

Writers House Inc.

A LITERARY AGENCY

ALBERT ZUCKERMAN, D.F.A.

AMY BERKOWER

MERRILEE HEIFETZ

SUSAN COHEN

MABEL E. CRAM

DEBORAH PURSCH

ANTHONY CHASE

SUSAN GINSBURG

KAREN WALLACE

Make it clear that Judith is the protagonist.

August 28, 1989

Mr. Ken Follett
BY FAX

Dear Ken,

This second draft of your outline is a vast improvement. I now have read it through twice, and I feel that the story holds together pretty well; but I find myself yearning still to see more of a focus on the two main contestants, Waleron and Michael.

One way perhaps to do some of this would be to have a scene between the two of them in which Waleron strives for a confession. Both men, of course, know that Matthew is innocent; but the Inquisition always made their victims confess and somehow Waleron would feel more successful in this venture if he could show off a confession, and he might try some combination of torture and/or bargaining. This could be one opportunity for good and evil, as it were, to confront each other.

Yes. ✓

Matthew also, I think, needs to be consulted as various plans are hatched and discarded to help and/or rescue him. Judith might fail with getting anything from Waleron by using her body, but she might offer it to the jailer or guard, if she can't get through to her husband with bribery.

X

What you might also want to consider adding is a downward movement against Waleron once the Jew is set to be hanged. What if the King's justices arrive and question what's going on? Waleron would then suffer a temporary set-back, but he then might find some way to overcome this; and then we would move on to the very nice climax which you have built.

✓

Now I'll offer a few comments on small points in the outline:

I have reservations about ONE DAY AT KINGSBIDGE as a title. You might want to consider ONE BAD DAY or ONE FEARSOME DAY. I don't think putting Kingsbridge in the title adds anything. What about, THE RESCUE OF THE JEW?

X

✓ In the first scene, Waleron probably also ought to be offering

V

his confederates and would-be confederates certain spoils in return for their support. Also, it's not clear to me where the conflict is in this chapter. *William is scared - Waleran persuades him.* ✓

In the chapter between Tommy and Catherine, one of them needs more clearly to be trying to accomplish something with the other. I assume that he is the point of view character, and as such, he must be trying to get her agreement for some of the things he wants. *Who is after whom? Why is this true?* ✓

In 3, I'm not sure about your using the name Jake. X Probably he would be called Jacob. Jake sounds so very contemporary. I think the business difficulties need to be spelled out. Presumably Jacob would go to Debtors Prison if he can't come up with the money. *Maka IV higher.* ✓

I suggest that you begin 4 with April present while Phillip is doing something with Floria. We get to meet April and see for ourselves how precious she is to Floria, and then she leaves when Judith arrives. Thus, when we hear about her death, it will be, I think, considerably more poignant and dramatic. No.

*One more
intimate
step.* ✓ On page 25, Phillip's decision to leave the order to get married seems abrupt, despite the warm and sexual feelings he has felt for Floria. Perhaps it would be better here if he were simply to broach the subject with her rather than to make a decision. ✓

And Ken, there you have it for now. I hope you find all this to be helpful.

I know this is going to be a wonderful story.

✓ Love,

AL

P.S. Barbara, as I'm sure I told both you and Ken when you were here in August, Eileen and I will be away in Bermuda for our Labor Day weekend, leaving Thursday of this week and returning next Tuesday. We very much look forward to dinner with you on Wednesday night, September 6th, but unfortunately we won't be here on the 2nd.