

ONE DAY AT KINGSBRIDGE: Notes on the first draft outline

X 1. AZ: This is the story of the Jew versus the Bishop. (???)  
Make Matthew the central PoV character.

✓ 2. Who are the PoV characters?

Ken's list

Judith

Tommy

~~Jonathan~~ Philip

William

X Al's list

X Judith

✓ Tommy

✓ Philip

✓ William

X Waleran

✓ Matthew

✓ 3. Add an early scene to set up Waleran's desperation. This is his last chance to be archbishop. It is now or never. (By the way, why does he want this so badly? What will he then have that he doesn't have now?)

✓ More details of the situation. When is the election? Who is the leading candidate? (Thomas of London.) Does Waleran have a block of votes he can count on? Will there be visiting celebrities at Kingsbridge whom he can try to impress? He may need a comrade to discuss all this with. Probably Dean Baldwin, who needs to be on stage early if he is to be a major suspect. Baldwin is a weak, sly, oleaginous character.

X Does Waleran organise the murder? Perhaps he hears Tilly's confession, goads her into killing April, then blames Matthew. But this is too hokey. Perhaps he is discussing his problem, canvassing a variety of schemes, among which is the possibility of organising a pogrom; when William comes in with his problem (perhaps to ask if there is any legalistic way out of it) and the two of them see a way to kill two birds with one stone.

✓ Better yet: Waleran is planning something else, some other miracle, possibly involving the Weeping Madonna; then when the

murder is announced he sees an even better way to achieve his object - the only problem being to secure William's co-operation - which he gets because of the loan.

X 4. Add an early scene of Mother Floria with April, so we have a sense of April's worth. See how fond Floria is of her. Perhaps Floria has a soft spot for April just because April is naughty.

### Chapter 1

✓ 5. Matthew has to get this money back or something bad will happen.

✓ 6. He knows that getting the money back is going to be a big problem, but he has allies - Philip, Aliena - and careful contingency plans. His plan works well until the unpredictable intervention of Waleran for reasons quite unconnected with Matthew's original problem.

✓ 7. Matthew's travelling all night should relate to some element in his overall scheme for getting his money back. OR was he on a mission for Philip, perhaps raising a building loan (so that Philip now owes him a big favour?)

✓ 8. Check out writs. Does Matthew have a lawyer?

X 9. Some drama between Matthew and Judith. Perhaps she is furiously opposed to his plans. ✓ Or perhaps Matthew is a cautious, careful, meticulous planner, and Judith is impulsive and daring.

✓ 10. Matthew's faith in God has something to do with all this.

### Chapter 2

✓ 11. A scene with Matthew and Philip, to advance the story? Perhaps Matthew is enlisting support, or verifying previous

promises. Perhaps Philip tries to talk him out of it at the last minute. Matthew and Jonathan were childhood playmates.

✓ 12. How many royal justices? How long will they stay? How many cases will they try? Who enforces their decisions?

### Chapter 3

✓ 13. A romantic scene between Tommy and Catherine. They daydream about how much they could be together if only Tommy could join the Earl's household as a squire.

✓ 14. The thrust of this chapter is not clear. Involve Matthew and/or Waleran somehow.

✗ 15. Matthew might be present when the murder is announced - and realise with horror that he must be a prime suspect, because he was out all night. Then he would be relieved when someone else is arrested. Or is it better for him to be all unsuspecting, and dreadfully shocked when the blame falls on him? On balance, it is usually better to have the character dread the thing that is going to happen.

### Chapter 4

✓ 16. What exactly is William afraid of?

✓ 17. Make it clear that Aliena is obliged to call the sheriff.

### Chapter 5

✓ 18. Tommy is the PoV investigator, but he is too young to dream up the "inflamed" scenario, so let Aliena do this.

## Chapter 6

✓ 19. A dramatic conflict between William and Aliena over the arrest of Edwin. Mention the fine of murdrum.

## Chapter 7

✓ 20. Here or earlier, a debate between Matthew and one or more of his friends about how Jews should handle these situations. Should they passively accept being cheated as the price of a quiet life, or should they stand up for their rights and take the associated risk of persecution?

✓ 21. The Jews came to England with William the Conqueror: someone in the company, a man of about 60, remembers his grandfather talking about the great trek.

Chapter 8 *Waleran showing the bishop around Abingdon, taking personal credit for the cathedral, the writing room, and all Philip's achievements.*

✓ 22. A romantic scene between Tommy and Catherine. After he finds the crucial evidence, he tells her about it first.

## Chapter 9

✓ 23. Make it more difficult for Waleran to get at this corpse in private. He is obliged to create some kind of diversion.

## Chapter 10

✓ 24. William has planned and organised this riot. Introduce a character who leads the mob - some local ruffian (probably planted earlier). Call him Griff Baldhead.

X 25. Everyone still assumes Waleran is still protecting Baldwin.

✓ Does Judith offer herself to Waleran sexually - to be humiliated down flat?<sup>2</sup>

### Chapter 12

✓ 26. Tommy remembers both Jonathan and Matthew as big boys he used to look up to. He has human links with Matthew's family which make it impossible for him to regard them as aliens. Nevertheless he is principally motivated by an outraged sense of justice.

X 27. Matthew is still involved somehow. Does he even chair this meeting? Even from jail he is organising everything and trying to protect everyone, especially his family.

✓ 28. However, Judith volunteers for and insists on doing something brave, disobeying Matthew's orders, and possibly involving David too.

X 29. At some point Matthew might escape from jail, and later return voluntarily.

✓ 30. Romantic tension between Tommy and Catherine here.

### Chapter 13

✓ 31. More clues earlier.

✓ 32. Some violent action at this climax. Perhaps Tilly and Edwin try to escape and Tommy tries to stop them?

### Chapter 16

33. Clarify Waleran's staff: does he have men-at-arms?

### Chapter 17

✓ 34. Matthew must have a hand in his own rescue, if only by coming up with the ideas; or perhaps he organises a failed breakout.

✓ 35. Plant the Weeping Madonna earlier.

## Chapter 18

- Judith
- ✓ 36. Must have a climactic scene between Matthew and Waleran. <sup>William?</sup>
- ✓ 37. Ending must include the Jews' rejoicing.
- ✓ 39. Maybe as a twist, Waleran has to pay Matthew the money?
- ✓ 40. Thomas & honsa becomes archbishop, to go down in history as Thomas Becket.

~~Matthew must not be a wimp. Judith recognises that his caution makes sense, her impulsiveness has ~~accidentally~~ been usefully curbed by him.~~

✓ Matthew is not a wimp. In Judith's eyes he is a hero. She will never forget how he worked and worked and clawed his way back to prosperity. She recognises the value of his more cautious approach to life. She knows she is passionate and impulsive. On ~~an~~ occasion, she has impulsively wanted to do something, he has cautiously restrained her, and in the end he has been proved right. He is in charge of his own destiny.