

Black ballpoint is Al
Zuckerman. Red ink
is K.F. Pencil is Phyllis
Gunn.



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.

1 a.m.

Sounds like a clinic or a small hospital. suggest O. Research or

Antonia Gallo was unpopular. She sat in the personnel department of Oxenford Medical with two men who wanted to go home. After eight hours, they hated her. She did not care. x

She had organised a spot check of dangerous laboratory materials and found two irregularities that scared her. A canister that should have been full of a deadly virus, aerosolized Madoba-2, was empty. And two doses of an experimental drug were missing.

There might have been an innocent explanation, but she had not yet heard it.

Antonia, always called Toni, was facilities director, and her main responsibility was security. Oxenford Medical was a small pharmaceuticals outfit—a boutique company, in stock market jargon—that did research on viruses that could kill. Security was deadly serious. *and developed antidotes* x x

The laboratories were located in a vast nineteenth-century house built as a Scottish holiday home for a Victorian millionaire and his family. It was nicknamed the Kremlin, because of the double row of fencing, the razor wire, the uniformed guards, and the state-of-the-art electronic security. But it looked more like a church, with pointed arches and a tower and rows of gargoyles along the roof.

The personnel office had been one of the grander bedrooms. It still had Gothic windows and linenfold panelling, but now there were filing cabinets instead of wardrobes, and desks with computers and phones where once there had been dressing tables crowded

biotechnology?

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).

with perfume sprays and silver-backed brushes.

Toni and her two colleagues were working the phones, calling everyone who had passes to the top-security laboratory. There were four biosafety levels, named BSL1 to BSL4. At the highest level, BSL4, the scientists worked in space suits, handling viruses for which there was no vaccine or antidote. Not everyone was allowed into BSL4. Biohazard training was compulsory, even for the maintenance men who went in to service air filters and repair autoclaves. Toni herself had done the training, so that she could enter the lab to check on security.

Only twenty-seven of the company's eighty ^{member} staff had access. However, many had already departed for the Christmas vacation, and Monday had turned into Tuesday while the three people responsible doggedly tried to track them all down.

Toni got through to a resort in Barbados called Le Club Beach and, after much insistence, persuaded the assistant manager to go looking for a young laboratory technician called Jenny Crawford.

While she waited, she studied her reflection in the window. She was holding up well, considering the late hour. Her chocolate-brown chalk-stripe trouser suit still looked businesslike, her thick hair was reasonably tidy, her face did not betray tiredness. Her father had been Spanish, but she had her Scottish mother's colouring, red-blond hair and green eyes. She was tall and looked fit.

"It must be the middle of the night back there!" Jenny said when at last she came to the phone.

"We've discovered discrepancies in the hazardous materials log," Toni explained.

Jenny was a little drunk. "That's happened before," she said carelessly. "But no one's

how old
is Toni?
maybe
9, the idea
here
also could
she be in her
late 38 or 39's
you know
Americans
then you know
with you the occupation

x

✓

p5

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

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

ever made a fuss about it.”

“That’s because I wasn’t working here,” Toni replied crisply. “When was the last time you entered BSL4?”

“Tuesday, I think. Won’t the computer tell you that?”

It would, but Toni was checking whether Jenny’s story matched the computer record.

“And when was the last time you accessed the locked freezer?”

“I really don’t remember, but it will be in the log book.” Jenny’s tone was becoming surly.

“The reason I’m calling you is that the log book is wrong. Do you recall the last time you used aerosolised Madoba-2?”

“Bloody hell, is that what’s gone missing?”

“We can’t be sure. Do you recall—”

“I don’t think I’ve ever used it. I mostly work in the tissue culture lab.”

That agreed with the information Toni had. “Have you noticed any of your colleagues behaving in a way that was strange, or out of character, in the last few weeks?”

“This is like the sodding Gestapo,” Jenny said.

“Be that as it may, have you—”

“No, I have not.”

“Just one more question. Is your temperature normal?”

“Fuck me, are you saying I might have the virus?”

“Have you got a cold or a fever?”

“No!”

“Then you’re all right. It’s almost a week since you were in BSL4—by now you

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.

would have flu-like symptoms if anything was wrong. Thank you, Jenny. It's probably just an error in the log book, but we have to make sure."

"Well, you've spoiled my night." Jenny hung up.

"Shame," Toni said to the dead phone. She cradled the receiver and said: "Jenny Crawford checks out. ¹¹ ~~A cow, but straight.~~"

The laboratory director was Howard McAlpine. His bushy grey beard grew high on his cheekbones, so that the pink skin around his eyes looked like a mask. He said: "The overwhelming likelihood is that the material unaccounted for was used perfectly legitimately by someone who simply forgot to make the entries in the log." His tone of voice was testy: he had already said this twice before.

"I hope you're right," Toni said. She got up and went to the window. The personnel office overlooked the BSL4 laboratory. At first glance, the extension building seemed similar to the rest of the Kremlin, with barley-sugar chimneys and a clock tower; then, on closer examination, its arched windows were revealed to be blank, its oak doors lacking handles, its gargoyles concealing closed-circuit television cameras. It was a concrete blockhouse in Victorian disguise. The new building was on three levels. The labs were on the ground floor. As well as research space and storage, there was an intensive-care medical isolation facility for anyone who became infected with a dangerous virus. It had never been used. On the floor above was the air handling equipment. Below, elaborate machinery sterilized all waste coming from the building. Nothing left alive, except human beings.

"We've learned a lot from this exercise," Toni said defensively. She was in delicate position. The two men were senior to her, both in rank and in age ~~they were both in their fifties, she was just forty.~~ She had no right to give them orders, yet she had insisted they treat

See page
4.

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.

the discrepancies as an emergency. "We now know that we have to keep a list of live phone numbers for everyone who has access to BSL4, so that we can easily contact them even if they're at home or on holiday. And we need to audit the hazardous materials log more frequently than once a year."

McAlpine grunted noncommittally. He knew she was right, but he was in too bad a temper to admit it.

Toni turned to the director of human resources. "How far down your list are we?"

James Elliot dressed like a stockbroker, in a pinstriped suit and a spotted tie, as if to distinguish himself from the tweedy scientists. "We've spoken to all but one of the twenty-seven staff that have access to BSL4," he said wearily. "All of them told the truth about when they had last entered the lab and opened the hazardous materials safe. None has noticed any colleagues behaving strangely. And no one has a fever."

"Who's the missing one?"

"Michael Ross, lab technician."

McAlpine said: "He's worked here for eight years without a blemish on his record. He last entered the lab three Sundays ago, for a routine check on the animals."

"What's he been doing since?"

"Vacation," he said.

"For how long—three weeks?"

Elliot put in: "He was due back today." He looked at his watch. "Yesterday, I should say. Monday morning. But he didn't show up."

"Did he call in sick?"

"No."

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.

Toni raised her eyebrows. "And we can't reach him?"

"No answer from his home phone or his mobile."

"Doesn't that strike you as odd?"

"That a single young man extends his vacation without telling his employer? About as odd as rain in Glen Coe."

Toni turned back to McAlpine. "But you said Michael had no blemish on his record."

The lab director looked worried. "It's true that he's normally a conscientious chap."

There was a two-person rule in BSL4: because of the danger, no one could work in there alone. Toni said: "Who was in the lab with Michael?"

McAlpine consulted a list. "Dr Ansari, a biochemist."

Toni picked up the phone. "Give me the number."

Dr Ansari spoke with an Edinburgh accent and sounded as if she had been fast asleep.

"You called me earlier, you know."

"I'm sorry to trouble you again."

"It's all right. Has something happened?"

"It's about Michael Ross. We can't track him down. I believe you were in the lab with him two weeks ago last Sunday."

"Yes. Just a minute, let me put the light on." There was a pause. "God, is that the time?"

Toni pressed on. "Michael went on holiday the next day."

"He told me he was going to see his mother in Devon."

"Ah—that's helpful. Just hold on." Toni repeated the information to James Elliot.

Elliot said: "The mother is listed as his next of kin. I'll call the number." He picked up

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.

a phone.

Toni spoke to Dr Ansari again. "Did Michael seem his normal self that afternoon?"

"Totally."

"Did you enter BSL4 together?"

"Yes. Then we went to separate changing rooms, of course."

"When you entered the laboratory itself, was he already there?"

"Yes. He changed quicker than I did."

"Did you work alongside him?"

"No. I was in a side lab, dealing with tissue cultures. He was checking on the animals."

"Did you leave together?"

"He went a few minutes before I did."

"It sounds to me as if he could have accessed the hazardous materials freezer without your knowing about it."

"Easily."

"What kind of person is he?"

"He's all right...inoffensive would be a good word."

"Attractive?"

"You mean sexy? No."

"Anything odd about him?"

"No."

Toni sensed a hesitation, and remained silent, giving the other woman time. Beside her, James Elliot was speaking to someone, asking for Michael Ross or his mother.

(Establish) earlier that Ansari is a woman

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 Harbournmouth 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.

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".

After a moment, Dr Ansari said: "I mean, the fact that someone lives alone doesn't make them a nutcase, does it?"

"No," Toni said.

Beside her, James Elliot was saying into the phone: "How very strange. I'm sorry to have troubled you so late at night."

Toni had got all she could out of Dr Ansari, and her curiosity was pricked by what she could hear of Elliot's conversation. She ended her call to the biochemist, saying: "Thanks again, Dr Ansari. I hope you get back to sleep all right."

"My husband's a family doctor," she said. "We're used to phone calls in the middle of the night."

"I appreciate your patience." Toni hung up. "Michael Ross had plenty of time to open the safe unobserved," she said. "And he lives alone." She looked at Elliot. "Did you reach his mother's house?"

"It's an old folks' home," Elliot said. He looked frightened. "And Mrs Ross died ~~last~~ ^{winter.}"

"Oh, shit," said Toni.

Powerful security lights lit up the towers and gables of the Kremlin. The temperature was five degrees below zero, but the sky was clear and there was no snow. The building faced a Victorian garden, with mature trees and luxuriant shrubbery ^{even in winter?} A three-quarter moon shed a grey light on naked nymphs sporting in dry fountains while stone dragons stood guard.

The silence of the night was broken by the roar of engines as two vans, each marked with the yellow international biohazard symbol, drove out of the garage, passed through the

Suggest you describe this

*intention, her uneasiness, fear even, imaginings of a worst case scenario, she's feeling for these two men for this job of how and for this company. ******

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?

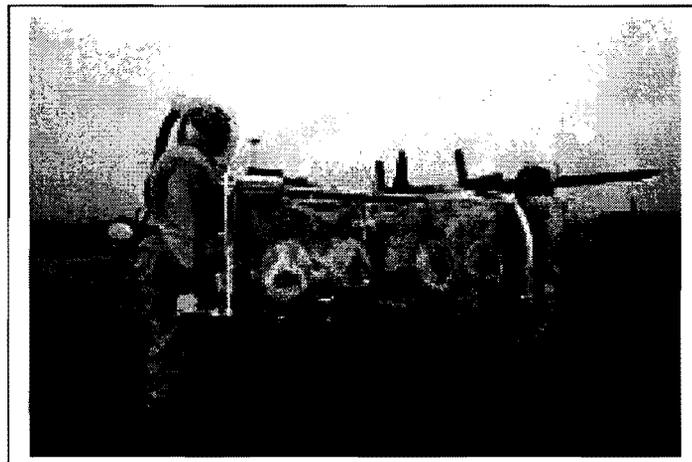
SE: The biohazard suits would have to be donned in the field. The blue Dover type suits would not be worn in the field. The most typical are white Tyvek “bunny suits”, boots, and PAPRs (Powered Air-purifying Respirator). PAPRs have a battery pack that is worn on your belt and a small HEPA filter and 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.



Canadian Responders



Fashionable Swedes – I love the ladies just hanging out!



USAMRIID Aeromedical Isolation Team

Consider changing word “cleanse” to “decontaminate”.

guarded gate, and headed south, going dangerously fast. Toni Gallo was at the wheel of the lead vehicle, driving as if it were her Porsche, using the full width of the road, racing the engine, powering through bends. She was afraid she was too late.

Michael Ross lived in an isolated cottage seventeen miles away.

[Toni was wearing a light blue biohazard suit fitted with a HEPA filter which would keep out bacteria and viruses.] In the van with her were three men trained to cleanse contaminated areas. The ambulance behind was a mobile isolation unit with a paramedic at the wheel and a medical doctor, Ruth Solomons, beside him. They could all talk to one another via headsets built into the helmets of the suits. *Suspect you make her anxious, torn, terrified even*

Toni wondered if she had done the right thing. She had activated a red alert on the basis of nothing but suspicion. An employee was absent without leave, he had lied about where he was going, and supplies from his lab had gone missing. It might be nothing at all. *This could be a disaster.* But her instinct told her otherwise.

she'd heard that as Dr Ansari had said: "The fact that someone lives alone doesn't make them a nutcase, does it?" It was one of those statements that meant the opposite of what it said. The biochemist had sensed something odd about Michael but, as a rational scientist, she hesitated to place any weight on her intuition. *could mean*

Toni ^{*knew*} believed that intuition should never be ignored. *x*

Nevertheless, she knew she might find Michael Ross safely asleep in his bed with his phone turned off, and she wondered what she would then say to her boss, Stanley Oxenford, in the morning.

She had been a police officer all her working life until two years ago. For most of her career she had been a golden girl—promoted rapidly, shown off to the media as the new style

of modern cop, and tipped to be Scotland's first woman chief constable. Then she had clashed with her boss over a hot-button issue, racism in the force. He had said that police racism was not institutionalized. She said that officers routinely concealed racist incidents, and that amounted to institutionalization. The row had been leaked to a newspaper, she had refused to deny what she believed, and she had been forced to resign. Bada boom.

At the time she had been living with Frank Hackett, another police detective. They had been together eight years, although they had never married. But when she fell out of favour, he left her. It still hurt when she thought about it. *How badly? half an hour (17 mi?)*

The road was deserted and it took only a few minutes to get to Michael Ross's home. The entrance was not clearly marked and Toni, in her haste, almost drove past it; but the man beside her had been here before and pointed it out.

The short drive led to a low stone cottage with a Volkswagen Golf parked outside.

Toni stopped the van and jumped out. "I'll go first," she said. On her own, she would be less frightening. An innocent person who woke up in the middle of the night and opened the door to five people in biohazard suits might suffer a nasty shock.

The place was in darkness. She walked up to the front door and banged the knocker. "Hello?" she called out. "Is anyone there?" She tried to speak loudly and sound reassuring at the same time. "It's Toni Gallo, from the laboratory." When she stopped speaking, there was complete silence.

If he had gone away, why was his car here?

She went around the cottage to the back. She could see into the kitchen by moonlight. She found the door unlocked and stepped inside. Still calling out, she walked quickly through the house, turning on lights. It was clean, tidy, and empty. There was not even a cat.

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.

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You may need to explain how this gets through the bio-suit ✓

She spoke to the others over the headset. "No one home."

When she returned to the garden, she noticed a small tool shed.

The door was unlocked.

When she opened it she immediately noticed a strange smell, strong and unpleasant, but not unfamiliar. What was it? Blood, she thought. The shed smelled like a slaughterhouse.

"Oh, my god," she said.

How would she know? Had she ever been in one? ✓

Ruth Solomons heard her over the headset and said: "What is it?"

"Just a minute."

The inside was black: there were no windows. She fumbled in the dark and found a light switch. When the light came on, she cried out in shock.

The others all spoke at once, asking what was wrong. "Come quickly," she said.

"Ruth first."

Michael Ross lay on the floor, face up. He was bleeding from every orifice: eyes, nose, mouth, ears. Blood pooled around him on the plank floor. Toni did not need Dr Solomons to tell her that Michael was suffering from a massive multiple haemorrhage—a classic symptom of Madoba-2 and similar infections. He was very dangerous, his body an unexploded bomb full of the deadly virus. But he was breathing: his chest went up and down, and a weak bubbling sound came from his mouth. She bent down, kneeling in the sticky puddle of fresh blood, and looked closely at him. "Michael!" she said urgently. "It's Toni Gallo from the lab."

There was a flicker of intelligence in his red eyes. He opened his mouth and mumbled something.

"What?" she said. She leaned closer.

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.

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"Just a minute."

The inside was black: there were no windows. She fumbled in the dark and found a light switch. When the light came on, she cried out in shock.

~~The others all spoke at once, asking what was wrong.~~ "Come quickly," she said. ✕

"Ruth first."

Michael Ross lay on the floor, face up. He was bleeding from every orifice: eyes, nose, mouth, ears. Blood pooled around him on the plank floor. Toni did not need Dr Solomons to tell her that Michael was suffering from a massive multiple haemorrhage—a classic symptom of Madoba-2 and similar infections. He was very dangerous, his body an unexploded bomb full of the deadly virus. But ~~he was breathing, his chest went up and down,~~ ✕ ~~and~~ a weak bubbling sound came from his mouth. She bent down, kneeling in the sticky puddle of fresh blood, and looked closely at him. "Michael!" she said urgently. "It's Toni Gallo from the lab."

There was a flicker of intelligence in his red eyes. He opened his mouth and mumbled something.

"What?" she said. She leaned closer.

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 decontaminated 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 an 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.

More pain, but also some relief
at feeling vindicated. Despite
tough opposition, she's done the right
thing. This presumably is her first
serious exercise of her authority. ✓

Toni (sighed) There was nothing more she could do for Michael. Perhaps no one could do anything for Michael.

"Let's clean up," she said.

One of the men took a roll of blue tape that read: "Biohazard—Do not cross line" and began to run it around the entire property—house and shed and garden. The others fetched spray cans of disinfectant, boxes of cloths, and garbage bags. Everything that would burn would go into the furnace underneath the BSL4 lab at the Fort. Hard objects and precious possessions ^{such as?} would be autoclaved and returned. Every surface had to be sprayed with a powerful disinfectant that would destroy the virus by coagulating the protein capsule containing its lethal DNA. They would do the shed first, Toni decided, then the cottage, then Michael's car.

Toni got one of the men to help her wipe Michael's black vomit off her suit and spray her. She had to repress an urge to tear the contaminated suit off her body. The man who had helped lift Michael discarded his outer gloves and put on a fresh pair.

Toni looked around the shed, wondering why this had happened. For the first time, she noticed a dead rabbit. It was lying in an improvised biosafety cabinet. The rabbit must be a laboratory animal that had the infection. But why was it here? There was a water bowl marked "Joe". Toni began to understand.

While the men were cleaning up, Toni searched the place. She was interested in whether Michael had collaborators. She picked up an appointments diary, an address book, and a file of letters. She learned that Michael had belonged to an animal-rights group called Animals Are Free. In the front room of the cottage was his computer. She sat at his desk and read his emails. He had bought books on moral philosophy and politics from Amazon. She

had to know ✓
Suggest we participate as she makes this discovery ✓
Let's have two or three titles
Would she have any sympathy for his love for this animal? ✓

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.....

was checking sites he had visited on the Internet when she heard a car outside. She looked out of the window.

It was the police.

P14

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

p17

KF: Toni is too quick to anger here.

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



"I might have known it would be you," he said sourly.

"Behind the tape, please," she repeated.

"I'm a Detective-Superintendent, and the most senior police officer on duty in the region at this moment in time," he said. "I tell you where to stand, not vice versa."

"I already know you're a stupid prick, there's no need to prove it."

"It never takes long for you to become abusive, does it?"

Toni sighed. "You're right, Frank, I can't stop you coming in. We just took a young man out of here bleeding from his eyes, and before he left he puked all over me, and we haven't yet finished cleaning up, so you'll probably catch a disease for which there's no cure; but you're right, I can't stop you coming in."

He took a step back, but he was not ready to give in. "Cleaning up? I hope you're not destroying evidence."

"What makes you think this is a crime scene?"

"If your boy dies, there'll be an inquest. How did he get the virus, anyway? Your security at the Kremlin is pretty tight. Were there any animals here when you arrived?"

Toni hesitated.

That was enough for Frank, who was a good detective, even though he was a lousy ex. "So an animal got out of the lab and infected the man who lives in this cottage?"

"I don't know what happened. I'm here to make sure the virus doesn't spread farther. And right now you're a threat to public safety."

"I got the message, lassie. But I know you. You're not just worried about public safety. You want to protect your precious Professor Oxenford. But if there's any evidence here, I want it."

Let's feel her mounting rage before she speaks

P18

AZ: Toni feels grief for Michael Ross.

Toni heard a chime in her headset. "I'm getting a phone call," she said to Frank. "Excuse me."

The chime came again, then there was a hiss as the connection was made, and she heard the voice of the security guard on the switchboard at the Fort. "Doctor Solomons is calling Ms Gallo."

Toni said: "Hello, Ruth."

"Michael died, Toni."

"Oh, Ruth, I'm so sorry."

"He would have died if we'd got to him a week earlier. I'm almost certain he had Madoba-2."

"We did all we could."

"Why on earth did he do it?"

"Ruth, I have the police here. I'll talk to you later."

"Okay." The connection was broken.

Frank said: "He died, didn't he?"

Toni was still too much of a cop to lie about a death. "Yes."

"If you've seen something in this house that may help the sheriff determine the cause of death, it's your duty to tell me now, and you'll be committing a crime if you conceal anything."

"His name was Michael Ross, and he worked as a laboratory technician at Oxenford Medical. He was ^{also} a member of a group called Animals Are Free. He appears to have died of a haemorrhagic fever characteristic of a virus called Maboda-2. I think he caught it from an animal he brought home from the lab."

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.

She would know this only if she were personally acquainted with him. ✓

Kissing, sex? x19

"Could he have infected others?"

"He lived here alone, he has no family and few friends. Anyone who visited him before he got sick would be safe, unless they did something highly intimate, such as sharing a hypodermic needle. Anyone who came after he fell ill would surely have called a doctor. So I think we're probably safe. But obviously we'll put out an appeal for anyone who has been in contact with him."

"What kind of animal was it?"

Toni decided on the spur of the moment to set a little trap for Frank. "A hamster," she said. "Named Fluffy."

"Could Ross have been working with other people?"

"Perhaps. We occasionally receive hostile letters from animal rights groups. We send them all to you."

"Did Ross belong to such a group?"

"Not as far as we know, but I'm checking."

On the previous page she said he was a member. ✓

"Checking what?"

"I've found a diary, an address book, and some letters. They'll have to be destroyed, but I can fax them to you first. And I'll upload everything on his computer."

"That's better," Frank said, pleased with his triumph.

"There's something you could do for me."

Is she hopeful, pleading, accusing, demanding? ✓

Frank raised his eyebrows.

"This doesn't have to become a public scare. There's a strong chance no one else is in danger."

"Good."

p20

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

"I want you to let us handle the publicity. We won't hold anything back, but we'll keep it calm and measured. No one needs to panic."

Frank grinned. "You're frightened of tabloid stories about escaped animals roaming the Scottish moors infecting people with deadly viruses."

"You owe me, Frank. I hope you remember."

His face darkened with anger. "I owe you?"
to lower her voice to a whisper.

She switched off her headset mike, "You remember Farmer Johnny Kirk?" ~~John~~ Kirk, known as Farmer Johnny, ~~was~~ ^{had been} a big time cocaine importer. Born and brought up in the rough Glasgow neighbourhood of the Gorbals, he had never seen a farm in his life, but he got the nickname from the oversize green rubber boots he wore to ease the pain of the corns on his feet. While Toni was living with Frank, he had put together a case against Farmer Johnny ~~and prosecuted him~~. During the trial, by accident, Toni had come across evidence that would have helped Johnny's defence. She had informed Frank, but he had not told the court. Johnny ~~was~~ ^{appeared} as guilty as sin, and Frank had got a conviction—but if the truth ever came out, Frank would be finished.

"Are you threatening to bring all that up again if I don't do what you want?" Frank said angrily.

"No, just reminding you of a time when I bent the rules to help you."

His attitude changed again. He had been frightened ~~for a moment~~, but now he was his old arrogant self. "We all bend the rules from time to time, that's life."

"Yes. And I'm asking you not to leak this story to your friend Carl Osborne, or anyone else in the media."

Frank grinned. "Why, Toni," he said in a tone of mock indignation. "I never do things

Would a cop prosecute?

like that."

Good opening!

Suggest she imagine a worst case scenario, if he were to leak the story - And that might be one way of introducing her feelings for Starley. That somehow should work its way into this chapt.

Also let her feel more distress that such a thing has happened. Is it the first in the company's history?