

## WHITEOUT: AMALGAMATED NOTES ON B DRAFT

### Main plot changes:

PG: More fear that the virus will be released accidentally. KF: an elaborate mechanism for keeping the virus safe—but it goes wrong and they end up with something improvised and dangerous.

### Style

PG: Too chatty.

BF: Americanisms

### From George Korch

26 Jan 04

#### Working in a BSL-4 facility

One starts by removing all clothing and jewelry and then donning a pair of loose fitting cotton "surgical scrubs". Hopefully, you have also remembered to go to the bathroom because the process of getting out of the suit once you are inside is not amenable to emergency situations of this sort. The scrubs have a button-down blouse with jersey stretch cuffs, while the trousers have a cloth rope draw string. At USAMRIID, these scrubs are color-coded by size, so if you are a hulking, tall person, the suit color is brown. If you are of average size, they are green, and for smaller frames, the color can be blue or a yellow. These garments have generally been autoclaved from once to many times, since this is the method by which discarded clothing come out of the hot-suite. With greater frequency of autoclaving, the fabric begins to break down, and sometimes they become so fragile that a tug or a long stretch motion will cause them to rip apart. So, you look for a pair that seems sturdy, lest you bend over and have the seat give way. Socks are also a necessary part of the ensemble to keep the feet warm. These cotton socks have also been through the cooker a number of times, and begin to assume a "toasted" feel and look with time. This can all be done in the antechamber under BSL-2.

You now proceed into the BSL-3 side change room. You have entered your PIN code in to release the magnetic lock for this. The next step in the process is to cut about four 1 ½ foot strips of 1.5 inch wide black electrical tape, which will be used to tape down socks and gloves to the fabric scrubs. Putting your socks on, you tape them to the scrub pants to prevent them from slipping down and falling off your feet while walking around in the blue plastic booties of the positive pressure suit. You then put on a pair of surgical gloves and tape them to the sleeves of the blouse.

Each person generally has his or her own suit, and the suits of course come in several sizes from extra small to extra, extra large. The type of suits that we used for many years were the Chemtursion suits manufactured by ILC Dover. I believe that they were about 20 mil polyethylene and weighed about 6-7 pounds. The visor or faceplate was of a heavier transparent plastic, and in the older suits, they cut off the peripheral vision. The newer suits now have about 300° view. You may be inclined to wipe the interior of the visor with an alcohol pad, since oils from your skin may have left marks on the visor from earlier wearings. The heavy plastic is not that supple, so adjusting and handling the suit to inspect for holes and general condition is not all that easy.

Once one visually checks the suit for anything like holes, then the next step is pulling it on. You put on hearing protection before starting out the process and then you put your feet into the suit. After you slip the headpiece over your head and hearing protection, you put your arms through the sleeves of the suit and then pull the zipper across the front of the suit. This zipper extends from upper left to lower right. The next step is to close the white gasket

strip that overlies the zipper. You are now completely encased in a nearly seamless heavy blue plastic ziplock. Your hearing is impaired, and your vision is slightly distorted, since the plastic visor as it bends does not provide absolute clarity. Also, in the older suits, you did have a sense of tunnel vision (largely corrected with newer suit models).

You are now ready to pull on a heavier butyl rubber glove and will use the remaining amount of tape to firmly tape the edge of the gloves to the suit. This seals off the suit interior as well, so that positive pressure air will now cause the suit to inflate. You have now also caused a reduction in tactile sensation, and as you sit in this large plastic bag, you start to exhaust the air that you captured with you in the suit. The temperature can begin to rise and it can get steamy inside the suit, so time to hook up to a compressed air line. You have about 5 minutes of breathable air in the suit however if there is a problem.

Before entering the actual BSL-4 you test your suit with a pressurized air line of the sort that occur in the maximum containment suite. You could have earlier used a kit that seals of the sleeves of the suit, closes off the exhaust ports and then inflated the suit to see if it maintains pressure like a large balloon. You can also use a soapy water solution sprayed as a thin stream on the suit from a squeeze bottle to inspect suspected pinholes to see if there is leakage.

There is a metal coupling that uses a ball bearing type of push in locking mechanism. The airline coupling hangs from the front right lateral torso as I recollect. Grabbing the tightly spring-coiled, yellow tubing, you snap your airline into the coupling and you hear the sound of air coming into the suit. There is an air stream that comes over your head and may also enter through arm and leg air delivery tubes. The sound is like when you first let air out of an inflatable air cushion. It is persistent but you eventually habituate to it and it does not hinder operations too much, especially while with hearing protection. But it is difficult to communicate verbally. There are groups that use microphone systems within the suit, but we found that reception was difficult and have not been standardly used.

You are now like the Michelin tire man. Depending on the airflow from the compressed air line, your suit bellows out and sitting down sometimes causes the suit to bulge up in front of you. The air is at ambient temperature, but has come from a compressor, so as the air releases, it can have a slight cooling effect.

Once you finish testing / inspecting the suit for pinhole leaks by using the wash bottle method described above, you are free to go through the shower doors and into the high containment suite. If you were unlucky enough to find a pin hole, you can slap a piece of the tape on it that I described before and be on your merry way.

You step from the shower room at BSL-3 where you changed into your positive pressure suit, through the chemical decon shower, closing the door behind you before you open the door to the actual hot suite space. You now need to don heavy plastic boots to protect the boots on the suit. You have just entered BSL-4. Each time you move around you are tethered to an air line, except when walking down a long hallway to get to other rooms within the suite. At USAMRIID, as an older facility, the walls are heavy concrete block, with glossy epoxy paint sealants and few windows. It is actually a fairly depressing work environment, and it is best not to be prone to claustrophobia. We have had people that just cannot adjust mentally and you generally are able to identify them, or they self identify very early (like during suite training). At CDC, there is a wall of windows that allows others to see you operating in the suite and probably makes this an easier environment (I have only seen into the BSL-4 at CDC, I have never been inside).

Each time you click off a line, the air in the suit slowly lets out and you get that silence that makes you feel like you are sort of cut off from the world. Hooking back on line brings back that connection to air and therefore to the support system around you.

Performing delicate manipulations is obviously an interesting experience, but can be mastered. You are still of course doing manipulations, like pipet transfer of materials, under a biosafety cabinet, even though you are completely encased. So you are looking through a glass plate on the cabinet and as you sit with your arms stretched out in front of you performing these delicate procedures, you find your visor pushing up against the glass and frequently, your forehead against the inner side of the visor. Communication with others generally amounts to writing down quick items, hand signals and shouting really loud to get through your own stream of air and that of the other person. Generally, you crimp your airline to stop the rush of air, thus allowing better conversation.

You must be conscience of the position of your airline relative to equipment or items in the room that you do not want to knock over, as well as relative to other people working in the room, lest you tangle up lines. While there are a number of these lines within any given room, they have a limited reach, so you must also be aware of the distance that you have stretched the airline.

Exiting the suite requires that everything happen in reverse order. Boots come off and you step into the chemical decontamination shower. You pull a chain and a misting spray of detergent wafts at you from multiple nozzles above and running vertically along the walls. There is of course an airline in the shower that you hook up to. During the spray process, you take a brush that is located there and clean down the outside surface. There is a water spray that comes next. After about 5-7 minutes, you emerge through the other door. You now remove the heavy suit, taking gloves off first and then pulling open the gasket and zipper. As you take off the suit, you check to see if there are any "wet spots" inside the suit that could have indicated a pinhole and make a note of this in case there are. This should be reported to the safety office, and of course, it is a good idea to place a piece of tape on this newly identified problem.

The suit is hung to dry and all clothing comes off and deposited into a laundry bag for autoclave action. A standard water shower with soap and hair wash is needed. People can cough, spit and sneeze as you have mentioned, but in BSL-4 you have really not been exposed to the agent due to the suit, so this is really not needed.

You can now take your place back among society.

If there is an emergency in the suite, like the air lines go off, emergency supply air comes from tanks. Yellow flashing lights go off to tell you that you are on emergency air. You have about 30 minutes to get everyone out through the shower procedures. Under drastic emergency, we now have a digital message marquee in the suites to tell the participants what is happening and informs them what steps to take. There is a crash door for truly dire emergency.

### **New Prologue:**

A terrorist approaches a concert hall somewhere in Britain (Edinburgh?) Ahead of him in the queue, a beautiful woman takes out a perfume spray. He smells the fragrance. It is called Diablerie, the French word meaning devilment or, a more old-fashioned meaning, witchcraft.

Unusually, there is a bag check at the entrance. "Because we get so many American visitors." A woman in front of our man—he is called Mr Brown, a false name—has her nail scissors removed. But a perfume spray is innocent.

Inside the foyer, the woman sprays again, and he analyses the smell: flowers, musk, sweetness? He watches her. She goes to the ladies' room, where she will spray again. She sits in the stalls, a few rows in front of him, and sprays again. In the interval she sprays in the bar. On the way out, she sprays in the cloakroom queue. By the time she leaves, half the people in the theatre have smelled Diablerie.

In three days' time, this hall will be full of American tourists, on the last evening of a holiday. At least half of them will inhale something that will not be Diablerie.  
Then they will go back to America.

P3

**Chapter One: 1 a.m. (pps 3-21)**

*A: Toni investigating missing drugs (3-10)*

EF: First line suggestion: "After 8 hours they hated her. She did not care". KF: Two tired men looked at Antonia Gallo with resentment and hostility in their eyes.

IT: 1.1 are they called 'personnel departments' now – ours is, but I know that often they are referred to as 'human resources' though you use that phrase on p7

5 lines up: suggest 'gothic' pointed arches, since it's Victorian

GK: Victorian house - will have to later define ways that facility conforms with construction requirements for biosafety such as pressure decay testing of materials, air balance and HEPA filtration of exhaust, etc

AZ: The basic question we need to ask about Toni (and about any point of view character) is who does she love and who loves her? So, Toni, I believe, should be smitten by Stanley even before your action begins. He is a man the likes of whom she has never known: Kind, rich, brilliant. But her downside is that she's convinced that it's hopeless for anything to develop between them. He's too old. His son hates her. He has a family who probably would turn against her; and besides all that she sees herself as hopeless at science, which of course is his big thing. So I suggest you give her an interior in which she's vacillating between urgent longings for him while at the same time stifling these desires as best she can. And given her feelings for him, her remorse at letting him down and her wish to save him would be all the greater.

KF: She has decided to be happy without children. The only thing that bothers her is people who condescendingly assume no woman can really be happy without children.

AB: Toni seems to have angry responses to so many people in the book--Frank, Carl, Kit. Clearly she has affection for Stanley. To offset all the anger, it would be nice to see more of her positive relationships and to know more about the good feelings she has. It would make her more likeable, more sympathetic, I think.

SE: While it is not the norm that a facilities director would be in charge of security, you explained later how Toni came into this "added" responsibility. Security of the agents (versus physical security) would typically be the responsibility of the laboratory director – Howard McAlpine. It would ultimately be his ass on the line if material was missing. I don't have any particular suggestions for modification except that I don't think that Howard McAlpine would be so bored or cavalier about sloppy log-books or missing agents.

Agent logging is called "Bio-assurity". This is a relatively new terminology and has gained a lot of gusto since the Anthrax attacks of 2001. It is a term that was really borrowed from the nuclear industry that has to account for all regulated isotopes by weight. It is certainly much harder to account for micro-organisms (viruses) because you can grow them in your lab – ideally you will have more at the end of the day! Many microbiologists (and lab directors) found the task of bio-assurity to be a major task – I'm sure that Ltc. Korch can shed some of his trials on the nuances and hardships of bio-assurity.

Agents typically would not be stored in the aerosolized form. Aerosolization is generated only during exposure trials. I suggest deleting the word "aerosolized" before Madoba.

**p4**

IT 1.11 'three people responsible' sounds a bit odd, suggest 'three people remaining'

SE: I like the reference to "perfume sprays" – nice aerosolization imagery.

Delete or modify the reference to "antidote" to "anti-viral". Antidotes are used for toxins and venoms.

Consider changing the sentence, "Toni herself had **done** the training....." to "Toni herself had **undergone** the training....". This is a minor point, but my first reading was that she had "conducted" the training.

References to "hazardous materials log" – consider changing these references to "bio-assurity log". A hazardous materials log usually refers to other lab materials, such as flammables, solvents, acids, etc. These hazardous materials are treated far differently than live agents (especially BSL4 agents).

**p5**

IT 1.14 suggest 'tallied with' rather than 'agreed with'

SE: Another reference to "aerosolized" Madoba. I won't label all of them.....

**P6**

SE: This is the first reference to Howard McAlpine's job as Lab Director. Perhaps this is where you can explain his indifference to the missing agents/ log errors or change his attitude to "Oh shit!".

Great description of the BSL4 lab and mechanical support.

GK: The implication that a missing aliquot of a deadly virus would put the people actually in space suits themselves in immediate danger is inconsistent with why the suits are worn to begin with. There would be a bigger risk outside the lab. While this could be a fair question to be asking someone, there should be something in the text that indicates that the facilities / security person understands that this is a less likely scenario. If Jenny is the perpetrator, then she would not likely be admitting that she had a fever.

GK: Might want to indicate that the air exhaust is through double HEPA filters.

**P7**

IT: 1.1 suggest 'whether they are at home or on holiday'

1.7 'human resources' here

AZ: Toni has a relationship with Michael Ross. KF: She likes this solitary, clever boy. In the canteen they got talking about Rembrandt and discovered a mutual interest. She owns one Rembrandt etching, given to her by a rich lover many years ago. Toni went around to Michael's place, not sure whether she was going on a date or not. Michael has a collection of Rembrandt's etchings of his mother and other women—not the originals, but reproductions cut from an art book and lovingly framed. Toni realises he has an obsession with his mother. With dismay, she realised that he saw her not as a potential girlfriend but as a replacement mother.

SE: There is a reference to a "hazardous materials safe". I suggest changing this to "**the Vault**" –as hazardous materials typically has another reference that I stated above. Typically, live agents are kept in a refrigerator, or a freezer, or a ultra-low temperature freezer (-80 degrees C). The ultra-low are for archival purposes. The refrigerators and freezers in the newer high containment labs are kept in a separate room from the rest of the lab – primarily

because they generate so much heat and consequently would make the space uncomfortable for people (even wearing an “air conditioned” suit). These rooms typically aren’t locked because getting into the lab was enough “rigor”, although it would be feasible and logical to lock the freezers and refrigerators. Many lab freezers come with a touch-pad cipher lock – not a padlock. Camera systems are now linked to the cipher locks –so when you touch the pad the camera starts recording. Older model refrigerators and freezers are retro-fitted with a hasp and lock – just like you indicated the “thiefs” broke into.

**p8**

EF: Can we be told Dr Ansari’s first name – just to underline her gender? KF: Monica.

AB: Why did Michael Ross say he was going to visit his mother when she was dead?

GK: The timing that earlier is suggested as three weeks now sounds like two weeks, which I suspect you would want to be fairly precise about if you are trying to make some case about the incubation period. I understand also the possibility that you may want to keep it vague. The computer log would also have a precise indication as to when the 2-person team last logged in together.

**P9**

SE: Reference to entering BSL4 lab – “ Yes. He changed quicker than I did”. If Michael entered the Chemical Shower before Dr. Ansari then he would easily have about 15 minutes (+/-). Passing into the lab goes through a similar protocol as exiting because once a person enters the BSL4 lab from the Chem Shower the Chem Shower is considered CONTAMINATED – therefore before someone can enter the Chem Shower from the clean side the Chem Shower would have to go through a cycle to DECONTAMINATE the Chem Shower without passing contaminated air into the suit room ( See sketch 1).

To make a long comment short – Dr. Ansari’s story is fine!

GK: Suggestion here is that the security supervisor, in what appears to be a small company, with an even smaller workforce going into highly hazardous, secure facility, does not know the people.

**P10**

SE: Reference to “the safe” – consider changing to “the Vault”.

*B: Death of Michael Ross (10-21)*

KF: Make this a new chapter—2am

AZ: Let feel Toni more distress that such a thing has happened. Is it the first in the company’s history?

GK: The medical isolation stretcher would more likely be of a design where the patient is slid through a porthole at either the top or bottom side of the stretcher. I can send a picture of what this looks like. I do not know of a design where there is a tent. The type that we used is manufactured by Elwyn Roberts in Shropshire, U.K. Their website is <http://www.isolateit.com/home.htm>.

The team would have performed some type of decontamination of their outer surfaces before ever getting into the vehicle. Otherwise, the vehicle is now contaminated. This would have happened no matter what the condition of the patient was because to ignore this would only create the possibility of a much larger public health crisis.

NG/AB:

- 1) Toni might call the police as soon as she believes a crime has been committed, i.e. suspects that Michael Ross stole the missing drugs. Alternatively, she could call at a later

stage. *This will have been decided in advance.* The police would know that there was a site in their area where biohazardous materials are dealt with. They would have met with the company long ago and agreed a protocol for dealing with biohazard. At police headquarters there would be a commander (probably a superintendent) with responsibility for CBRN—chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear incidents.

- 2) The likeliest moment for things to go wrong is in the first hour—Golden Hour—or even the first minute. Non-identification or wrong identification of the hazard. Toni's phone call will be answered by a PC or even a civilian communications operator. This person could fail to recognise the incident for what it is and delay the implementation of the agreed plan. However, there would be a high local awareness of the existence of the lab, so this is unlikely.
  - a) (If she had dialled 999, she would first have got a BT operator, who would have connected her with the appropriate service, and she would get a sergeant.)
- 3) The first step would be to send a patrol car to the scene to verify the details. Two or more police officers, plus a detective to look at a dead body.
- 4) Now or possibly after the patrol car has reported in, HQ would implement the agreed emergency plan. This would be a pre-set screen on the command and control network.
- 5) HQ would notify the CBRN commander and the Harbourmouth Health Board (which would be the lead agency). They too would have a plan, or rather a role in the previously agreed plan. They would have a predetermined person to co-ordinate. This would be a consultant in public health medicine.
- 6) An Inspector would be sent to the scene. The immediate responsibility of the police would be to secure the area and prevent public access; ensure that the virus cannot spread by for example air ducts; and ensure that persons who might have been contaminated remain at the scene and do not leave.
- 7) The CBRN commander would go to the site where there would be a meeting of all involved parties, in this case Health Board, police, and the company.
  - a) The murder inquiry would unquestionably take second place to the public safety priority. The police duty under the Scotland Act is to "guard, watch and patrol to preserve life".

## P11

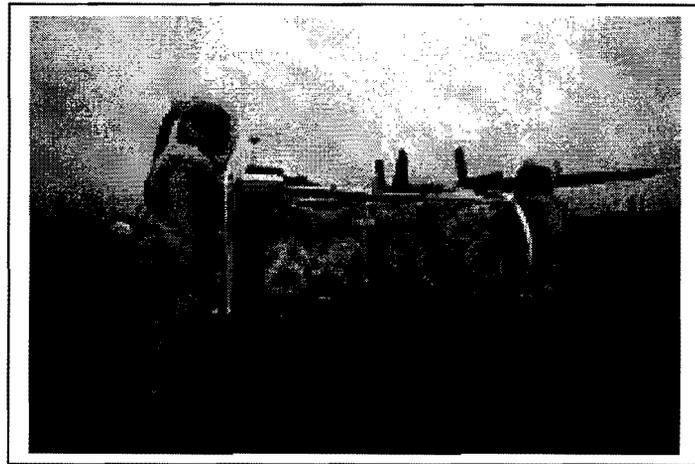
LG: Toni loved being a cop and was deeply devastated when she lost the job. Now that she is using those skills again, she feels good.

EF: – last para: Would Stanley be at work on Xmas day?

EF: P11 P15 – "destroy the virus". Does this mean there is something Toni could take with her after the theft that could render the virus ineffective?

SE: The biohazard suits would have to be donned in the field. The blue Dover type suits would not be worn in the field. The most typical are white Tyvek "bunny suits", boots, and PAPRs (Powered Air-purifying Respirator). PAPRs have a battery pack that is worn on your belt and a small HEPA filter and fan. The blue suits are too bulky (heavy) to be fitted with a small fan that could keep the suit positive. See image of Canadian, USAMRIID team. The Swedes use some swanky orange suits – see image.





**USAMRIID Aeromedical Isolation Team**

Consider changing word “cleanse” to “decontaminate”.

**P12**

SE: No one would probably catch this, but it would be difficult for Toni to call out “Hello?” in the suit. If she did shout loud enough she might blow-out the other folks with the headsets.

**P13**

SE: Reference to smell. Odors do pass through HEPA filters but they are very difficult to detect. KF: Say she smelled blood and concluded that the smell must be extraordinarily strong to pass through the HEPA filter.

SE: Reference to Michaels “body and unexploded bomb” – actually the hemorrhaging would be more like an EXPLODED bomb.

**P14**

SE: What was in the injection that Ruth, the paramedic, gave to Michael? Blood Coagulant? Morphine?

**P15**

SE: In lieu of “spray cans” consider using garden sprayers. Polypropylene garden sprayers that you can buy at the hardware store are commonly used to mix solutions for area decontaminations as well as decontaminating responders and their suits. The paramedics and others would be deconned after they put Michael in the isolator so they wouldn’t create a huge contamination of the ambulance, etc. A personnel decon can simply be the person

standing in a little baby pool while someone sprays them down with solution (like and outdoor Chemical shower!). The solution is left on a prescribed amount of time then they are sprayed with regular water – all in the baby pool. The baby pool is filled last with additional solution to really sock the liquid effluent.

There is a reference to “the Fort” and I believe this is the first reference as there are numerous from this point forward. I didn’t quite understand “the Fort” as there is no previous explanation of this “nickname”. Consider going back to previous nickname of “the Kremlin” or explain the new nickname.

The site decontamination description is a little off – scientifically. Sentence reads, “...sprayed with a powerful disinfectant that would destroy the virus by coagulating the protein capsule containing its lethal DNA”. Virus have an outer protective envelope – bacteria have a “capsule”. Consider changing to “sprayed with a powerful disinfectant that would destroy the virus’ outer protective envelope containing its lethal DNA.”

GK:

- Rather than a furnace, you may want to call it a medical incinerator.
- The highly hazardous viruses that you are generally referring to typically have an outer membrane that is composed of lipids (fats) from the cell membrane and viral proteins inserted into the membrane (referred to as glycoproteins). Coagulation of the proteins by the decontaminants is generally less of a mode of action than stripping away the cell membrane to inactivate these types of viruses via a detergent action, or oxidizing the proteins with caustic materials.
- The nucleic acid of hemorrhagic fever viruses are RNA-based.

**P16**

KF: Each time Toni comes in contact with the police, she hankers for the old days; then, each time she brings off a small triumph, she exults that her skills still have a value.

AB: I also wondered a lot about the relationship between Toni and Frank. We know they were together for a long time, close to seven years, and we know that Frank left Toni, but we don't know why Frank is so angry. It seems important to know more about their past relationship given how much of the story depends upon Frank's reluctance to give Toni the upper hand. At times he seems more interested in putting her down than in preventing a major bio terrorist attack. Why?

AZ: Toni should have some humour about her relationship with Frank. She stayed with him for eight years, so he can't be a complete asshole. Yes they broke up because he wouldn't commit and wouldn't agree to have kids; but what if she still has some affection for him, although she's quite glad that she's no longer with him? Maybe their breaking point was a brilliant bit of detective work which she did but for which he took the credit and got promoted. But she's long since forgiven him.

SE: Another “Fort” reference. I won't label all of them.....

**p17**

KF: Toni is too quick to anger here.

GK: How does the lab tech sneak a rabbit out?

**P18**

AZ: Toni feels grief for Michael Ross.

**P19**

AZ: Toni imagines a worst-case scenario if Frank were to leak the story—and this may be a way of introducing her feelings for Stanley. That should work its way into the chapter somehow.

**p20**

IT last line: suggest slightly more beguiling line such as 'Why Toni, as if I would' or some such

**P22****Chapter Two: 7am (pps22-30)**

*Kit watches the news*

JT: The relationship between Kit and his father needs a bit more setting up and could be a bit more complex. Nothing Stanley has done could make him to blame for Kit's actions now, but Stanley might feel guilt about the way he's been too soft or too hard or whatever on Kit. KF: Kit is charming, attractive, seductive, but inside he is burning up with rage against the world—cf SER. Stanley knows about this rage but cannot understand where it comes from.

AZ: I see Kit loving two people, Miranda and Tom. KF: No. He is too selfish to love anyone but himself.

AZ: Make Kit more interesting.

- What if he also has devised what he believes is a system at winning at blackjack or poker; and this of course has been his undoing, and not just mindless gambling. KF: Yes.
- Kit could also have done some small-time computer hacking, perhaps bought some expensive items with stolen credit card numbers.
- As to the money he skimmed from his father, he might have done that to finance some expensive IT equipment he couldn't afford.
- Any pain at feeling cut off from his father and siblings and being disgraced? Does he long for any of them or for his little nephews and nieces?
- What does he long to do after the robbery? Leave the country, or remain in Glasgow? Do something with Ronnie, with a woman? How does he imagine enjoying his payoff? Give him a big fantasy, which is to breach the security at some major bank, transfer a hefty sum (maybe belonging to Harry) to the Cayman Islands, and then run a small disco and inn somewhere in the Caribbean. KF: Yes. A small village in Italy.
- Does he have any further technical ambitions? Could he be working on some new device, technique, software?
- I suggest too that we make Ronnie into more of a pal. He too might be single and perhaps counts on going to the Caribbean with Kit. You might also consider putting him into Kit's loft that first morning when we meet Kit. Ronnie could be there with a different girl.

AZ: What if Kit is not quite the fuck-up that you now have him being; but a man who was seduced, as it were, by Harry Mac and Nigel for this job. As back-story, Harry hears about the incredible state of the art system that Kit has designed for Oxenford; and that gives him the idea of doing two things. One would be alerting Nigel to a possible opportunity. And the other would be getting his hooks into Kit. Harry does this by commissioning Kit to design security for his gambling parlor or parlors and his home. Harry also has seen come there as an occasional and casual player; so Harry baits the trap by offering Kit unlimited credit. Maybe not unlimited, but he tells Kit that if he has any losses, he shouldn't really worry about them.

So, Kit has fallen into this trap; but he doesn't realize it. He thinks Harry is his pal; and that over time he can either win the money back or earn enough at installing security systems to pay Harry back. So, when Daisy nearly drowns him it's a huge shock. KF: WE certainly need more back story to show that Harry extended credit to Kit with a purpose.

**p23**

IT: 5 lines up: 'rear' sounds slightly coy – could we not just use back or ass?

**P24**

KS - Kit picked up some girl in a Glasgow Club, not exactly unheard of in Glasgow but the girl sounded much too well spoken - the type of girl you would pick up in a Glasgow club would no doubt speak in thick Glasgow slang "Yer no bad yersell" , "time fur a wee shag", "well, this wee elf is gonnie huv (or hae) a lie in" would have

**P26**

IT First para: we've had reference to the Christmas break and the perfect timing at the end of p23

l.11 'Throw himself off Forth Bridge' – he sounds a bit wet here, perhaps simply 'wanted to be sick'

GK: Why would someone who had earlier been working as a law enforcement officer be put in charge of the facilities? That is generally a job for someone with an engineering or facilities maintenance background, especially for a biocontainment facility.

**p27**

GK: Since you have identified it as Ebola, then all of the items that I indicated above with respect to the virus are accurate. Ebola is a negative stranded RNA virus with a lipid membrane - glycoprotein outer envelope.

**P29**

IT l.5 He's called Michael Ross, isn't he? But actually, he's also called Mark Ross a lot, so we need to decide which name you want to use and make corrections throughout.

Bottom of page, you refer Kit not wanting to commit suicide, but on p26 he's mentioned, perhaps not seriously, wanting to chuck himself off the Forth Bridge (I said I'm a pedant).

GK: Should change name from "'Osborne' to 'Ross'

**P31**

**Chapter Three: 8am (pps31-41)**

*Toni & Stanley watch the robbery on video*

KF: First off, Stanley does something thoughtful for Toni, maybe just asks her if she's okay; making her think he cares for her. Asks if she's slept? Maybe she recalls more of the earlier phone call.

KF: Bring in Susan Mackintosh here, so that we care when she's coshed later. Also Toni's secretary, so that we know someone admires her and likes her.

AZ: This is all good information, but it feels a bit flat because there's little personal going on between Toni and Stanley

- With her starting to like him, could she be hopeful that this episode might bring them closer together?
- Does his physical closeness alongside her at the computer affect her?

- Is she eager for a word of praise that she's made this discovery?
- Does she admire him in the clothes that she hasn't seen before?

In terms of dramatic action, it would be good for her to have a goal vis-à-vis Stanley that she does or does not attain.

EF: We miss Stanley's PoV. How does he feel about Toni?

LG: Toni didn't grab me, she wasn't that dynamic and I didn't feel a real connection with her. I would have liked to know her better, even where her feelings for Stanley were concerned.

KF: Odette phones. She has an interest in Madoba-2. Is Toni sure Michael was working alone? There is a terrorist group that has been trying to buy an Ebola-type virus.

IT: 1.8 Mark Ross here, and several times on forthcoming pages. I haven't noted them all

SE: Rabbits, particularly the type used in containment laboratories, don't usually bite.

I don't quite follow the logic of Michael exchanging rabbits including the effort to infect the replacement, but it is also obvious that Michael is not all together. Anyhow.... It would be difficult to impossible to get a rabbit out of the lab because of the Chemical shower routine. He would have to put it into some sort of container so the rabbit would not die from the Chemical exposure. Since Michael is as illogical as he sounds - I suppose he could unzip his suit, put the rabbit in a "papoose" and carry it out. Opening your suit in a BSL4 lab is not a dangerous as it sounds, because most live agents are either containerized, opened in a BSC or deconned immediately (spray solution, etc.) as part of basic safety protocol. If Michael (mistakenly) thought the rabbit was "clean" because it was not yet part of an exposure study, then he would only have to be mildly insane to put it into his suit. If the rabbit had been exposed (when Michael didn't know about it), then Michael would be exposed to Madoba in his suit. Michael would also not have to expose the poor replacement bunny. This scenario would account for the exposure through breathing (in the suit) in lieu of the "Monty Python Killer Rabbit". There is the issue of exposing the shower, locker room etc., so maybe you need a little UV exposure? Blind bunny?

...sorry, I am an architect- not a writer, I feel like it would be easier to draw a picture!

GK:

- Under procedures that would have been in place in our biocontainment facility, if something like this had happened, we would have notified the boss immediately. Why would Toni not be instantly on the phone with the owner, if she had no qualms about calling all other types of employees during the early morning hours?"
- "Someone would have also brought the rabbit back to the lab as well. If the rabbit was dead, one would assume that it too had experienced a hemorrhagic episode and would be easily identified as having been infected.

**P32**

GK: Good response from the owner - these would have been accurate.

**p35**

EF: "Stanley was angry". He was amused on P34.

IT: Last para: we, the reader, know about Kit's misdemeanours, so it seems a bit odd to have this background information again so soon.

**P37**

KF: Notes from Winnipeg web site.

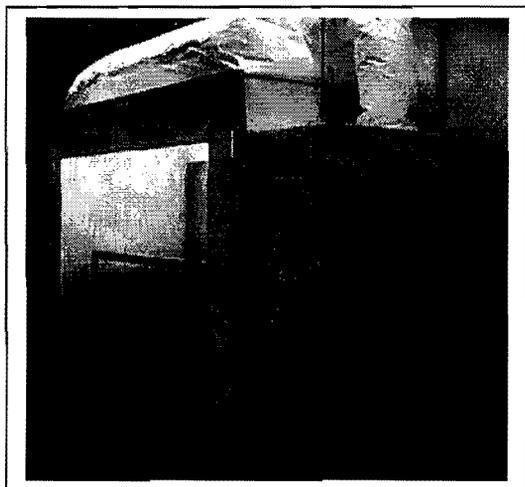
- The key pad is on a freestanding post, not let into the wall
- Scientists wear white lab coats

- Biohazards suits are bright blue with a soft hood and transparent faceplate
- Blue gloves, blue overalls, white shower caps
- Entrance has a big heavy door like a safe, opened by turning a four-spoked wheel like a ship's wheel
- Yellow air hoses
- Plastic drawer stacks
- HEPA means High Efficiency Particulate Air filtration. It filters all particles known to cause disease, and particles 85 times smaller than that (?).

### P38

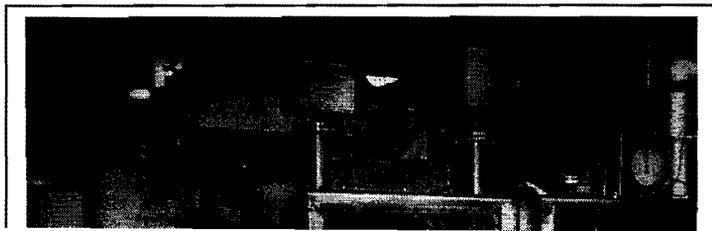
GK: Unfortunately, there are no rabbit models for Ebola viruses or Ebola-like viruses. Rabbits would not normally be used for this. The only animal models that currently exist are monkeys and mice. The virus that is used for mice had to be specially adapted through serial passage in baby mice, then older mice. If you want this to be scientifically credible, you will somehow have to build into your novel that their scientists had spent quite some time developing a rabbit model for the virus. This can also be part of the demonstration that this biotech company was very good at what they do - novel lethal rabbit model in addition to the anti-viral drug

SE: Rabbits would not be housed in biosafety cabinets. They would be housed in conventional rabbit racks. The rack would be kept in a flexible isolator with HEPA filters. See image.



*Image of soft-sided isolator with HEPA filters and fan motor assembly. This image just has a stainless steel cart in it, which is also used to stow animal cages (mice, rabbits, etc.)*

The aerosol would not be delivered into the animal cage. The animal(s) would be transported to a **Class III** biological safety cabinet (aka – Gloveboxes) and the agent would be aerosolized into the cabinet. After the exposure volume/time is complete – the cabinet is evacuated and the animal(s) are removed through a sealed transport device to minimize gross contamination the room. Sometimes a device is used so only the mouth/nose of the animal is exposed – this reduces having fugitive live agent (virus) in the animals fur.



*Class III cabinet at USAMRIID (not active).*

*Note the plexi-glass*

Cameras are often installed in the Class III (Glovebox) for a number of reasons, including training, monitoring and bio-assurity. These are very custom devices and can also be fitted with refrigerators and freezers to store material.

**p39**

GK: The actual act of aerosol challenge of animals involves placing the animals into a specialized aerosol hood line. This type of line is air-tight and the animals are generally exposed either to whole body aerosol, or to a head only aerosol. For the purposes here, you may want to say something like ""the rabbits were subjected to the virus in a specialized aerosol generation cabinet, exposing their heads only to the microscopic mist of lethal virus.

**P40**

BF: Why does he take a rabbit in if he loves animals? KF: More discussion of this by Stanley and Toni. He must have developed an affection for a particular rabbit. (Named it, too.)

EF: I'm not clear why he nicked the anti-viral. I'm getting confused between the virus and the anti-viral.

SE: If macaque monkeys are used then it would be rare to have beagles in the BSL4.

Typically vaccines are tested on rodents, rabbits and non-human primates (macaques, baboons, etc.). Dogs are usually used for toxicology studies that are not in containment. Tox studies are done to see if the drug or its delivery compound have a negative (toxic) reaction. I'm not exactly a dog lover.....but, puppies?

GK: I do not know of any beagles currently being used in filovirus (Ebola) research. Of course, these dogs may be associated with some other type of work not specific to the fictional virus Madoba-2.

**P41**

GK: The described technology of having a canister with a filovirus ready to aerosolize would also be very, very different from any current technology. All aerosol experiments these days involve very precise delivery techniques that take place inside specialized cabinets called Class III (aerosol hood lines). The virus must be prepared in a liquid form and then sprayed. Viruses such as Ebola must be maintained for long term storage at -70 C or greater, so just taking a canister from a cabinet and spraying like a hairspray would be quite novel (I am not sure that such a device would be possible - but this is fictional).

SE: Reference to dose of Madoba in Aerosolized form. Note storage would not be in aerosolized form, but rather a concentrated culture.

Here is reference to Michael taking the rabbit out through the shower (Chemical Shower). This would be the place to slip the rabbit into the suit...

#### P42

##### **Chapter Four: 8.30am (pps42-48)**

*Miranda meets Olga*

KF: A coffee bar in Sauciehall St.

EF: I think we are missing Xmas background. Shoppers, music in café, a general holiday feeling

AZ: This will involve us more if we can make Miranda more sympathetic.

Make her the sister who adores everyone in her family: Stanley, Kit, even Olga who from childhood has always given her a hard time. She finds things to admire and revere about all of them. And Ned is the dearest, kindest, smartest man in the world, and a great lover. Her Tom is a prince, and even difficult Sophie is exceptional and marvellous in some way. She may come off as a bit silly, but we'll then empathize so much more with her desire for Olga's help.

KF: No. Olga is a PoV character and can't be completely silly. She needs to be vulnerable, but also brave and smart. Better than she sees everyone's weaknesses but has a big heart and forgives them all—but Olga makes her worry about Ned.

#### P49

##### **Chapter Five: 9am (pps49-55)**

*Phone call from the US Embassy*

AZ: Chaos and catastrophe loom, but we feel it only marginally.

- Cynthia has been accosted, nearly assaulted, and I suggest she be hysterical or on the verge.
- Toni remembers these rules she's learned, but will they work in this situation? And since she, too, is stunned by the uproar, she must struggle to come up with a message.
- And Stanley, just as agitated, may have other ideas.
- Toni may also castigate herself for having allowed the police to be called to the Ross cottage.
- Then the news that the US could pull out and ruin Oxenford needs to appal and devastate both Toni and Stanley.

Toni should react internally when he touches her or does anything else of a would-be intimate nature.

KF: There have been concerned inquiries from the office of the First Minister of Scotland and from the Department of the Environment in London.

#### P53

SE: Reference to "transfer the research to Atlanta" might also include "or Ft. Detrick" (USAMRIID).

GK: I am not aware of any drug testing for filoviruses taking place at the CDC. Most current drug testing on Ebola is done at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases. CDC has done some work on transfer of antibodies to evaluate protection, and worked on vaccine development, as has USAMRIID.

#### P54

EF: We haven't 'met' Stanley yet. We don't know what he thinks about Toni, Kit's betrayal etc

## P56

### Chapter Six: 9.30am (pps56-62)

#### *Daisy tortures Kit*

KF: Harry was brought up in Govan, a working-class neighbourhood near old docks, now a vast windy council estate. It includes Ibrox Park, home of the Protestant football team, Rangers. (Celtic are Catholic, started by the Irish immigrants to Glasgow in the nineteenth century.) He has moved a long way socially, but a short distance geographically—across the Paisley Road to Dumbreck, a district of gracious old double-fronted houses interspersed with new building.

AZ: The physical action is strong, but we'd be more involved if we suffered with him more.

- Does he feel any remorse for having gotten involved with these monsters, for having broken his promise to his father?
- Might he debate whether or not he's better off dead?
- Has he considered fleeing and regrets that he did not?
- What, if anything, would he know about Daisy's sex life?

AZ: Kit designed and installed a security system for Harry's gambling parlor and possibly his home as well. Kit may even feel like he's a friend of the family; so that when he's attacked by Daisy, it's a rude shock for him to discover that he's not.

AZ: Was Nigel behind some famous robbery in the past?

## P57

EF: Is Harry necessary? He disappears. Conflate him with Nigel. KF: Or eliminate Nigel and make Harry a bit brighter.

KF: In this flashback, Daisy and Elton are present as well as Harry and Nigel.

AZ: Make the villains more interesting. At present, there's nothing going on between them.

- Nigel, I see, as the king of thieves. He has stolen jewels from Asprey, bullion from the Bank of England. I suggest that we establish that he's meticulously worked over Kit's plan with him. He's a man who leaves nothing to chance and double-checks everything. But he's had a lot of praise for Kit's plan and this had meant the world to Kit. Harry too is in awe of Nigel. It could be rumored that he lives like an emperor in a vast estate on some tax shelter island or maybe Lichtenstein. KF: Yes.
- Daisy, who can be a thug, but who is not necessarily ugly, is smitten by him. On past visits to Scotland, she's enjoyed sex with him and now longs to leave her father and make a life with him. KF: No.
- But unknown to her, he's bisexual and his real love is Elton. This could get traumatically revealed to her at some point in the climax or maybe earlier. KF: No.
- Elton might have had no formal education and he could use non-grammatical ghetto speech; but he could have the instincts and speed of a feral animal combined with a saucy good humor when he's feeling lighthearted. From the outset, he mistrusts Kit, sees nothing but trouble coming from the son of a rich man. KF: Yes. An intelligent, funny, but heartless South London villain.: Elton is a valued technical expert who has worked with Nigel (or Harry) for some years. Apart from the areas where Kit is the expert, Elton is in charge of all gadgetry: cars, guns, disguises, the briefcase.

- AZ: He's also hostile to Daisy, despises the little attentions she shows to Nigel, and even tries to get her thrown out of their group. To him, a woman in their lives or in their work is anathema.

**P59**

IT Harry spitting into the pool made me want to gag! V. successful image, then!

**P63****Chapter Seven: 10am (pps63-70)**

*Miranda and Ned at Jennifer's house*

KF: Miranda's flat in a Georgian terrace off the Great Western Road.

AZ: Miranda could have a secret ambition for Tom, imagines him stepping into Stanley's shoes. She struggles to tutor him extensively in science and math. But Tom's passion is for drawing. She might consult Kit about how to awaken Tom's scientific interests and wonder at what age her father started showing this bent.

**p65**

AZ: If Miranda is to get Ned in the end, do you want to make him look so pathetic here? KF: Probably yes. He will be brave when it comes to the crunch.

AZ: What if Sophie were to like Miranda better than her own mother, always wants to go to Miranda's place, confides in Miranda as to an older sister, and Jennifer knows this and this is why the mere sight of Miranda infuriates her? KF: It would be more in character for Sophie to pretend to her mother than she prefers Miranda, and to pretend the opposite to Miranda.

**P70**

IT I love this scene with Tom and his Game Boy. V. apt for a young boy.

**P71****Chapter Eight: 11am (pps71-81)**

*Press conference*

AZ: All the speeches are excellent, as is the scene with Osborne. What's still needed is more inner tension in Toni (and perceived by Toni in Stanley) about the potential disaster from the US. They must struggle to project calm and reassurance while internally they are on tenterhooks.

Even if the press conference is a success and the press buys what they say, the US could still withdraw. KF: No. After they see the news coverage, they must feel that they have weathered the storm—provided there is no further scare (which of course there will be when the theft is discovered).

Do more to warm up Toni's feelings for Stanley and her excitement about being invited.

GK: AIDS should be all capitals since it is an acronym. Might want to say "" three million people died of AIDS, which is caused by a human immunodeficiency virus

**P72**

SE: Change "germs" to "bacteria".

GK:

- Again, AIDS needs capitalization. May want to say ""before AIDS and influenza, the great virus-caused killer was smallpox"". Also, the Chinese used a form of vaccination, called variolation, actually using smallpox virus, well before Jenner's

discovery. Jenner identified that a different virus, cowpox, could be used to prevent smallpox.

- Would be better to say "A virus cannot reproduce itself - instead, it hijacks the biochemical machinery of a living cell..." The difference being that virus do not specifically use host DNA, but use host proteins (along with their own) and the host's basic molecular building blocks inside the cell (like the nucleotides that make up DNA and RNA) to replicate.

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#### P74

IT Top of page: 'She was able to say this with confidence because she was the person who gave Frank Hackett the dud information' – can we delete this line, because the reader already knows about it, cf p19

#### P. 75

NN: Stanley's answer that "one person can infect another very quickly" seems to me *would* be the quote that would come out of the news conference. Even if the lab was convinced that Ross had seen no one else -- which they aren't -- the fact that this is rapidly contagious among humans is the sure-fire news scare line (it certainly would be here!), and nothing Toni says afterward could possibly minimize it. Is there any way for Stanley not to give out such alarming information, or to obscure it in such a way that it doesn't sound so alarming?

GK: Good coverage for the host range of the fictional virus, although it might be better to switch chimpanzees to rhesus macaques. Also, good to see that there is a mention that this is in a specific "type" of rabbit. That would work well with earlier comment #18 if the lab identified a new rabbit model for the Madoba virus.

#### P76

SE: Nice reference to CDC and USAMRIID. Work is also done at Battelle Laboratories.

#### p78

AZ: Carl may not need to affect Toni so severely. She could think he's silly, pompous, self important, and she has no interest in having a personal relationship with him, but there could be something about him that she likes nonetheless. She might find him amusing, but she of course hides this.

#### P82

##### **Chapter Nine: 12 noon (pps82-90)**

*Miranda arrives at Steepfall*

##### **West coast of Scotland**

- Sea lochs
- Most houses are by the shore line.
- Poor farms. Grazing. Horses in coats.
- Winding road. Bridges over burns.
- Villages with churches, harbours, lines of council houses along the side of the loch.
- Most houses are painted white.
- Plenty of cliffs, but few houses on cliff tops!
- A long twilight from 4 to 5. A long period of half light from 8am to 9am.

AZ: Stanley can be gentle and kind with his family, be sensitive to them; but they nonetheless should all be somewhat in awe of him. A poor boy who by dint of will and intelligence and

endless labor has given them tutors, the best schools, luxurious holidays, financial assistance when they needed it. Olga can and should rail at him as she does, but I wonder if this ought to be as easy for her as you now have it. There are times when Stanley comes off as something of a milquetoast whereas I feel he ought to be more powerful and commanding.

He should be warm but also distracted, tense. When does he call back Mahoney, or has he already done so?

AZ: Miranda, as I've indicated in my marginal notes, loves everyone in her immediate family, and she finds reasons to admire them despite their obvious faults.

We know that her dilemma is, will Ned be accepted by the family which she desperately wants. But then, should she have a child with him? Or are Tom and Sophie more that enough? In her heart of hearts, she could long for another baby, a girl.

AZ: We know what Miranda wants, but is there anything in particular which she fears? Something one of the relatives might do or say that could cause things to turn out badly?

EF: We miss Stanley's PoV. How does he feel about Marta?

PG: Call him Stanley, not Daddy.

EF: line 3: Visibility doesn't shorten. It diminishes, I think.

#### **P86**

IT:l.11 I think to call Stanley 'Daddy' in speech is good, but to refer to him as such in the narrative seems odd – why not just 'her father'?

#### **P89**

EF: para3--I was momentarily unsure who Craig's father was.

#### **P90**

EF – para 2: I thought Toni might say a little more to the family here. She sounds a bit short.

#### **P91**

#### **Chapter Ten: 1pm (pps91-101)**

##### *Toni at Steepfall*

AZ: This chapter is essentially about the relationship between Toni and Stanley, but we're dealing with that mostly tangentially. KF: Why not?

I suggest she vacillate almost violently between entertaining the possibility of a life with him and then rejecting the idea totally. And she rejects him most strongly when she's stirred by the physical attraction.

EF: We miss Stanley's PoV. How does he feel about Kit?

AZ: When Toni sees the family in the kitchen, she should think what a great guy Stanley is to have created this warmth.

KF: Toni should tell Stanley that Osborne asked her out on a date, so that Stanley can react (realising that Toni will not be around indefinitely?)

#### **p93**

KF: The news includes comments from the Scottish First Minister and the British Environment Minister about the hazards from viruses.

#### **P96**

EF – 3<sup>rd</sup> last line: When did Toni make this identification?

**P99**

EF: Say that this is a stylish coupe.

JT: Stanley says " I thought I might lose it," as if the danger is over. Is it? The Ross scandal could still play out against him. Couldn't he say something about not wanting to lose it?

**P102**

**Chapter Eleven: 2pm (pps102-109)**

*Craig shows Sophie the attic*

AZ/KF: Craig's attitude to Sophie is not just lust. He has dated a couple of girls before, and his relationship with them was pretty much pure desire, but he feels a bit differently about Sophie. He is fascinated by her altogether—although getting into her pants is still a priority.

AZ: Keep in the foreground Craig's infatuation for Sophie and all the things he admires about her.

AZ: What does Craig want for Christmas? What does Sophie want for Christmas?

**P104**

JT: When Olga arrives she relates to Miranda as if they had not met up for coffee that morning.

**P105**

IT V. good here and elsewhere on teenagers, young love and fumbling etc.

**P107**

Craig says to Sophie that a girl at a party said he was a good kisser and can he show her. I think it's too soon for this. Would he be that rash, just when he thinks he has finally gotten her to talk to him in a non-surly way? It's a big leap! She's sent out no signals. And the result is exactly what you'd expect: she holds up her hand to repel his advances. So maybe he doesn't say it? Or, at the least, realizes immediately what an impetuous idiot he's just been, blurting this out (stupid! stupid! stupid!) and kicks himself for it after he gets the brushoff.

**P110**

**Chapter Twelve: 3pm (pps110-115)**

*Toni gives Steve a final briefing*

EF: With Stanley not being a POV character, I think we're missing some background.

- What was Stanley's first success?
- What's his love life like now?
- His feelings about his kids? Toni? Sacking Kit?

Could we get this info from Miranda thinking about her Dad?

**P114**

EF: A warmer relationship between Toni and Odette

**p115**

AZ: Toni's unease would be more telling if it had a focus. One could be Stanley. What might happen to him? A second might be her job, her livelihood. Will she be forced to give up her home and live with her sister? She should feel almost under siege.

**P116****Chapter Thirteen: 4pm (pps116-124)***Kit steals Stanley's smart card*

AZ: Kit could use more interior.

First, more tension and terror at being caught and at failing to find the card. What happens to him if he fails to get it? How in hell will he get around the fingerprint requirement?

Plus, what if Nigel fails to pay, and they just bump him off or cripple him? What if things go wrong and he has to spend the rest of his life in jail?

KF: Also, how does he feel about being a snake in the bosom of his family?

**P117**

KF: This phone call is supposed to be from Rob McKinnon, the security guard Kit has subverted. But the evening shift is not yet on duty. Delete. Rob will be introduced in Ch16.

**P123**

EF: Miranda's fear of her secret getting out could be stronger, justifying her covering up Kit's theft.

AB: Why didn't Miranda try harder to convince Kit not to tell her sister about her relationship with Hugo?. In the scene on page 123 where Kit overhears Miranda and Hugo, and then Miranda catches Kit stealing money from their father, Miranda seems more interested in protecting Kit than herself. I understand she's filling in for her mother, but given the nature of the secret she shares with Kit and the damage it will do to her relationship with Ned and her sister, it seems she would do more to keep Kit's mouth shut, especially when we learn later that he was never good at keeping secrets.

**P134****Chapter Fourteen: 5pm (pps134-138)***Toni speaks to Bella*

AZ: Toni seems motivated only by duty. Does she not love her mother? What if mother raised her two girls single-handedly, gave them endless help with their schoolwork, focused intensely on their getting a good education, scholarships, made parties for them. Toni adores her. KF: Mother was a smart woman who is now losing her mind. Toni loves her intensely, and is deeply saddened by her decline.

AZ: Toni could also be more devoted than she is now to her scatterbrained sister. KF: Her relationship with her sister should have warmth as well as frustration.

EF: Toni should call her friends at the spa, and we should learn how disappointed they are that she can't make it.

AZ: It would be good too if we could have some bit of her backstory in a dramatic flashback. Maybe her job interview with Stanley.

AZ: Early in the chapter, have her fantasize about the pleasure she anticipates at the spa. Let her wallow in the luxury of an imaginary massage, all her kinks and aches being magically smoothed away. So then it's not only fury and Bella but keen disappointment.

**P139****Chapter Fifteen: 7pm (pps139-145)****(Make this 6pm?)**

*Craig dents Stanley's Ferrari*

AZ: Craig may succeed in covering up his panic, but the actions should be as much about how frightened and miserable he feels as about the physical details of his losing control of the car.

Better, too, if he sees Sophie in the context of other girls he has seduced or tried to seduce. He would be more sympathetic if he were irresistibly drawn to Sophie in a way he's never felt before. Maybe he tries to talk himself out of pursuing her, but he's powerless to stop.

In the family, who does Craig like and admire? Who does he dislike and despise? KF: He admires Stanley, dislikes Kit. He has issues with his father, who is a hypocrite.

What has Craig learned about love, sex and women from

- Olga
- Hugo (a womaniser—does Craig know that?)
- Other boys

**p144**

KF: Mention here the possibility that Luke might take the Nissan Patrol?

**P146**

**Chapter Sixteen: 8pm (pps146-154)**

**(Make this 7pm?)**

*Kit hacks into the Kremlin phone system*

AZ: More emotional ups and downs--ups when his techniques work beautifully, downs at the setbacks.

Does Kit fantasize about revenge on Daisy?

KF: Make it clear that Kit's laptop is mains or battery, and the phone connection is wireless.

KF/JT: Have Kit call his contact at the Kremlin and ask how many guards are on duty.

Explain who Rob is. Change his name to Hamish, to differentiate him from the former head of security.

**P149**

EF: Toni's security looks weak. Perhaps there should be someone (Kit's accomplice at the Kremlin?) who has persuaded Stanley that Toni's plans to modernise the security system were unworkable / expensive / non-essential and had to be reined in. This could have led to Toni's one and only run-in with Stanley.

**P153**

KF: When Stanley leaves, Kit is relieved that he has got through the interrogation, of course, but he must also feel terribly guilty about lying to his father this way.

SE: Sentence reads "...to guarantee us four-hour service..." I believe this should be "...to guarantee us **twenty** four-hour service...". KF: No, but clarify.

**P155**

**Chapter Seventeen: 9pm (pps155-160)**

**(Make this 8pm?)**

*Kit betrays Miranda*

AZ: The emotional focus is Miranda. Concentrate on her feelings, reactions, longings, thoughts about each of her family members. And why doesn't she try physically to stop Kit?

EF: We miss Stanley's PoV. How does he feel about Kit?

JT: Before everyone goes to bed at Steepfall I'm curious about what's going on in Stanley's mind about what just happened between his daughters about Hugo. Also what's on his mind in relation to the question he asked about dating. I feel I could spend more time in Stanley's head overall.

I also felt I wanted to know more about what happened between Olga and Hugo when they went to bed after this bombshell was dropped. What is Olga's deal with Hugo? And how does she feel about her sister? This is pretty huge. Would love to see more of the payout. Not too much, but certainly more.

### **New chapter: 9pm?**

Toni is driving to the old folks' home and badly delayed. She feels bad about her mother having to wait, angry with Bella for causing this. Then she gets a phone call from Stanley.

Toni tells him how Bella has let her down. She talks a bit about how she feels about Mother.

Stanley tells Toni her about Miranda and Hugo. He explains how he feels.

- Hugo was always a bit flaky. Olga knows that. Right now she's feeling humiliated, and she's probably giving him tongue-lashing, but I predict she will forgive him.
- I'm more worried about Miranda. She doesn't forget so easily. She may feel guilty about this for ever.
- But the worst aspect was Kit's betrayal. Stanley reveals his pain and disappointment that his son is weak and dishonest. He is old enough to have wished for a boy to follow in his footsteps. He talks about how children never turn out as you expect.

He asks her for a date. She is thrilled. He talks about how he disapproves of bosses dating employees, but life is too short. She is happy again.

### **P161**

#### **Chapter Eighteen: 10:30pm (pps161-168)**

*Kit rendezvous with the gang*

IT 1.9 'to alert Stanley' – to what? To the phones being out of order?

Last line, again use of Daddy, but not in speech, sits oddly. Can you look at this usage throughout if you agree with me, because it comes up a lot.

### **P163**

IT 1.7 'surreptiously' seems a curious word to use – do we need it?

1.17 'made haloes' rather than 'put'?

### **P164**

IT 1.1 'Daddy might have a brilliant scientific idea and go this study to use the computer' Do we need all these three possibilities together? Might be more effective to have something like 'People were always walking around in the middle of the night: someone getting a drink of water, his father busy at his computer' or something?

### **P165**

KF: All the cars are parked in a hangar so that they cannot be seen from outside. (In the new final scene, the police cars too will be in the hangar.)

EF – "sky-blue Bentley". Would he be able to identify the colour?

IT 1.1 'tire tracks' – American spelling deliberate here and elsewhere?

1.3 and 5: repetition of suspicion. Suggest line 5 'and she would be none the wiser' instead. And Miranda knows that Kit has gone out, doesn't she? On p163 he stalks off.

### P166

KF: Make more of the scene at the airfield.

It belongs to Harbourmouth Flying School, which operates only in the summer months.

The gang go inside. There is an Air Traffic Control desk. Nigel/Harry phones the buyer to confirm all is well. A discussion about the weather. The buyer is arriving by helicopter, and Elton will be able to speak to him by radio as he approaches. He will be making a legitimate, logged trip, with an unscheduled and unrecorded stop here.

EF: I think the disguises need to be more sophisticated to convince. The stuff Kit is supplying is all amateur and obvious. Perhaps it could be a skill of Elton's. It can't be easy to disguise a black man in Glasgow.

	Actual appearance	Disguise
Harry	Fifty. Stocky, once muscular, now paunchy. Thinning hair, watery blue eyes, crooked teeth, bad skin.	Grey wig, modern glasses, earring, false teeth, make him look younger but no less thuggish
Daisy	Shaved head, broken nose, black eyebrows, brown eyes, pierced nose.	Blonde wig, dyed eyebrows, piercings removed, blue contact lenses
Elton	Handsome, Afro-Carib, short hair.	Grey hair, artificial lines on the face, grey stuck-on moustache, much older.
Kit	Hugh Grant: Fit, slim, boyishly attractive, thick fair hair, blue eyes	Black wig, black moustache, glasses with tinted lenses

AZ: What's missing is how Kit feels about each of these people, and about actually going through with this robbery. And his money? Would he ask to see it, or to receive a part payment? And how much strength of will must he muster to stand up to Daisy?

AZ: What if Nigel, during his previous dealings with Harry, had an affair of sorts with Daisy? What if she wants to resume and he doesn't—but on the other hand he is afraid of offending Harry?

### P167

IT 1.1 'doctored to show them in their new guises' rather than 'as disguised'?

JT: I didn't quite believe that Kit would walk away from Daisy like he does here and that he would sort her out so quickly. She almost killed him the day before. Here he seems stronger than I believe he is in relation to her. Overall Kit's revealed strengths and weaknesses feel uneven. Sometimes he's powerful, sometimes weak. That's right for someone who is doing what he's doing, but he doesn't feel quite right yet. I'm not sure in the end of his motivation, but more on this just now.

### P169

Chapter Nineteen: 11:45pm (pps169-174)

*Toni, Mother and Carl Osborne*

JT: I like Toni's mother as a character, but feel I need to know just a tiny bit more about her up front. And I feel the motive when Toni decides to take her with to Steepfall in the middle of the night needs to be stronger.

AZ: When Toni thinks about her mother, she should feel love, as well as anger about the obligation forced upon her.

AZ: Toni's relationship with Carl Osborne doesn't need to be totally abrasive.

KT: I was a bit worried about the sheepdog puppy, 6 weeks was quite young to leave its mother, maybe 8 weeks.

**P170**

IT 1.9 suggest 'Toni shook her head, perplexed' rather than 'in perplexity'

**P173**

IT 1.7 'ravening' – this is an unusual word to use, but I know what you mean. Would 'voracious' or 'rabid' be better? And we've still got Mark Ross here, rather than Michael.

**P176****Chapter Twenty: Midnight (pps176-189)***The gang enter the Kremlin*

AZ: Put more of this in Kit's voice, as if he were talking to himself.

KF: At some point one of the gang mentions, in the hearing of Steve, the need to make the rendezvous by noon on Boxing Day.

KF: Kit's fantasy about what he will do if everything goes wrong. He will leave the country and start a new life somewhere else, preferably somewhere he has already been... Italy, his mother's country, where he speaks the language? Some quiet village he has been to for a holiday?

**P180**

Kit plays yesterday's footage to the monitors, but he does not stop the system recording the current feed from the cameras. He figures: we are all disguised, the footage will do no one any good.

**P182**

EF: Toni might recognise him by voice, smell, mannerisms, jewellery.

**P183**

IT 1.13 'Kit studied the bank of screens' better?

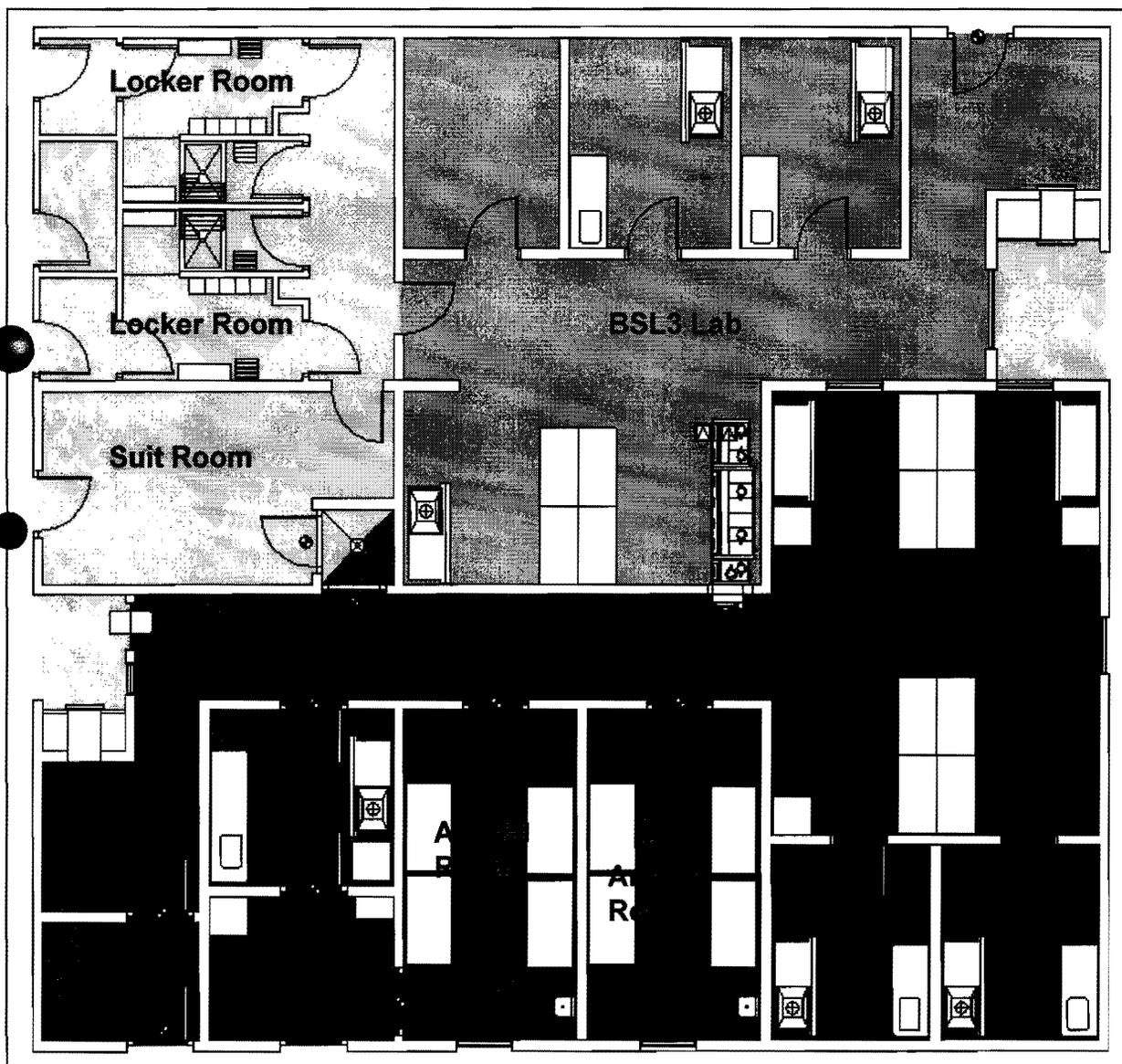
P184 - Kit mentions that the guards patrol once an hour and calculates they have 30 mins because Susan passed 15 minutes ago - I think earlier in the book Kit heard Toni on the phone to the guard reminding him patrols were to be done every hour - so he would have known he had only 15 mins till her next patrol (unless he wasn't listening when Toni reminded the guard about the half hourly patrols)

**P188**

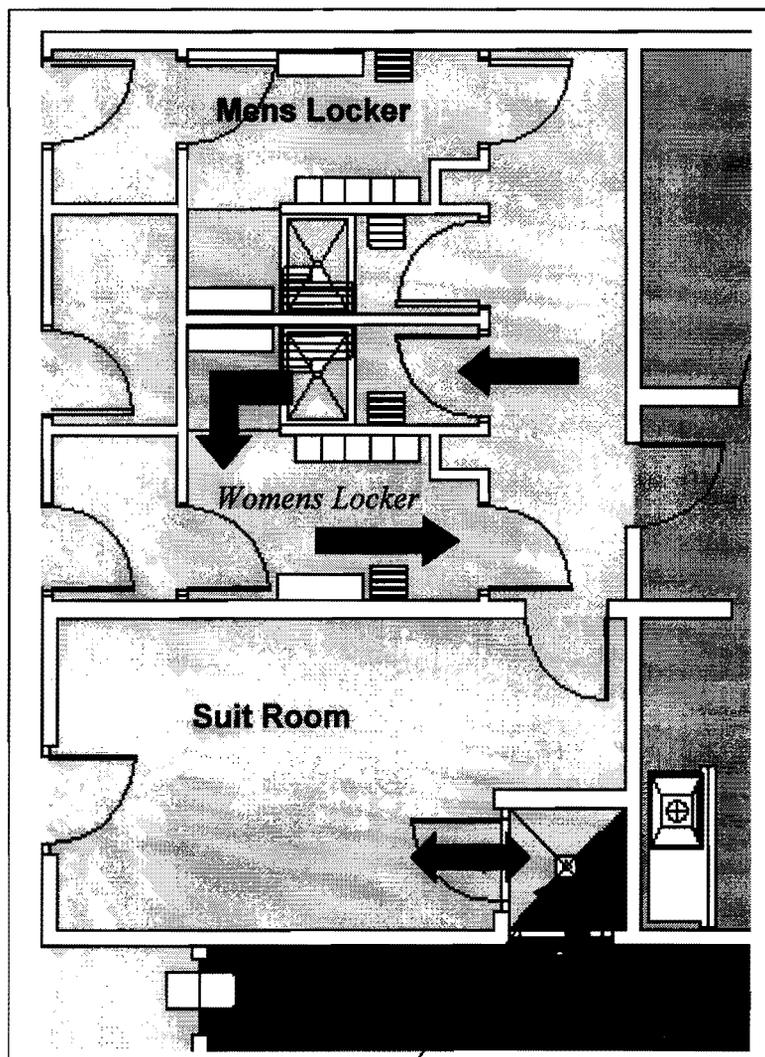
IT 1.10 Should Kit say something like 'The guards can't go in there, and I've doctored the monitors' Just to make it clear that while the guards can't see what's going on in BSL4, the gang CAN still see reception and the corridors – hence Daisy watching Susan.

GK: Technically the antechamber before the actual suite is not BSL-4, but this is a very minor point. You could just say ""as he entered the antechamber to the BSL-4 laboratory.

SE: Okay now I get to draw a picture! The following is a diagram of a BSL4 entry. Typically you could enter into the locker rooms directly from a corridor. Security into the locker rooms would be very tight, just as you described (card and biometric reader) although you wouldn't need to go through an airlock that would pop your ears – this would be a conventional door with a crack at the bottom. A common ante-room (not airlock) before the locker rooms would be a good idea though – a single secure point, single log-in, etc. ....thanks for the idea. The ear-popping pressure drop wouldn't occur until the chemical shower.



This is a schematic plan of a BSL3 and BSL4 lab



**Chemical  
shower**

Going into the BSL4 is basically how you described, but the lockers and shower aren't really part of "air-tight" containment. The shower is more because you sweat like a pig in the suit working with something that can kill you if you breathe it.

The Chemical Shower is really the line of containment for people flow. It is "airtight" with gasketed doors that are interlocked.

The suit room is where the positive pressure suits are stowed as well as tested for leaks, proper operation etc. prior to donning them.

The ante-rooms I indicated prior to entering the lockers are more for privacy/ humbleness – since you may be standing in your birthday suit when someone opens the outer door.

The dual color for the chemical shower is because once the BSL4 door is opened the shower is considered "hot". The door on the Suit Room side cannot be opened until the (even empty) Chemical shower has gone through a decon cycle and fogged out the shower.

Your text is pretty good. Hopefully this sketch can give you a visual imagine that you can put into literature (not just words) much better than I can.

**P189**

IT 1.2 I think it's been made clear enough, though, that Kit has moved the recording screens to show the previous night's footage?

GK: Good - you accurately portrayed the exit process, it is generally a release button.

**P190****Chapter Twenty-One: 0:40am (pps190-193)**

*Toni has a crash*

AZ: Emotional reactions should be coequal with physical details. Toni should have more forebodings about possible trouble at the Kremlin.

**P192**

IT 1.1 What's a 'hot hatch'?

**P194****Chapter Twenty-Two: 0:45am (pps194-205)**

*In the biohazard lab*

LG: The virus doesn't feel as threatening as it should. Keep that threat more in the foreground. Mention it in dialogue. PG: I wanted to be more scared of the virus. KF: Elton has devised an elaborate means of keeping the virus absolutely isolated—but it goes wrong, and an improvised solution is put in place that keeps everyone nervous all the time.

KF: If Nigel is eliminated, and Harry is with the gang, it should be Elton who goes into the lab with Kit, and transfers the samples to the squirt gun. Maybe the container should be a ladies' perfume spray (which could be smuggled into a concert hall).

**P197**

IT 1.4 'youths' better than 'boys'?

1.13 typo 'It was one o'clock'

**P200**

EF: I thought Daisy was pretty fit. Swimming?

**P201**

GK: Just confirming that this is an accurate estimate of the required time to get into the suits.

GK: At USAMRIID, we do not use disposable underwear, but do wear something akin to a loose fitting surgical suit, comprised of a loose fitting top with snaps down the front and elasticized cuffs, and a loose fitting set of pants with a drawstring. There is no need for leather gloves if you are not specifically going to be working with the animals in the animal holding rooms. What generally happens is that you are wearing a set of surgical gloves as the first layer, and then a second set of slightly heavier gloves, like a butyl plastic on the outside that have to be taped to the suit. The leather gloves for handling animals would stay inside the suite, and just be taken off and stored there until next needed by the animal caretaker. Leather does not do well in an autoclave, which would be the way that the gloves would need to be decontaminated. So, the process of just wearing street clothes is going to work, as long as you have the gloves in place. This will keep the positive pressure gradient inside the suit in place.

SE: Kit and Nigel cannot go into the lab without hooking up to the airhoses they would either suffocate from the CO2 or fog up the face screens with condensation. Suffocating is a given.

Hooking up really wouldn't slow them down. All of your other short-cuts were great – I also like the analogy/imagery of driving 130mph!

Sentence reads – “They went through another airlock”. Change this to “They went through the chemical shower next. To save time and by-pass the prerequisite 12 minute cycle, Kit depressed the emergency door release button. The normal alarms were silent.” Your reference to ears popping is exactly what would happen here –particularly since they opened the doors much quicker than the mechanical exhaust and supply valves can react/compensate – in fact, it may even be a quite painful ear pop.

All of the doors (both shower doors) could be left open to ease their escape – door over-ride alarms would have been silenced by Kit earlier in the control room. Not that there is anyone to react to the alarms anyhow.

You made reference to opening the refrigerator with the bolt cutters – consider using “the Vault”. I suppose somewhere toward the first reference to “the vault” you may need to detail the slang for the reader (??).

**p202**

GK:

- To the best of my knowledge, there are no suits used in BSL-4 suits that have an air filter per se built into them. Another design that does not require use of the air lines is to have a PAPR (power air purifying respirator), however, these are belt mounted, or self contained in a hood that is separate from the suit. The suit that you see in the picture is a proper one piece suit. This allows for positive air pressure to be maintained.
- Proper exit procedures is first to shower with a decontamination solution (generally a quaternary ammonium compound solution - but that is obviously too much detail). You pull a chain and the shower starts with a spray that comes from every direction. After that you do a rinse with plain water to get rid of the chemical. There is no need for a water first shower since you are trying immediately to decontaminate the suit. There may also be a vessel with extra decon solution and a brush for doing your boots. The system is set up to run for a predetermined time, like a car wash, to ensure that you have done an adequate amount of contact time with the decon solution.  
<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pphb-dgsp/msds-ftss/msds53e.html>
- Of course, if you come into contact with the outside surface of the suit, and it is contaminated with live virus and if then you rub an eye, put your fingers in your nose, or have an open wound, you stand a chance of infecting yourself

**p203**

AZ: Kit should have a bigger reaction to what Nigel has done. KF: Kit should vocalise his feelings, perhaps even have a row with Nigel.

AZ: What is his fantasy now of what will happen to him?

SE: Consider change of reference “...sprayed into biosafety cabinets to infect animals” to “...atomized (or nebulized) into Class III Gloveboxes to infect animals”.

Consider changing “cardboard boxes” to “boxes of small, graduated pyrex bottles”.

Consider changing “clear plastic tubes” to “small, graduated pyrex bottles”.

GK:

- If Madoba-2 is an Ebola virus, and since the infectious dose for Ebola is likely less than several hundred virus particles, then it would be very likely that the “aerosol container” would have hundreds to thousands of human infectious doses.”
- I would say the following: “Nigel turned off the UV light source that sterilized the interior of the cabinet and switched on the motor that created a protective curtain of

downdraft air against the interior glass pane of the cabinet. He put the sample boxes into the cabinet, and delicately tipped a dozen clear plastic tubes out of each.”

#### P204

SE: Double bag the spray bottle. Nigel’s really a bold fellow....

Consider double gloving Nigel at the BSC. “Nigel stripped off his **outer** gloves and left them at the biosafety cabinet”

GK: The act of pouring the virus into the spray gun indicates that the material is stored in liquid form - so earlier comments about the virus being an aerosol are not consistent. Secondly, this will create an aerosol that is going to contaminate the outside of the plastic spray device. Unless the outside surface of the device is wiped down with a disinfectant, it will be too hazardous to handle once it is taken outside. Finally, the materials will need to be kept cold at least, although in blood specimens, Ebola virus can stay stable at room temperature for several weeks.

#### P206

##### **Chapter Twenty-Three: 1:15am (pps206-209)**

*Toni arrives at the Kremlin*

KF: Each time Toni comes in contact with the police, she hankers for the old days; then, each time she brings off a small triumph, she exults that her skills still have a value.

KF: Steve reports to Toni what he overheard one of the gang say, that they have to make the rendezvous by noon today.

PG: The disastrous consequences of having the lethal virus moved across the countryside should be emphasized as this, rather than the gang’s personal viciousness, is what will keep the reader totally immersed in your story. The world is terrified by the prospect of bioterrorism, and I think you can play on this fear. KF: That would require a much bigger police response.

AB: I kept on wondering why no one suggested sending a helicopter in addition to the snow plough to look for the robbers given the stakes involved. NG/AB: Glasgow police have one helicopter. But in this situation military helicopters from either Prestwich or HMS Gannet are 40 minutes away. The Cabinet Office Briefing Room (COBRA) would be able to make this happen.

NG/AB: Staffing at Stirling police HQ at 2am on Xmas Day would be 1 inspector, 2 sergeants and 6 constables. There would also be a duty superintendent on call. There would be 20-30 officers on duty at distant outposts, and that’s it. However, they would quickly call in many more personnel to deal with an incident such as this. “All hands to the pump.” The on-call superintendent would phone the CBRN commander, who would notify the Assistant Chief Constable, who would probably notify the chief constable.

#### P210

##### **Chapter Twenty-Four: 1:30am (pps 210-214)**

*Sophie’s vodka*

AZ: Has Craig ever pursued a girl like this before? KF: No—which is one reason he knows Sophie is special. Perhaps his persistence with her also tells us something about his character.

AZ: What is Craig’s career ambition—doctor? Movie star? What is Sophie’s?

AZ: More of Craig’s interior.

- Does he or doesn’t he like his strange sister?
- Where is his hard-on? Does it embarrass him?
- How excited does he get at Sophie’s arriving with vodka?

- Does he fantasize himself in a sex scene out of some movie?

**P215****Chapter Twenty-Five: 2am (pps215-218)***The gang switch cars*

AZ: Keep Kit and his woes at the centre. His fear, hatred of these people, extreme discomfort due to the cold.

Why at this point does Nigel still want Kit and Daisy? Wouldn't he want to leave them, or must they come to collect from the client? And does Nigel have a plan if the client is a no-show?

IT 1.6 'Kit was depressed beyond measure' sounds a bit too considered for a man in a panic – he's gutted, isn't he? Would something like 'distraught' or 'really panicky now' be better. And the word 'prank' also sounds a little too coy – because Kit knew from the first it would be more than that. I'd delete it and leave it at 'heist'

**p216**

IT 1.1 Do we need 'bleeding from their eyes'. 'Thousands of people would die' is somehow more impactful.

1.17 Can we re-jig this to read 'Who would spend Christmas at a motel, he wondered? Stranded businessmen, perhaps?' and get rid of the reference to Hindus – it seems a bit odd to pick them out, rather than Muslims, or Jews, or any other faith.

**P217**

EF: I'm not sure if Elton's insult is in character. But I'm not sure how to think of him. Earlier we saw him as a victim of Daisy's racist assumptions. That won him sympathy. But he has to be a bad guy. It might be good to develop him a bit more.

**P219****Chapter Twenty-Six: 2:30am (pps219-221)***Craig & Sophie move to the attic*

AZ: Let's feel Craig's mounting excitement as he gets closer to being alone with Sophie.

**P222****Chapter Twenty-Seven: 2:45am (pps222-227)***Toni in BSL4*

KF: Toni guesses, from the comment about a rendezvous reported by Steve, that a terrorist attack is planned some time today. She sees the perfume bottle being filled on video and realises what the murder weapon is. She reports this to Odette, who congratulates her on great police work. From here on, a big national (& international?) police response. But it is somehow misdirected by Frank?

SE: Reference to Hazardous Materials Safe – consider "the Vault".

## NG/AB:

As soon as it became known that firearms had been used, the situation would change. Unarmed officers would be told to watch for the getaway vehicle but *not* to attempt to stop it. Instead, keep it under observation from a safe distance.

Stirling police do not have 24-hour armed response capability. (Glasgow has an armed response vehicle with the guns in the back.) Firearms-trained officers would have to be called in, taken to the armory, equipped, briefed. This would take at least 1-2 hours.

Road clearing is the responsibility of local councils and the Highways Department. They would normally cooperate with police requests, but it is not guaranteed and might depend who answered the phone.

- b) For example, if the police received a phone call from a stranded motorist with a medical emergency, they would have to try to get to the car.

**P223**

SE: "Plague" is a bacterial agent – Yersinia Pestis. Consider using "massive outbreak".

**P226**

IT Bottom line. Why 'Scottish' thieves specifically? Just 'thieves' would be better, I think.

**P227**

IT 1.11 How about 'and I think we need to grab a snowplough so that we can catch up with the getaway van' – it's more colloquial, I think.

JT/KF: After Frank hangs up on her, Toni thinks that she can use the Johnny Kirk secret to coerce Frank—but first she will try Odette.

**P228**

**Chapter Twenty-Eight: 3am (pps228-234)**

*The gang abandon the Astra*

KF: Where they have abandoned it, it will block the progress of the snowplough; then someone should ask questions on arrival at Steepfall. Better the car is abandoned on the main road.

AB: P324 is the first time anyone shows concern for Nigel's customers making it to the rendezvous point. Hasn't the race against time always been for Nigel and company to make it there by noon?

**P232**

IT 1.15 It's 'Puffa' jacket, isn't it? A brand name. Wish I didn't know this!

**P234**

NN: The reader wonders what happened to the SUV? It was there when Craig parked the dented Ferrari and we haven't seen it moved. For about 10 pages, we wonder if the author has made a mistake, until it's suggested that maybe Stanley let Luke and Lori take it. I'm wondering if we shouldn't see Stanley earlier telling them to take it because of the weather. Or at least saying something like, "Oh, you'll never make it home in your (whatever kind of car they have). I've got an idea," and stopping it there. Then you won't actually have said they're taking the SUV, but we can make the connection easily when we hear it's gone. KF: Or simply have Kit think: Luke and Lori took the Nissan.

EF/KF: Say that Luke & Lori live in a small cottage at the end of an unmarked road. It is a rough track at the best of times, so they would have needed the 4WD. Also imply here that the road and the house are impossible to find if you don't know where they are.

**P235**

**Chapter Twenty-Nine: 4am (pps235-241)**

*Odette says the virus is for terrorists*

KF: Odette is desperate to find out what the terrorists' target is. She mentions some possibilities.

**P239**

EF: There might also be a stadium scene. KF: Odette Cressy is desperate to learn the intended target of the terrorists. She mentions some possibilities. Maybe Toni gets a hint of it and gives Odette a clue. In the end it is not a stadium, it's a concert hall.

NG/AB: There might be involvement by the Justice Department in Edinburgh, but terrorism is reserved to Westminster, so the Cabinet office is the likeliest.

**P242**

**Chapter Thirty: 4:15am (pps242-248)**

*The gang enter Steepfall*

AZ: More interior monologues, fantasies, remorse for Kit

EF: Make it clear here that their plan is to go get the Nissan Patrol from Lukey & Lori's house, and that only Kit can lead them to it.

**P243**

IT 1.11 'falling down with exhaustion' sounds a bit wordy. How about simply 'and they were all exhausted'?

KS - Kit realised that Daddy must have let Luke and Lorri take the Nissan Patrol home...Did Kit not pass Luke and Lorri's on the way out, and surely would have seen the vehicle? - I remember at some point reference being made to lights on in Luke and Lorri's cottage - I may well have imagined this.

**P244**

IT 1.16 Doesn't Miranda know that Kit has gone out. She knows he's left abruptly (p163), doesn't she, but perhaps not that he's actually left the house?

EF - last para: Is Daisy supposed to be "stupid"

**P246**

IT 1.5 'benison' This is an unusual word, isn't it? Would 'blessing' do?

**P247**

EF - 1<sup>st</sup> line: Elton again. KF: Is this knob joke in character?

**P249**

**Chapter Thirty-One: 4:30am (pps249-254)**

*Toni tracks down the getaway vehicle*

AZ: Toni may act rationally, but she should feel as if she's at the end of her tether.

**P252**

IT 1.1 'the getaway vehicle'. I may have missed something, but how does the receptionist know about it - Carl's TV report hasn't been shown yet, has it? Maybe he's just putting two and two together.

**P255****Chapter Thirty-Two: 4:45am (pps255-262)***Tension in the Steepfall kitchen*

AZ: Should Kit be worried for his family's safety? After all, these people carry guns.

IT 1.8 'elegant but vulnerable'

**P256**

IT 1.5 Kit worried again that Miranda might have noticed he wasn't in his bed. We've had this before, so I don't feel the reader needs to know again.

**P259**

IT 1.11 suggest 'enough charm'

**P263****Chapter Thirty-Three: 5am (pps263-271)***Toni follows the snowplough*

NG/AB:

Police would not initially follow the snowplough. They would set up static patrols at key road junctions. They would also alert neighbouring police forces. Even though the gang have switched vehicles, a car with four people in it would be unusual enough to attract attention. The registration could quickly be checked to show whether the car was either stolen or rented.

The police would not do more without further intelligence. Information would be their top priority at this stage—especially with firearms involved. They would try to find out where the gang were and what they were doing. **They might send the snowplough with officers dressed as road clearers for a look.**

NN: It's hard to understand just why Frank is being *so* obstructionist. Yes, he has bad blood with Toni, but he can't be that thick, not with a major biohazard attack. Besides, Odette told Toni that Frank had just been reamed out by her boss at the Yard. If nothing else, isn't he afraid of the personal consequences to him if he's uncooperative and things go bad? (A much serious situation than the Farmer Kirk case) His bloody-mindedness just doesn't seem that credible, given all the circumstances. And since Toni knows about the reaming, why doesn't she remind him of that if she has to -- remind him that she knows the Yard's been on his back, so that even if he's loath to cooperate with her, and even if the consequences of this disaster haven't somehow sunk in, he should at least consider he could be committing professional suicide?

**P266**

IT 7 lines up: 'It's a system we installed to prevent foolish people getting in' Wouldn't Frank be unable to resist reacting with a jibe to this from Toni by saying something like 'Well, didn't do much to stop the thieves then, did it?' After all, Toni's system has failed. Or mention that thieves must have been clever, or something.

**P268**

IT last line: I think it's 'Smart Aleck'

**P269**

IT two lines up: 'on routine matters' better, or delete the phrase and just have 'waste precious time and miss important connections'

**P272****Chapter Thirty-Four: 5:30am (pps272-279)***Guns in the kitchen*

EF: 1<sup>st</sup> para. Did Miranda cross from the cottage to the house naked in the snow?

EF: P272 –P273 – para 2. Kit's "stylish" car. I thought he drove a Peugeot.

IT lines 4 and 8 – rept uncomfortable/uncomfortably. Suggest 1.8 'Now, however, she felt unsure of herself' or something.

**P278**

EF: The fight over the briefcase. This could be the moment to move the virus from its originally intended container to an improvised one if this hasn't already taken place.

**P280****Chapter Thirty-Five: 5:45am (pps280-289)***A: Kit's deception (280-282)*

EF: Why don't the gang just kill the whole family? After all, they are going to be responsible for the deaths of hundreds, so they could hardly scruple a few extra. (KF: Actually, they could, for the deaths of hundreds will be remote, which is different from pointing a gun.) EF answer: Only Kit knows where the 4WD is. Nigel needs him for that. And if his entire family is slaughtered he may cease to cooperate. KF: Do all this as a Kit interior monologue.

*B: Craig finds the phone dead (282-287)*

AZ: Has Craig ever touched a breast before? KF: Say what he did with those two previous dates.

*C: Miranda hides from Daisy (287-289)***P290****Chapter Thirty-Six: 6am (pps290-298)***Craig & Sophie lost in the snow***P299****Chapter Thirty-Seven: 6:15am (pps299-308)***A: Miranda cannot escape (299-302)**B: Kit reveals his loyalty to the gang (302-308)*

AZ: I suggest for Kit a flashback or memory of the event as an adolescent when he first started going bad. And it could be that ever since then relations with his father have been strained. But Stanley nonetheless encouraged his IT studies, and praised him greatly for Kit's state of the art security system for Oxenford.

**P309****Chapter Thirty-Eight: 6:30am (pps309-314)***Craig find the Ferrari keys gone*

EF: How did they find the barn?

AZ: Punctuate the ups and downs a bit more

**P312**

EF – 1<sup>st</sup> line...or phone chargers...

**P315****Chapter Thirty-Nine: 6:45am (pps315-321)***Toni diverts the snowplough***P316**EF – para 2: Toni might also guess that the thieves assumed time was on their side.**P319**

IT last line ‘She had an ace up her sleeve...Frank had a guilty secret’ We know this from p20 where she reminds him of Farmer Johnny Kirk, so the reader doesn’t need to know all the detail. We could have instead ‘It was time to play her ace. This was an emergency, and anyway, he had shown no loyalty to her lately’ Then she goes on to her conversation with Frank re Johnny.

**P321**

NN: After Toni's "blackmail" phone call to Frank with Carl beside her -- doesn't Carl ask what that was all about? The "I'll tell Carl everything"?

**P322****Chapter Forty: 7am (pps322-328)***A warning that the police are on their way*EF: 1<sup>st</sup> line. Suggest “unsuccessful” to replace “foolhardy

EF: I thought this scene should open with Olga screaming at Kit for his betrayal. I can’t see her shutting up until Daisy hits her.

**P324**EF – 1<sup>st</sup> line: They do need Kit. But only until transport is sorted.

IT 1.3 suggest ‘just an ignorant thug’ for a slightly more punchier tone?

1.9 they’ve had this almost identical forecast (albeit with the presenter in a Santa hat) when they arrived at the house, on p247 and turned on the TV

SE: Sentence reads “Nigel stirred and appeared to be coming round...”. I think it should be naked Hugo, not Nigel. Correct?

**p325**

IT 1.14 the phrase ‘irresponsible robbers’ sounds a bit twee. What about simply ‘a gang’ or something.

**P326**

EF – “won’t be in Europe”: But Kit, Daisy, Harry and Elton will? Who has made plans? KF: See Ch20 note.

**P327**

EF – “Gambling”...said Olga...

**P329****Chapter Forty-One: 7:30am (pps329-341)***A: Craig hides in the boot lobby (329-332)**B: Kit betrays Miranda's hiding place (332-333)*

*C: Miranda locks Daisy in the attic (334-335)*

*D: Kit lets Toni in (336-339)*

KT: Why was the puppy called Osborne?

JT: Later when they are in the house and Toni's mother goes to sit by the Christmas tree I feel something is going to happen to her or that she's going to do more

*E: Miranda warns Toni (339-341)*

AB: Does Frank find the abandoned car after he leaves Toni at Steepfall?

**P342**

**Chapter Forty-Two: 8am (pps342-351)**

*A: Toni runs to the barn (342-345)*

IT 1.9 'something beginning with 'g' 'sounds a bit naïve – after all, Toni would suspect that they are armed, and anyway, doesn't she know this from her visit to the lab and finding the guards tied up?

*B: Nigel & Kit decide to follow the snowplough (345-348)*

**P346**

IT 1.15 'can we change this to 'He didn't want Miranda to learn of their destination' – it's a bit neater, somehow, and we know he's referring to the airfield, don't we?

**P347**

EF: Nigel should guess that Kit might call the police anonymously. That's why he has to kill him.

*C: Craig gets the Ferrari keys (348-351)*

**P352**

**Chapter Forty-Three: 8:30am (pps352-357)**

*Ned is a hero*

AZ: More ups and downs for Miranda as she watches this.

**P358**

**Chapter Forty-Four: 8:45am (pps358-364)**

*Craig runs over Daisy*

**P364**

EF: I like Craig's fight with Daisy

**P365**

**Chapter Forty-Five: 9am (pps365-373)**

*A: Kit sends Elton to the barn (365-367)*

EF: – 9am: I like the way the timeline works. I wonder if it might be helped by adding the day.

AB: After Elton cleverly finds out how many people are in the house, I wasn't sure why he and the others took so long to try to find them?

*B: Toni bops Elton (367-373)*

AZ: Punctuate this scene with Toni's emotional ups and downs

**P374**

**Chapter Forty-Six: 9:15am (374-379)**

*A: Daisy comes back from the dead (374-377)*

*B: Toni goes to the house (377-379)*

**P380**

**Chapter Forty-Seven: 9:30am (pps380-385)**

*A: Kit picks up the burgundy briefcase (380-381)*

EF: I thought this scene was too obviously functional

*B: Toni overpowers Nigel (381-384)*

AB: Where are Toni's mom and the puppy when all the shooting is going on in the house?

*C: Kit disarms Toni (384-385)*

**P384**

EF: The virus would also kill Kit

IT: I think we should delete the sentence 'The old man did not know whether to throw a tantrum or burst into tears' because I think the phrase 'he saw anger there, as he expected but also grief' is very poignant on its own and somehow 'throw a tantrum' is too toddler-ish for the distinguished Stanley.

JT: Big question here for me about Kit's motivation. At this point Daisy, Elton and Nigel are down. Kit could get out. Why does he choose to stay in? It felt too sudden and surprising.

KF: AT this point Kit must be boiling with rage at the way the plan that was to be his salvation has been foiled at every step by his family and by Toni Gallo. Hence the answers to JT questions below.

**P386**

**Chapter Forty-Eight: 9:45am (pps386-392)**

EF: Ending(s):

- The Big Bad Guy is always the last to die / be arrested. Kit is not the biggest bad guy in this story.
- Bring terrorists (or at least their treasurer) to Steepfall in a chopper. Toni somehow switches the improvised container carrying the virus for a dummy. Chopper blows up with Nigel and Elton and Mr.Big on board.
- Weather is a problem bringing the chopper in but the bad guys should be able to command some serious hardware. Also they can wait in Northern England 'til the storm has passed and they'll only be an hour's ride away

KS: Toni's mum was really horrid to her - I'm sure she is a very nice old lady really - what happens to her in the end? The last place I remember was she was left sitting by the Christmas Tree. The old lady upset me so much that I feel I need some way of liking or forgiving her in the end--after all she is just an old lady.

Sara: Kit is basically too soft to let his family be hurt badly. If he were directly threatened by Nigel it might add tension and justify his actions. Once the 4wd vehicle is not needed ('cos

the terrorists are coming to Steepfall) Kit is expendable and a liability to the gang. This pretty much puts him on his family's side.

What if Kit finds out the location of the boxing day target. He is horrified and lets slip to Toni / the family who he is holding captive. They say: That settles it Kit. You have stolen from your family but you can't be responsible for thousands of deaths. Plus you don't really think there's room in that chopper for everyone do you?" Kit lets the family loose. His sentence will be reduced as a result.

Frank could follow the chopper in to Steepfall and get himself hurt through his own stupidity.

EF: Unresolved:

- Osbourne
- Frank
- Harry
- Kit's accomplice at the Kremlin.
- Bella
- Bella's Husband and Kids

I think you should drive them all to Steepfall and chuck them off the cliff.

KT: I was a bit worried about the sheepdog puppy, did it live happily ever after?! Also KS.

*A: Kit drives away (386-387)*

**P386**

JT: Why is Kit suddenly ready to kill his father? We need more reason to believe this.

**P387**

JT: Now Kit is ready to kill his cousin. More needs to have happened a bit earlier to turn him into someone prepared to murder members of his family.

*B: Daisy shoots Kit's car (387-388)*

*C: Kit crawls out of the wreckage (389)*

**P389**

SE: Sentence reads "Nigel grabbed it". I think this should be "Kit grabbed it", because Nigel is dead.

*D: Toni saves Kit from suicide (389-392)*

**P390**

NN: Would Kit really try to commit suicide? He's had guilt pangs, but nothing to indicate this. You might want to give him a couple of agonized moments here as the realization that he's trapped comes upon him and he casts about for what to do. Even so -- isn't he enough of a coward that he would try just giving up and hoping for the best rather than jumping off a cliff?

KF: Additional scene. The police take Kit to the airfield. (All the cars are concealed in disused hangars.) Kit hands over a bugged briefcase containing a Diablerie bottle filled with tap water. Then, extra scene at the theatre later.

**P391**

JT: Kit goes down too easily. I half expected him to try and kill himself at this point, because he's got absolutely nothing left at this point. And Stanley's reaction to his son is too small right now. I don't think it needs huge drama, maybe he says nothing and thinks a lot ... not sure, but I feel this would be a monster moment for Stanley as much as it is for Kit.

**P394**

**Chapter Forty-Nine: Next Xmas (pps392-400)**

PG: Focusing on the family, rather than the issue of bioterrorism, seems to pass too lightly over the threat of such an attack, be it malevolent or accidental. Do you think you might move the last scenes to the lab rather than setting them in the resort? KF: Additional scene at the theatre on Boxing Day. The woman sprays. The police arrest her and the man. The man goes for his mobile phone. The detective says: No point, we've arrested all your friends too.

IT: I don't want you to overdo tying up the ends, but do Carl and Frank get any come-uppance do you think? It may not matter here. And what about Toni's mother: you could add something about her and the puppy, in a light-hearted way. Again, not necessary! KF: Carl interviews Frank on TV about how brilliantly Frank caught the terrorists.

**P396**

IT 1.3 this paragraph: wouldn't Olga know, both as a barrister, and through press reports, what Daisy's sentence was? I.e. that she isn't dead?

Jt: Am surprised that Olga and Hugo are still together. I can believe that they would have found a way forward after Kit's revelation, but it can't have been easy and I want to know a bit about it.

Ned annoyed me so much I in the beginning I felt his redemption required a bit more on his part.

And finally it occurs to me now that it might be interesting for Stanley to reflect on the choices his daughters have made in their partners. He's a very powerful character in their lives, perhaps they didn't want men who could compete with him in their hearts and minds? I'm curious to know a little bit more about the sisters and their relationship with their father and their partners.