

## Ken Follett\_Private

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**From:** Karen Studsrud  
**Sent:** 08 January 2004 11:26  
**To:** Ken Follett\_Private  
**Subject:** Whiteout

Ken

A fantastic read as always, I was hooked from the start.

I am not sure what kind of feedback you are looking for but here goes for some of the things I noticed whilst reading and some thoughts as well - some of this stuff may be completely irrelevant from the point of the book.

P24 - 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

P166 - 124 & P125 - 133 Looks like a repeat of the same section.

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)

P243 - 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.

### Typo's

I picked up a few typo's that spell checker will not pick up and have marked these on the hard copy. Is this the type of thing you need to correct or will your editors fix this for you? Let me know if you want the marked pages back.

### Characters

- What happened to the pup in the end? - it seemed to be there throughout the book but didn't really do anything.
- There was no emotion attached to Kit's death - I can't begin to imagine how the father must have felt, given that he was his son yet had betrayed him so badly.
- 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.

### The Setting/Location

As I got in to the book I had pictured Harbourmouth on the east coast somewhere outside of Edinburgh. I don't know if the book told me this or if I imagined it. Anyway, based on this assumption.....

- The east coast is less prone to snow than the west or north west. The type of snow blizzard in the book probably only happens in freak years and all the radio and TV stations would be making a really big deal about not seeing snow like this since 19??
- The land on the east coast is quite flat and is not very remote - the roads you describe with no

fencing/edging (P232) is more typical of the west coast, trossachs and highlands or right up north. Of course the moors and the roads out towards the pentland hills are perhaps a bit like this in places.

- There was mention of the only significant place north of here being Aberdeen (P277) - There are a few places on the east coast that are quite well known, e.g. St Andrews (all be it not a very big place)
- There was mention that it would make sense for one of the characters to own a 4 x 4 living in Scotland - this would definately be a fair comment if they were on the west cost but as the east cost is less remote and more built up it is less of a fair comment.
- Knowing the area I did try to imagine the type of countryside the characters travelled between Oxenford Medical and the house, as my mind was fixed on the east side of the country I kept thinking of places like East Calder on the route out towards the moors and the pentland hills.
- Incidentally the mention of the house having a cottage led me to think of an old acquaintences home in East Calder - it was an Old Castle (Linn Haus) with a cottage in the grounds - so I was comfortable with the idea of a house having a cottage on it's grounds. However, I don't remember an explanation in the book about the cottage being part of the grounds. I wondered if I would have imagined the cottage being somewhere else nearby, if I did not have Linn Haus as a point of reference to guide my imagination.
- I have lived in Scotland for 27 years and still get exaserbated by the country's repeat incompetence in dealing with blizzards. You would thing a country so used to heavy snow falls would be equipped to deal with it. Yet time after time everything grinds to a halt, the shops run out of basic supplies like bread because the roads are blocked and I could probably count on one hand the amount of times I have seen a snow plough in action. They would have council lads out at all hours chucking grit off the back of a flat bed lorry - not that this made any difference in heavy snow. I have not seen so much of this in the central belt in recent years the snow falls seem to be less severe/frequent in general.

#### Mobile phones

- When I read Hornet Flight I frustrated myself with thinking the main characters really needed to have a mobile phone and couldn't imagine how they survived without them years ago. Whiteout really brought this frustration home, I loved it! I was expecting someone find themseves the perfect opportunity to phone only to be met with no signal. There are quite alot of network blackspots in scotland where you can't get coverage on some networks.
- I don't remember Toni's mother being checked for a mobile phone, so I wondered if maybe the seemingly absent old lady had picked up on what was happening when she was in the WC and had called the police when left alone by the tree - I was expecting the police to come round the corner just after the car crashed and Toni had recovered the Virus. I was left wondering what became of the Old Lady, she seemed to just disappear from the book after she was left by the tree.

Thanks for allowing me to read the first draft. I hope some of my feedback is of use. I Can't wait to read the Hard Back.

Karen