

## Ken Follett Private

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**From:** Gelbman, Leslie [Leslie.Gelbman@us.penguin.com]  
**Sent:** 01 January 2004 22:09  
**To:** Ken Follett\_Private  
**Subject:** RE: Whiteout

Hi Ken--Happy New year--Just finished your ms and thought you did an excellent job tightening everything up. The beginning reads much stronger, introducing the suspense right up front absolutely draws the reader in. There were 2 things that still bother me. First, the virus--it's such a major threat, yet somehow it doesn't feel as threatening as it should. It's in this attache case for so long, just sitting there, and it could destroy the world--yet, at the same time it seems insignificant. Could you re-look at some of the dialogue (internal and external) and perhaps make sure the reader and the characters who are aware of what's going on keep that threat more in the forefront? It's not enough that we want the bad guys to be destroyed because they are so mean and evil and hurting the innocent in the house--we must never forget that they are terrorists--that they can and are willing to destroy millions. The second thing that bothered me was Toni--she is the heroine and you want the reader to root for her but it's not until the very end that I did. She didn't grab me, she wasn't that dynamic and I didn't feel a real connection with her. I wish I would have known a bit more about her--she really loved being a cop (maybe I'm reading into it?) and it seemed it really bothered her that she lost that job and at the end when she uses those skills to save the day you feel good for her. I would have liked to know her better, then she would have been a more realized character for me and thus a better heroine--even where her feelings for Stanley were concerned. On a technical note on my pages 116-124 it was 4 PM and then on ppl25-133 it was repeated--same 4 PM and same text, so you might want to check on that. Well, that said, you certainly had me turning the pages and it is obvious that you took all we said to heart and worked very hard to put it all together--excellent job. I don't know yet what Phyllis, Neil or Amy and Al think so it will be interesting to hear from you what the consensus is. I know Phyllis was line editing and was going to send you her hardcopy. Please let me know if you are going to do a final draft and if so, when to expect it. Again, thanks for all your hard work. best, Leslie



-----Original Message-----

**From:** Ken Follett\_Private [mailto:kenprivate@ken-follett.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 29, 2003 9:40 AM  
**To:** jreamer@writershouse.com; az.writershouse@verizon.net; Amy Berkower (E-mail); Leslie Gelbman (E-mail); Imogen Taylor (E-mail); Dan Starer (E-mail); Jann Turner (E-mail); Marie-Claire Follett (E-mail)  
**Subject:** Whiteout

Some of you did not receive this the first time I sent it. Can you reply to let me know it's arrived? Thanks---

Ken.

<<B Whiteout Entire.pdf>>

Here is a draft of WHITEOUT. I hope you enjoy it.

It's labelled "Second draft" because half way through I went back and completely revised the beginning.

I am in Antigua but I am able to pick up emails sent to my regular email address. Alternatively, you can phone me on +1 268 462 7847, or fax +1 268 462 7866. I look forward eagerly to hearing your comments.