the son of an American general. *AZ: Get him into the story sooner.* Paul trained as a teacher, became a producer of educational radio programs, and then started his own business making and selling language courses on gramophone records, first to the army then to the public. His mother is running the business for the duration of the war. After the war he plans to expand into education films and maybe television. He is bright, charming, and forceful. *AZ: What are Paul's feelings for the British, the French, Monty, how the war is being conducted, how it ought to be conducted...some opinions.*

36. As liaison with American forces, he sits in on a meeting about the French Resistance. It takes place in the school's "model room" and the participants sit on hard wooden benches at school desks. Monty emphasizes the importance of the Resistance in harassing the Germans and delaying their riposte to the invasion.

37. They discuss yesterday's fiasco at Sainte-Cecile. The chateau is more important than either Flick or Dieter knows. Most German wireless traffic is now being decoded at Bletchley. However, most communication on mainland Europe is still done by teleprinter, and phone lines cannot be intercepted. If the chateau is destroyed in the next few days, not only will German communications be crippled, but essential orders will be sent by radio, and therefore will be read by the Allies.

38. Monty is irritated by yesterday's fiasco. Although the key weakness in the plan was wrong intelligence, Simon Fortescue from MI6 manages to deflect the blame away from his organisation and on to SOE. (There is no one from SOE present.) It was a mistake to have the team led by a girl, he says.

*AZ: Does Paul know of some amazing exploit in Flick's past, part of the legend of the Leopardess?*

*AZ: Paul is already smitten with Flick, as are many men.*

## Chapter Eight

39. Percy Thwaite shows Flick a Rogues' Gallery of photos of German intelligence officers and she picks out Dieter Franck. He has a reputation as a cruel but brilliant torturer. She shudders to think how close she was to him, and she wishes she had shot him while she had the chance.

40. She meets Brian Standall, 23, a naive young SOE trainee. He asks her out on a date and confesses that he carries a picture of her in his wallet. She turns him down.

41. Next she meets Paul Chancellor. He is a different matter. If she were single she would be attracted to him, she thinks. *AZ: Better if she has known him before and he has done something remarkable for her. Or, she has known him and taken little notice of him, but now she sees him in a new light.*

42. Paul brings the news that her plan has been turned down by Monty. He explains that Monty thinks it was a mistake to have the operation run by a girl. Flick is furious and says MI6's intelligence was faulty. They have a blazing row and part enemies.

## Chapter Nine

*AZ: Dieter needs to be under pressure from someone specific, Goedel or Rommel perhaps. He might counter by asking for a detachment of men working solely for himself, but he might not get this.*

*Also, he needs an aide to agree or disagree with his plans.*

*What is Dieter's dream for himself after the war? Maybe bring this out in a conversation with Flick. In the same conversation, he could articulate his Nietzschean philosophy, and she could be, like, bullshit.*

43. As it happens, Dieter is looking at a photo of Flick. He took it in the square yesterday while the skirmish was going on. He saw her pick up a wounded man and carry him to safety. She is formidable as well as beautiful, he thinks, and he wishes he

knew her name. *KF: Delete this photo to enhance the importance of the one taken from Brian Standall.*

44. He is sitting outside the office of Field Marshal Gerd von Runstedt, commander-in-chief West, a reliable older man. A moment later he is called in. With von Runstedt is Field-Marshal Erwin Rommel, the "Desert Fox", commander of army group B. Rommel is to von Runstedt what Monty is to Ike. Dieter knows Rommel from the African campaign. Also there is Rommel's aide Walter Goedel. *AZ: Dieter should be a great favourite, who has rendered Rommel some invaluable service.*

45. Dieter expresses his concern about the power of the Resistance to undermine Rommel's strategy. He explains that he is being hampered in his efforts by Gestapo bureaucracy. Rommel is furious and promises to speak to Goering personally. He tells Goedel to go with Dieter to see Weber. *They all agree about the urgent need to undermine the Resistance before the invasion.*

46. When Dieter returns to Sainte-Cecile, Weber is forced to allow him to see the prisoners. One of them, Genevieve, has already been so badly tortured that she is unable to speak, yet she has said nothing.

47. Dieter takes over supervision of the interrogation, instructing the Gestapo torturer, Baecker. He has young Bertrand tortured in front of Marcel, an older man. Marcel might withstand pain himself but he cannot bear the sight of Bertrand being tortured, and he breaks.

48. Marcel reveals the strength of the Bollinger network, but this information is already outdated, because the network has pretty much been crushed in this attack. However, he tells Dieter the address of the safe house used by British agents when they first come to Reims. He also reveals Flick's name, her relationship with Michel, and Michel's relationship with Gilberte. He tells Dieter that Flick is a very important person in SOE and she has travelled all over northern France liaising with Resistance groups.

49. Dieter thinks: If I could interrogate *her*, I could close down half the French Resistance. *Time pressure.*

50. When the interrogation is over, Dieter is afflicted by a blinding migraine, the usual aftermath of these sessions. Stephanie injects him with morphine from a field medical kit, and he passes out.

## Chapter Ten

51. Paul is at MI6, checking Flick's story. He realises he was wrong. MI6 did mislead SOE about the strength of the German post at the chateau. He also realizes he is smitten with Flick.

52. He speaks to Monty, who gives the go-ahead for Flick's plan, and tells Paul to supervise it.

53. He goes to see Flick and apologizes to her, then tells her she has the go-ahead. (He has a fantasy that on hearing this news she will throw her arms around him and kiss him, but she is too professional.) However, he tells her, she must destroy the chateau within a week, otherwise it will be too late.

54. Brian Standall will parachute in tomorrow night with a radio and find out how much of the Bollinger network is left.

*AZ: Why? KF: When Flick's team arrives they will still need local support: places to hide out, transport, help in unexpected circumstances, a means of communicating with London by radio.*

*Brian is among the last trained agents left in the UK. All have been sent into France for the big push.*

*AZ: What about the danger to him from the captured Resistance men? KF: He will go to the rendezvous at the cathedral, which is not known to any of the captured men. If there is no one there...? Flick to Brian: "Go to the cathedral. If someone meets you there, you'll know the house is safe. Establish your base at the house, then try to contact Michel. If the house is not safe, go direct to Michel.*

55. Meanwhile, Flick will put together her team. She needs a telephone engineer, an explosives expert, and four or five tough fighters—all women, and all speaking perfect French. How on earth can she find them in time? *Again she considers and rejects the idea of trying to recruit them over there.*

### **THE THIRD DAY: TUESDAY, 30 MAY 1944**

#### **Chapter Eleven**

56. Dieter is excited. He has a lead into the Resistance, and if he plays his cards right he could cripple it before the invasion.

57. He goes to the address given him by Marcel. It is a large town house owned by a spinster, Mademoiselle Lemas, a woman of 60 dressed in spotless starched clothes. The house is immaculately clean and full of heavy mahogany furniture.

58. Dieter arrests Mlle Lemas and takes her to the chateau. There he places her in a busy room, discreetly fettered to a table. He treats her with respect, even deference, and instructs everyone to be polite to her. He gives her food, wine and coffee. But he refuses to let her go to the ladies' room.

#### **Chapter Twelve**

59. Flick goes to a large country house where her mother is housekeeper. (Her father was an alcoholic butler who died young.) Ma asks Flick about her war work. Despite Flick's evasive replies, Ma finds out most of what she wants to know, as mothers generally do.

60. Ma reminisces about Flick as a child: bright, mischievous, tomboyish, self-reliant. They recall the days when they would accompany Ma's employers to their villa in Nice every January, which is how Flick acquired a perfect southern-French accent. The old Earl recognised Flick's academic potential and encouraged her education. His daughter Diana, Flick's childhood playmate, always resented this.

61. They argue about Flick's brother, Mark. Ma does not speak to him since he confessed to her that he is in love with his room-mate Joe. Flick tries to persuade Ma to forgive him, but she refuses steadfastly.

62. It is Diana whom Flick has come to see. She finds her in the woods, shooting rabbits with deadly accuracy. Diana is 30, attractive in a boyish way, short hair and corduroy trousers. Bored and depressed, she is desperate to join the war effort, but has

been fired from every job. "Darling, I can't be someone's chauffeuse."

63. Flick offers her a job. "It's dangerous and you might get killed, but worst of all you'd have to defer to me." Diana jumps at the job, but says: "Why me?" Flick points at the rabbits and says: "Because you're a killer."

64. Afterwards, Flick worries that Diana will create discipline problems. But beggars can't be choosers. *AZ: Ma makes a remark about how you can't rely on Diana.*

### Chapter Thirteen

65. Paul and Percy meanwhile are going through SOE's files. SOE automatically approaches every young person in the military, and many outside, who is known to speak French. All the good candidates have been recruited and trained, and most of them are now in France, leading Resistance groups in preparation for the invasion. For Flick's team, they have to trawl through the rejects.

66. When Flick returns to London, Paul takes her to Holloway, the women's prison. There are three women here who speak French, either because they lived there as children or because one parent is French. First they see Ruby, who has been sentenced to be hanged for murder. She is the daughter of gypsies who travelled France with a circus. She is a tough girl with a vile temper, but asks shrewd questions. Paul says she will get a pardon if she joins Flick's team. She accepts.

67. They see two more young women, Ivy and Maude. Maude is serving twenty years. She tried to steal a diamond necklace from a woman outside Claridge's hotel and knifed the woman in the attempt. The daughter of a French chef who moved to London, she is a fantasist, dreaming of glamorous locations. The only question she asks is: "Will we go to Paris?" She tries to flirt with Paul.

68. Ivy is a career criminal who is in jail because she boasted about her big score.

69. During this time Flick and Paul become closer. He finds her adorable. Flick compliments him on the way he handles the women, firm but not unkind.

### Chapter Fourteen

70. However, when they return to Baker Street, Paul is greeted by a beautiful young girl whom he hugs and kisses affectionately, and Flick concludes that he is in love with her. Which is just as well, as Flick is married. *AZ: But she feels a jealous pang.*

71. There is no female explosives expert on SOE's files or indeed on any military files in London, but Percy Thwaite knows someone.

72. He takes Flick to a pub in London's East End and introduces him to Geraldine "Jelly" Knight, 40, a professional safebreaker.

73. Jelly is a mature, shrewd woman, although her self-image is a fantasy: She believes she is a true Englishwoman, conservative and patriotic, the best of her breed. She sees the mission as her chance to prove it.

74. Flick now has a team—except for the most essential element. She must have a telephone engineer to tell Jelly exactly where to place the explosives. But no one knows a female telephone engineer—let alone one who speaks French.

### Chapter Fifteen

75. Mlle Lemas is in agony, having been refused permission to go to the bathroom all day. But her embarrassment is even more painful. She can conceive of no worse fate than to soil herself in front of all these people. She breaks.

76. She tells Dieter than she goes to the crypt of the cathedral at 11am every day. That is where she meets the British secret agents. In wireless communications, the crypt is called "Base Camp".

77. Dieter instals a watch on the crypt. Then he goes to see Stephanie.

78. He persuades Stephanie to move into Mlle Lemas' house and pretend to be her. The agents coming in usually have not previously been to the house, so they will not know she is an impostor. It is risky, of course: if any of the remnants of the Bollinger network should go to the house they would know immediately. But Stephanie is half-Jewish and pretty much has to do what Dieter tells her.

### Chapter Sixteen

79. Flick still does not have a telephone engineer. She considers trying to find one in France, or trying to learn the basics herself; but neither option will work. She confides in her brother Mark, who says he knows someone who could help.

80. He takes her to the Domino Club. *AZ: Should Paul go with them?*

81. They watch a statuesque blonde called Greta singing torch songs in a German accent. "She's a telephone engineer," says Mark.

82. They go backstage, where Flick is astonished to discover that Greta is a man.

83. Greta left Berlin when the Nazis started putting homosexuals in concentration camps. Her French is not perfect but, Flick thinks, she could pose as the wife of a German officer, travelling with her French maid.

84. Once again, Flick has grave misgivings, but has to take what she can get. She asks Greta to join the team—as a woman. Greta says she is not very good at "rough stuff" but she hates the Nazis so passionately that she accepts.

### THE FOURTH DAY: WEDNESDAY, 31 MAY 1944

### Chapter Seventeen

*AZ: Are Percy and Fortescue around for any of this?*

85. The team assembles at a training centre outside London. Flick, wondering if this motley crew will ever achieve anything, tells them all a cover story. They will parachute into Reims and make their way to a railway tunnel at Marles, on the main line from Frankfurt to Paris. *AZ: Say how this tunnel is crucial to Rommel.*

86. Jelly immediately takes against Greta because she is German.

87. Diana arrives late and ignores orders. Flick reproaches her to no avail.

88. They begin parachute training. Ruby, over-keen, jumps too soon.

89. Greta is hopeless, but persists bravely, and Flick is supportive, winning her loyalty.

90. Jelly is too old for this kind of thing, but she grits her teeth and jumps. Flick says: "I know that was hard for you—well done."

91. When they do weapons training, Diana shows her value. She is a better shot

*Diana reveals her long-standing resentment of Flick: "Daddy liked you more than me."*

than the instructor.

92. Greta is frightened by gunfire. The instructor remarks, not quietly enough, "They really shouldn't send us girls."

93. In unarmed combat training, the instructor treats Greta with quite unnecessary brutality.

94. When he attempts to teach Ruby self-defence, she breaks his jaw.

95. Maude becomes very friendly with Diana, who tells her stories about Paris before the war: the parties, the champagne, the couturiers, the restaurants.

96. In the evening, Ruby, who turns out to be unbelievably promiscuous, seduces one of the instructors.

### Chapter Eighteen

97. Dieter is obliged to use Gestapo men as he has no staff of his own. *AZ: Is this an issue? Doesn't he even have an aide?* He gives instructions that if a British agent shows up at the Reims cathedral crypt, he is to be followed, not arrested.

98. These instructions are not obeyed, and Brian Standall is arrested and brought to the chateau.

99. Dieter has a furious row with Weber.

100. Dieter puts on his Colonel's uniform and takes Brian out of the cell.

101. Pretending to be a member of the Resistance, who has stolen the uniform, he takes Brian to the safe house and introduces him to "Mlle Lemas" (Stephanie). *AZ: Here we need to feel that Dieter is taking a great risk. KF: No, he is being very clever and devious.*

102. Dieter helps Brian encode a message home saying he has arrived safely. *Brian now trusts Dieter absolutely, having been rescued by him.* Dieter suggests that maybe Brian should not tell them about his capture and subsequent rescue, but Brian does not fall for this, and Dieter drops it for fear of arousing suspicion. However, Dieter learns Brian's code. From now on he will be able to intercept and decode all Brian's messages.

103. Surreptitiously going through Brian's possessions, Stephanie finds the photo of Flick, and gives it to Dieter, who takes it to be copied. (He will return it to a place where Brian will think he dropped it.) *AZ: It shows Flick in a glamorous pose, making Dieter's head swim.*

### Chapter Nineteen

104. Paul makes a serious pass at Flick. She asks him about the woman he kissed in London, and he explains it was his sister. All the same, she turns him down, telling him she could easily fall in love with him, if she were not married.

105. Paul and Fortescue discuss Brian's message. An agent who has been in enemy hands—no matter what the circumstances—should return to headquarters for debriefing before taking any further part in operations. But the invasion is less than a week away! There is no time for such refinements now. They decide to leave Brian in place.

**THE FIFTH DAY: THURSDAY, 31 MAY 1944**

## Chapter Twenty

106. Next morning, Dieter teaches a Gestapo team how to do surveillance in a car, then has them follow Brian. *AZ: How is Brian getting around? KF: Maybe by bicycle.*
107. He leads them to Gilberte's house. Michel is living there with Gilberte.
108. Dieter listens in to Brian's radio and intercepts his message giving the strength of the remnants of the Bollinger network.
109. Then he picks up London's reply, ordering the network to prepare a "reception committee" for a group of saboteurs called the Jackdaws, led by "Leopardess", who will parachute in tomorrow night.
110. Dieter triumphantly shows this to Weber as proof that his methods work. Then he invites Rommel's aide, Goedel, to witness the arrest of the arriving saboteurs.

## Chapter Twenty-One

111. At the end of the second day of training, the Jackdaws gather at a pub. Paul joins them. *AZ: At the beginning of this scene, set up the possibility that Flick will go to bed with Paul; then play with it throughout, mixed with Flick's hopes and fears about what lies ahead.*
112. Maude flirts with Paul, and Diana is jealous.
113. Ivy gets drunk. She talks to a stranger and tells him all about the operation. (The story she tells is the cover story, of course.) Fortunately the stranger is an SOE plant, put there to find out who has a loose mouth. Ivy is sent back to Holloway.
114. Ruby gets even drunker, but she does not say a word.
115. Greta sings a song and flirts with the men in the pub, convincing everyone that she is a woman.
116. Back at the training centre, Jelly somehow discovers that Greta is a man, and makes a big fuss, calling Greta a "foreign pervert".
117. Flick remonstrates with Jelly.
118. Flick catches Diana and Maude in a passionate embrace.
119. Diana tries to tell Flick: "It's not what it seems."
120. Flick says: "There's nothing to explain. Do what you want. You may be dead by this time next week."
121. Diana is deeply grateful and goes back to Maude.
122. Taking her own advice, Flick sleeps with Paul.

THE SIXTH DAY: FRIDAY, 1 JUNE 1944

*Flick wakes up in bed with Paul.  
He message from Brian.*

## Chapter Twenty-Two

123. The Jackdaws travel to the village of Sandy, in Bedfordshire, and arrive at a large house close to RAF Tempsford, the airstrip from which most SOE missions depart.
124. Flick is in love with Paul and knows that, as well as accomplishing this difficult mission, she has to tell Michel that their marriage is over.
125. She learns that an order has been issued that no individual is allowed to leave an air base anywhere in Britain. She deduces that the invasion of Europe is imminent.
126. All the Jackdaws dress in French underwear and clothes made by SOE's French

dressmaker. (Then, as now, French clothes are more stylish than English, and they use different buttons, linings and trim.) Greta, whose false identity is that of the wife of a German officer stationed in Paris, has clothes provided by X Section of SOE, which deals with Germany. The women are given travel bags containing French toothpaste, make-up, cigarettes and money. (£1=Ffr.700.)

127. They are all searched to make sure they are not inadvertently carrying giveaway British items such as used bus tickets, stamps, matches, shopping lists, etc.

128. Bu accident, Flick learns that Brian was arrested by the Gestapo then released by the Resistance. She has a blazing row with Paul, insisting that Brian should have been recalled to England for the sake of security.

129. The upshot is that Paul tells the pilot that Flick may alter their destination after take-off.

### **Chapter Twenty-Three**

130. Dieter goes to the rendezvous point with some Gestapo men and Goedel, Rommel's aide. *AZ: And Weber.* They conceal themselves from the Resistance "reception committee" waiting for the plane.

131. They wait hours but no plane comes. Dieter is humiliated. Now he is desperate for a validating triumph.

132. He arrests Michel, Gilberte and Brian.

133. A message on Brian's radio announces that the Jackdaws have been diverted, but they will contact the Bollinger network within 48 hours.

### **THE SEVENTH DAY: SATURDAY, 2 JUNE 1944**

#### **Chapter Twenty-Four**

134. In the early hours of the morning, Flick and the Jackdaws parachute in near Chartres, where Flick knows the local Resistance people, a network codenamed Gothic.

135. She rounds up the Jackdaws and hides them in a barn.

136. Jelly, the oldest, accepts hardship stoically and serves as a good example to the rest.

137. Flick contacts the Gothic circuit. *AZ: Create some tension here. They might be communists, rivals of the Bollinger circuit. For some reason they are suspicious of Flick and hostile, reluctant to give her the help she needs. Maybe the leader she knows has been captured; maybe they blame her for this.*

#### **Chapter Twenty-Five**

138. Dieter takes his prisoners to the chateau and locks them up. He has missed the Jackdaws and lost his big chance, but he is not finished yet.

139. He makes Michel do something apparently innocent: copy out a chapter of a romantic novel. It includes the lines: "Hurry home, my darling, I cannot wait to hold you in my arms again."

140. Knowing about the love triangle between Flick, Michel and Gilberte, he tells Gilbert that Michel is planning to ditch her as soon as Flick returns. She looks troubled,

but says she does not believe him; whereupon he shows her a "love letter" from Michel to Flick. Recognising the handwriting, Gilberte believes that Michel has betrayed her, and she spitefully tells all she knows, including Flick's codename.

*AZ: Make Dieter's manipulation of Michel and Gilberte harder to accomplish, therefore more of a triumph. And keep Weber around as a thorn in his side.*

141. Dieter now knows that Flick is the leader of the Jackdaws. He has on file two good photographs of her. He returns to Paris where he has a Wanted poster printed overnight and stuck up all over the city at dawn. — *At his apt., a letter from home.*

### Chapter Twenty-Six

142. A member of the Gothic circuit brings a truck to the barn and drives the Jackdaws to the railway station in Chartres. *AZ: Train services have been badly disrupted by Allied bombing. KF: No, by the Resistance.*

143. Two French gendarmes are boarding the train. Ruby notices that the Gestapo treat the gendarmes with respect, and Greta explains that Germans cannot help deferring to a uniform.

144. To be less conspicuous, the Jackdaws split into pairs: Flick with Ruby, Diana with Maude, and Greta with Jelly.

145. Jelly is very bad at pretending to be French, because she despises all foreigners. At the station checkpoint she makes a fatal error; but Greta distracts the Gestapo by flirting with them, and saves Jelly's life. Jelly's attitude to Greta begins to change.

146. The two gendarmes strike up a conversation with Flick and Maude. They are travelling to Paris to pick up a prisoner, an ordinary non-political criminal, and escort him back to Chartres where he will stand trial. Maude makes a slip and gives herself away as British. The others are going for their guns when the gendarmes wink and tell her to be more careful in future.

147. Arriving at the Quai d'Orsay, Flick sees a Wanted poster on a platform hoarding and recognises the face as her own.

148. She persuades the gendarmes to help her.

149. The gendarmes handcuff Flick and march her through the Gestapo checkpoint.

### Chapter Twenty-Seven

150. Paul, still worrying about Brian's security, sends a test message in a somewhat garbled code.

151. Normally he would expect the agent to send back an angry message demanding clarification, but instead he gets a routine acknowledgement. This convinces him that Flick was right (again!) and Brian is in Gestapo hands.

152. He tries to find a way of warning Flick but cannot.

153. He decides to parachute in to Reims himself tonight.

154. Monty refuses him permission.

155. He goes anyway.

### Chapter Twenty-Eight

156. The Jackdaws regroup at a Paris safe house.

157. Flick alters her appearance.
158. Flick learns, with incredulity and horror, that Diana has promised to take Maude to dinner at the Ritz. She forbids it absolutely.
159. She learns that they have gone anyway.
160. Flick and Ruby go to the Ritz to bring them away.
161. They see Diana and Maude at a table, acting conspicuously.
162. Before they can do anything, the Gestapo arrive. *KF: Dieter is with them, and from this point Flick knows whom she is up against.*
163. Maude tries to run away; Diana shoots a Gestapo man; but they are arrested.
164. Flick and Ruby escape narrowly.
165. Flick and Ruby return to the safe house. They all leave.
166. The remaining four Jackdaws spend the night hiding out near the station, waiting for the first train to Reims.

#### **THE EIGHTH DAY: SUNDAY, 4 JUNE 1944**

##### **Chapter Twenty-Nine**

167. Dieter is in trouble. His great scheme of crippling the Resistance has failed. All he has is a few prisoners. Then he gets a piece of luck: two British agents fall right into his lap.
168. He peeps into their cell and realizes they are lovers.
169. He tortures Maude in front of Diana. Diana breaks quickly.
170. Diana tells Dieter that the team is all female, Flick is the leader, and they are going to blow up a railway tunnel near Marles. (This is the cover story, and Flick still has not disillusioned the Jackdaws.) She also gives Dieter the address of the safe house in Paris.
171. Dieter orders a security alert at the railway tunnel then raids the Paris house, but the birds have flown.
172. Knowing that Flick has promised to contact the Bollinger network, he alerts the watchers at the cathedral crypt in Reims. He also sends two men to the Reims safe house where Stephanie is still posing as Mlle Lemas. Then he arranges to drive to Reims himself.

##### **Chapter Thirty**

173. Paul arrives at the safe house in Reims. As Dieter expected, he does not know any of the people in the Bollinger circuit, so he accepts Stephanie as Mlle Lemas.
174. The Gestapo men overpower him and tie him up.
175. Flick arrives at the door with Ruby. *KF: Flick and Stéphanie would recognise one another from the scene in the square.*
176. Flick and Ruby shoot the Gestapo men and free Paul
177. Flick tells Paul that the rule is, French people who help the Gestapo cannot be allowed to live. She shoots Stephanie between the eyes. *AZ: Stephanie should first tell her story and plead for her life. KF: ?*

### Chapter Thirty-One

178. Dieter arrives at the Reims safe house. He weeps over Stephanie's body.
179. One Gestapo man is still alive. He tells how Flick shot Stephanie in cold blood.
180. Dieter vows to get revenge by torturing Flick.
181. He decides to use Michel as a lure.
182. He takes Michel from his cell, puts him in the back of a car, and drives to Reims. He deliberately crashes the car and pretends to be knocked out. Michel seizes his chance and escapes. *AZ: Make it clear that this is a desperate measure that has little chance of success. KF: No, Dieter is masterful.*
183. Dieter and a surveillance team follow Michel.

### Chapter Thirty-Two

184. Flick goes to Gilberte's house and is there waiting when Michel turns up. *AZ: Flick must know that Dieter is the one she has to outfox.*
185. She tells him she needs a place for four people to stay overnight. He gives her the address of a champagne cellar belonging to sympathizers on the outskirts of town.
186. She asks him to bring a car there in the morning.
187. He wants to make love. She tells him the marriage is over.
188. He tells her about his escape.
189. The "escape" arouses her suspicions, and she takes precautions to avoid being followed when she leaves.

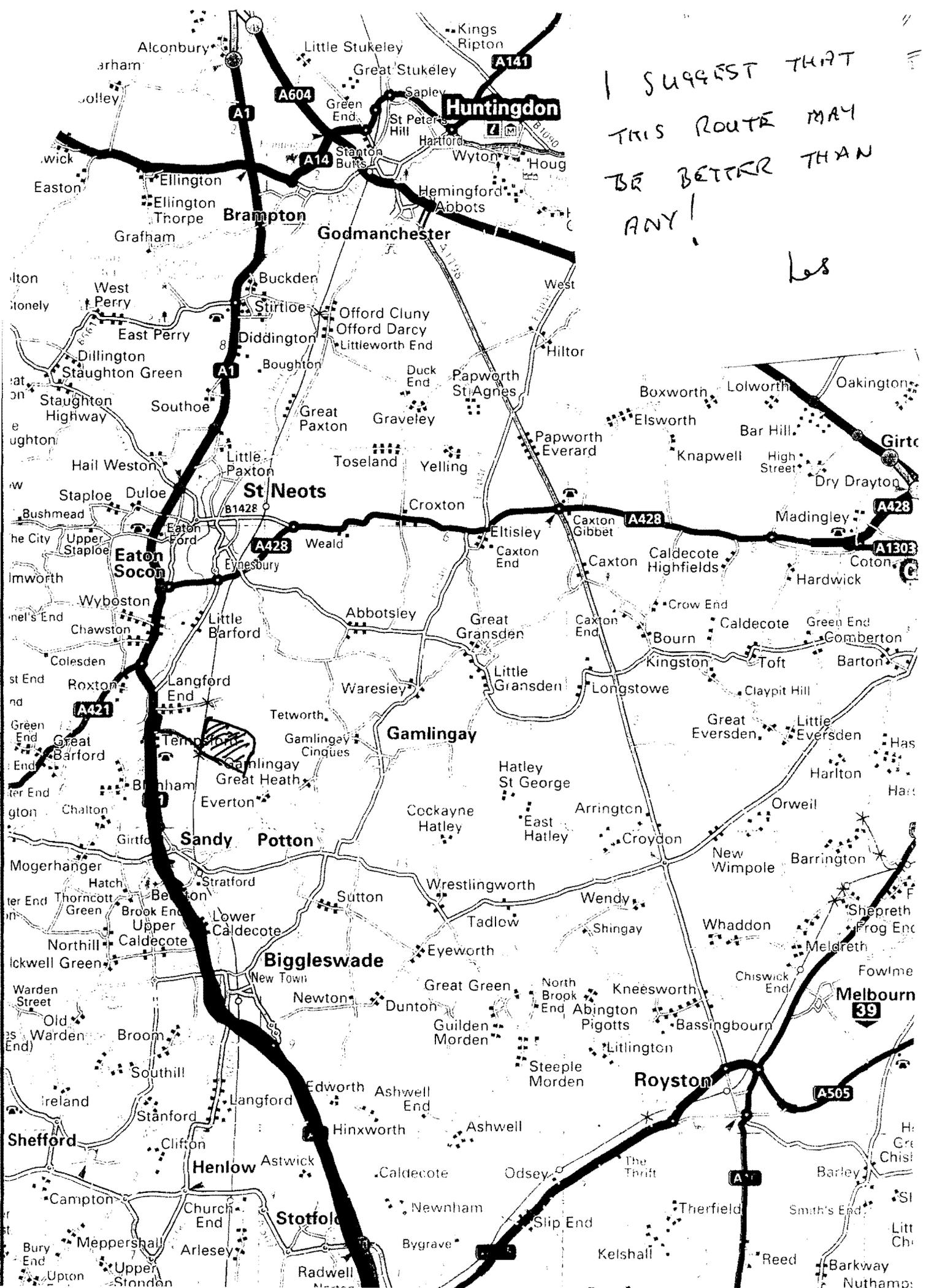
THE NINTH DAY: MONDAY, 5 JUNE 1944 *full mem.*

### Chapter Thirty-Three

190. In the morning, Dieter follows Michel to the champagne cellar.
191. Michel comes out alone, looking puzzled, and drives away.
192. Dieter has Michel followed but remains behind himself to search the cellar. There are signs that a group of people have been hiding out here, but they have gone.
193. He learns that Michel returned home, got on a motorcycle, and left town, heading for Marles.

### Chapter Thirty-four

194. Flick, having sent Michel and Dieter on a wild goose chase, emerges from Gilberte's house with Paul and the Jackdaws, gets in the car that Michel left behind, and drives to Sainte-Cecile.
195. They go to Antoinette's house.
196. Antoinette writes notes to the six cleaners who are due on duty tonight, asking them to come to her house beforehand.
197. The Jackdaws deliver the notes.
198. When the cleaners show up, they are tied up and locked away.
199. The Jackdaws head for the chateau singly. On the way, a Gestapo man approaches Ruby. Over-reacting, she coldcocks him, then gets arrested.
200. Flick, Greta and Jelly arrive at the chateau gate. Their passes are accepted and



I SUGGEST THAT  
THIS ROUTE MAY  
BE BETTER THAN  
ANY!  
Les

they enter.

201. They begin cleaning the chateau.

202. The French telephone operators realize they are not local people, but they keep quiet. *No. There is some anti-Allied sentiment as a result of the bombing of the chateau, but the pro-Allied majority silence the others.*

203. The German troops at the chateau hardly notice them. *KF: No. See AZ notes. They are aware of the cleaners as women, and flirt with them. They notice new ones. Someone notices that all this group are new. Flick has some tense moments.*

### Chapter Thirty-Five

204. Dieter, following Michel, is becoming suspicious. Then he learns that a British agent has been arrested in Sainte-Cecile.

205. He realizes that Michel's trip is a diversion. *AZ: One created by Flick.* He arrests Michel, orders a security alert at the chateau, and heads back toward Sainte-Cecile at top speed.

*AZ: It's a problem that Dieter is absent from the major climactic action. We need at least one lengthy encounter between him and Flick during the battle.*

*Also, maybe Paul rescues Flick or vice-versa.*

### Chapter Thirty-Six

206. At the chateau, the Gestapo search the building and check everyone's papers.

207. Flick finds the main switch for electricity and plunges the basement into darkness.

208. All civilians are evacuated from the building.

209. Flick kills the sentry at the basement door.

210. The Jackdaws enter the basement.

211. Greta finds the circuit room where all the most complex wiring is.

212. There are soldiers in there playing cards. Flick shoots them.

213. Jelly plants the explosives and sets the timers.

214. Flick overpowers Baecker and frees the partly-tortured Ruby.

215. Ruby sticks a needle through the eye of Baecker and leaves him screaming.

216. The power comes back on. Greta is seized by the Gestapo.

217. The Jackdaws regroup outside, in the square, where all is confusion.

218. They realize that Great is still inside.

219. Jelly makes a bid to rescue Greta and is killed.

220. Greta is interrogated by Weber. Knowing that the fuse is burning down in the room next door, Greta plays for time. Weber asks why a German is working with the British and she tells him of her lover in Hamburg who was put in a concentration camp. She keeps talking until the explosives are detonated, the telephone exchange is destroyed, and she dies.

## THE LAST DAY: TUESDAY, 6 JUNE 1944

### Chapter Thirty-Seven

221. Dieter arrives at Sainte-Cecile too late. The explosives have gone off and the Jackdaws have left.

222. However, it is not too late. If he can catch Flick, he can still torture her, learn all about the French Resistance, and destroy it before it can help the invasion.

223. He takes Michel to the railway station at Reims. There is a train taking prisoners—Jews, Resistance people, and other kinds of undesirables—to a concentration camp in Germany. He shows Michel a cattle truck full of women who are begging for water. Then he brings Gilberte on to the platform. She is going on that train—unless Michel talks.

224. Michel tells Dieter where and when Flick is due to meet the plane that will take the Jackdaws home. *AZ: How does Michel know this?* "Take me there," says Dieter.

### Chapter Thirty-Eight

225. Flick, Paul, and Ruby—the only Jackdaws left—are waiting in a field north of Reims. Their plane lands.

226. Dieter shows up with Michel and two carloads of Gestapo.

227. Michel manages to give Flick advance warning by sounding the horn of Dieter's car then attack his Gestapo guard. Michel dies. *AZ: Dieter and Flick need a scene here.*

228. Warned, the Jackdaws shoot at the Gestapo.

229. Dieter is killed. The Gestapo are routed.

230. The Jackdaws board the plane and take off.

231. Crossing the English Channel at dawn, they see literally thousands of ships, the largest fleet ever assembled, crossing the Channel to invade France.

### EPILOGUE

### Chapter Thirty-Nine

232. Flick is proposed for a medal, but Simon Fortescue is on the medals committee, and he vetoes it.

233. Flick and Paul get married. At the wedding, Ma is reconciled with Mark.

*Michel as a vegetable?*

*Make by his upper-class friend?*