TRANSMISSION REPORT

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To: Ms Pat Golbitz, William Morrow
Ms Elaine Koster, NAL
Al Zuckerman, Writers House

I have been reflecting, while on tour, on your observations on the new outline. I haven't made a decision yet, but here are my thoughts.

If the story is transposed to 1175, then: 1) William will be dead; 2) Waleran will be a humble monk at Kingsbridge, not a bishop; 3) Philip will be 67, a little too old for a midlife crisis; 4) Tommy will be married, in his thirties, and earl already. So we lose both romances, both villains, and Jack's son's adolescent crisis. After Becket was replaced there was no new archbishop of Canterbury until 1189, so the background political drama would also have to be different. In other words, I would almost have to dream up a whole new story.

I can deliver this one by the end of 1990, but a new story will take me until the end of 1991.

I will continue to mull over all this while I tour the UK and the Far East. If you have any further thoughts, let me know.

Yours —

Ken.