


Ken Follett



January 3, 1983

Dear Ken,

I am probably late in getting this to you and I apologize if I am. It took the holidays for me to find time to sit down and read it closely.

I don't know if the comments I have made will be of any value to you but as you know that would not deter me in making them.

In general I feel the book still needs a good going over. There are places in the book where it seems an event was just stuck in and seems out of place or not meaningful to the story where it's at.

I tried, as I read it, to mark down anything which struck me as sounding wrong or needing some work. For example when Ross' daughter asks him for a few extra dollars she is made to sound like a 12 year old, not a college kid of today.

Page 12

✓ I believe Islamic tradition calls for both a 7 day observance and a forty day observance of an important event.

Page 14

✓ Should you mention that Paul's boss, Bill Gayden, had come to Iran for that purpose. It reads like there is someone else permanently in Iran over Paul.

✓ I think that stating that the passport deal was to keep him in Iran at this point takes away some of the punch later on.

Page 16

Hi is the wrong word. A 2 am call is not answered with hi. I noticed you use this a lot in the book.

Page 18

The last sentence sounds like others were bumped off the flight. To my knowledge no one was bumped.

Page 19

"And make noise" couldn't it be changed to "in order to cause a commotion". "Starving" seems like too strong a word.

Page 20

The Gallaghers had a daughter in Iran.

Page 21

Why sneak out, why not just leave ?

Page 24

Last paragraph is confusing in the way it starts off.

Page 27

Seventh floor not fifth.

Page 46

Do you have to use the word "deals" in regard to Bill Gayden.

Page 74A

"It happened like this" sounds out of place.

Page 91

Pittsburgh is spelled with an h.

Page 285

Seems disjointed - talking about too many things at once. That whole story belongs somewhere else not stuck in there.

Page 289

You say he announced his resignation to his fellow generals then you say Sullivan and Bakhtiaz talk him out of announcing it.

Page 419/420

This all sounds to unreal, maybe it could be presented in a different way.

Page 455

Mr. Fish is called [REDACTED].

Page 455

We were not playing poker with EDS money, only our own.

Page 481

I don't think Ron Davis' statement adds anything to the book. Does it have to be used.

Page 485/486

Some of these items read like statements.
They do not seem to mesh together as a story.

I hope these are of value to you.

Sincerely,

J. Keane Taylor

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P.S. I still think it would help if you got two or three people together for a read thru of the entire book.