

N.P  
1985

Ken Follett FIVE TIGERS notes  
Maureen Baron

There were some excellent thriller scenes, but the characters of the two men were not fleshed out enough. My suggestion would be to have Ellis and Jane living together, then have his terrorist coup more or less reveal who he was to her--that way we can have some action early on, and we can see them really in love. Once she discovers what he is really up to she can run to Jean-Pierre. That would change the beginning a lot, I realize, but it's the beginning that needs some movement.

The opening scene seems quirky at the art gallery, and then just plain dull when you get to the dinner with the other couple. It also leads nowhere.

When Ellis sets about his work the book gets very lively. The set-up and capture of the terrorist moved along very nicely. Then it goes quickly down hill with that trip to Dallas, and all of the glimpses of Ellis, his mediocre poetry, etc. make him seem a bit of a lump.

p. 182 Why do we get all of the agonizing from the villain, when we barely know the hero? It doesn't help to make Jean Pierre more interesting, so it should be cut.

p. 201 Ellis shouldn't sound like Jimmy Carter. As Ellis, he is supposed to be a Texan which accent is as different from a Georgian one as a Brooklyn one. (It turns out that Ellis is really from New Jersey).

p. 223 Ellis, who is supposed to be much more familiar with real action than movies would hardly say "just like in the movies." Let's presume he has seen such scenes in his travels as a CIA man.

p. 231 This rationalization on Ellis' part is unacceptable. I would cut it. A few pages later, he gives an acceptable good guys-vs.-bad guys explanation that works better.

The trap for the Russians is good stuff. Exciting and well done.

p. 288 Earlier, Ellis said everyone was shot in the head, <sup>no, he dumb.</sup> now he says the boy was shot in the heart.

p. 326 This golf bag is hilarious. Can you imagine him carrying that into the enemy camp and not being questioned. They would grab it and go through it immediately. (21)

p. 384 I didn't really believe the helicopter crash scene. The fact that they and the helicopter were unharmed seemed a bit too miraculous for me.