

Ken Follett_Private

From: Jann Turner [jann@iafrica.com]
Sent: 13 January 2004 11:12
To: Ken Follett_Private
Subject: Whiteout

Dear Stepdaddy

Congratulations on the first draft. You are endlessly inspiring!

I really like the book. The title is great. The set up is great, very gripping and loaded with potential every which way. I was very caught up by your descriptions of the family and quite moved too by your portraits of the characters and their relationships.

I do have a few notes. Not many. Here goes.

pg. 99 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?

pg. 104 When Olga arrives she relates to Miranda as if they had not met up for coffee that morning.

pg. 167 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 strength's 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.

pg. 193 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. Later when they are in the house and she goes to sit by the Christmas tree I feel something is going to happen to her or that she's going to do more.

pg. 196 I wanted to know a bit more about Susan Mackintosh up front so I was more upset about her getting coshed.

pg. 217 Felt Kit's man on the inside should have been introduced as a double agent a bit sooner. Bit of a rabbit out of a hat at this point.

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 playout. Not too much, but certainly more.

pg. 321 Felt the Johnny Kirk secret could have been planted bigger and earlier. So that it doesn't just come out at this point when it's handy.

pg. 384 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.

pg. 386 I feel 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

pg. 386 Why is Kit suddenly ready to kill his father? Feel we need more reason to believe this.

pg. 387 No 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.

pg. 391 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.

pg. 396 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.

Okay, that's it! Hope these are useful. Back to my chapters of Grannies. Feel recharged having read your first draft.

Love you lots
Peeg