

To: Ken

4/24/85

From: Elaine

I love Jane as a character, and I think you have portrayed her in a very sensitive manner. She has a wonderful, lively personality. The scenes you have done of childbirth and those of her with the baby are really great.

I'd like to see Jean-Pierre's strengthened. He is no Alex Wolf, who is very fresh in my mind from the TV adaptation we saw the other night. First of all, he is not likeable enough. It's a bit hard to know what Jane really sees in him. His character is murky. Secondly, he is really too mean. I'll be more specific later. I wonder if Jane really has to marry him. What if they were just living together because J-P still hasn't yet gotten his divorce? The reason I suggest this, is that it's possible to make J-P more enigmatic if he and Jane aren't actually married. He can be more secretive. She can have more illusions about him.

Here are some specifics:

p. 116 and p. 139 "I dreamed J-P was a spy, etc." Is there some other way she could discover this? This is a little too contrived.

pp. 142-161 From Ellis blowing up the bridge to this final conversation with Masud is all kind of juiceless. It's only been lively with Jane.

p. 164 Jane's worry about Ellis meeting Mohammed and Jane's premonition "letting the cat out of the bag" is confusing.

p. 178 Jane's protectiveness for J-P isn't well motivated.

pp. 183-84 & p. 189 In these pages J-P becomes more unsympathetic than ever. His thoughts of killing Jane, etc.

pp. 241-49 Nice sex scenes.

p. 249 "After a year in the mountains" sounds like he was in the mountains for a year after he left Jane.

p. 305 Jane's mother mentioned here out of the blue.

- JP more panicked when Chantal is in physical danger

- JP awarded some coveted prize in first chapter. Goes to Afghanistan instead.

- JP's vision of his future - Minister of Health in Socialist France?  
How would he spend the last week of his life?

JP more of how he is reluctantly in love with her.

JP more detail of how he deceives Jane (more banal too)

Analytically: JP's fondness for her unreciprocated for his growing estrangement from Jane.