


Mrs Liz Coburn



27 January 1983

Dear Liz Coburn,

I'm glad we had an opportunity to talk, at last. Here are copies of two short scenes I have written to add to my book. The first of them would come just after the section where we see Rubie Chiapparone and Emily Gaylord trying to deal with their worries about Paul and Bill. The second would come just before the scene where Simons tells Jay why he is doing this for Perot.

I wish we had met earlier. The problems you have now with this book and the ones everyone else had a year ago. The others lived with the book as it grew, and consequently they realised two things: (i) Without these touches of personal life there is just no story; (ii) The individual is always oversensitive to anything he reads about himself - he over-reacts to things which the detached reader sees as ordinary human characteristics.

For example: Were you horrified when you read how Angela Howell got mad at John Howell for going back to Tehran? I bet you weren't. Any wife would have got mad, right? But when Angela read that she felt it made her look ~~back~~

So I'm asking you to try to look at the book from the point of view of a detached, fair-minded reader.

That said, if you have any comments to make, please drop me a line or call collect.

I often travel to Dallas so perhaps we may meet one of these days. I hope so.

Yours sincerely,

Ken Follett.