

Ken Follett

From: Amy Berkower [ABerkower@WritersHouse.com]
Sent: 28 February 2001 19:44
To: 'Kenprivate@ken-follett.com'
Subject: JACKDAWS

Dear Ken:

Congratulations! JACKDAWS is terrific. I love the characters, the history, the fast pace and the continuous tension of the plot. I don't think you need to do another draft, but I agree with Al that the book would be stronger if you fleshed out some of the characters a bit more. Paul is very likeable but he would be more compelling if he had a more active role in the mission. I also think Dieter's job should be more clearly defined. Flick, for me, was interesting enough but I wanted to know more about why she married Michel and how she became the Leapordess.

Some small details I'm not sure others have mentioned: The team I think are all interesting and distinct characters. At times however I couldn't remember who Denise and Maude were and why they in particular were recruited. Perhaps it's because they are all introduced to the reader so quickly. I also wonder if Flick should show a little more remorse when Diana, the girl she grew up with, is killed. Clearly she must hold her emotions in check to be successful but to make her warmer and more sympathetic perhaps the reader should be privy to a moment of regret for her role in Diana's death as well as an expression of concern for Diana's family and perhaps even her mother who seemed to have a role in raising Diana. Also I wondered why Flick, who is usually so cautious, doesn't separate Diana and Maude after she learns they are lovers. Wouldn't she be concerned that their interest in each other might compromise the mission?

Clearly, these are all minor points. I imagine Phyllis wants to get the book into production quickly as she probably wants to publish JACKDAWS the same time as she published CODE TO ZERO. Since any revision you decide to do probably won't be extensive, I think there will be sufficient time.

I'm looking forward to seeing you----and to discussing a new contract.

All best,

Amy