

Add ~~depth~~, ~~plots~~
by sub-plots

Treat each part as a short novel.

Rich atmosphere.

The way the men talk among themselves - a
building site

The violence of the age - Rape, torture
& sudden death.

lots of couples, widows & orphans.

Outline - 3rd draft

VAULTING

by Ken Follett

7 May 1986

Philip: a politician

Ann: a businessman

Jack: a rock star

Will: a gangster

Book 1

PART I

Tom 1. The story begins in southern England in the year 1135. Tom Stoner is a stonecutter. He is working on a house for William de Clare, the 19-year-old son of Percy de Clare, a landowning knight. The house is needed because William is to marry the daughter of an Earl.

Tom is a strong, proud, unimaginative man. A stonecutter suffers from irregular employment, but Tom has always managed to provide for his family, through prudence and foresight and the good management of his wife Agnes. They have a son, Alfred, 14, who is an apprentice working with Tom; plus two daughters; and Agnes is pregnant.

The ideal work for Tom is a long-term building project: a cathedral, a palace, or a monastery. Recently he has not been able to find such work. He has worked on a castle, a small parish church, and now this modest house. In between he has been unemployed. His savings are now low.

However, William's house will keep him and the family through the winter, and then in the spring - when new building projects are begun - he will move on.

However, this plan is dashed. Young William visits the site in a rage. A handsome, well-built young man, he displays a casual brutality which augurs ill for his future character. He announces that the marriage has been called off, the house is no longer required, and all the workmen are dismissed forthwith.

Tom returns to his (temporary) hut in the village and breaks the ^{NEWS} ~~NEWS~~ to Agnes. She accepts it stoically and they prepare to leave. They sell a few possessions, but not many, for their peasant neighbours do not use cash much - this is still mainly a barter economy. They give away what they cannot carry, load the rest on to a handcart, and take the road.

Tom 2. They tramp from town to town without finding work. Building projects always slow down in the winter, and builders are looking to shed labour, not hire men.

Because of the season they cannot get work as agricultural labourers. Gradually they spend their savings and sell their possessions. Tom sells his tools. In the market town of Shiring they exchange their eating knives for a sack of cabbages. Now all they have left is an iron cooking-pot and the clothes they are wearing. When the cabbages are gone Tom makes a clumsy attempt at robbery which is so maladroit that the intended victim does not attempt to bring him to justice.

Tom 3. That night in the forest Agnes goes into labour, gives birth to a boy, and dies. Tom buries her while the children watch. Having no way to feed the baby, he abandons it, leaving it lying on its mother's grave.

A little later he repents and goes back. But the baby has gone.

Tom 4. During the next twenty-four hours Tom and the girls have a feeling that they are being watched. Finally Tom surprises a small, half-naked boy of about eleven years. The boy's mother appears. Although dressed in rags both she and the boy are strikingly good-looking, with red hair and green eyes. The woman is carrying the abandoned baby.

Their names are Ellen and Jack and they are outlaws, living - literally - outside the law, which means they neither obey it nor expect it to protect them. Ellen gives the baby goat's milk and feeds the others on (illegal) venison and crab apples. Then she seduces Tom.

Ellen is a high-born and educated woman who ran away, at the age of 14, to avoid an arranged marriage. She went into a convent but was expelled when Jack was born. She has taught Jack to read, write, draw, and speak Latin. She is something of a witch, and believes that lords are no better than serfs, God is no better than man, and men are no better than women.

Life in the forest has suited her for a decade but now Jack is in danger of growing up wild. She wants to re-enter society - but she cannot simply walk

into a village and join the community, for she has no home, no job, no husband, no role in society. She needs a new identity. So she proposes to Tom that they team up and marry. He agrees.

PART II

Philip 5. In the same forest, not far from where Ellen's hut is hidden, there is a monastery. It is a small one, a branch or 'cell' of the large and important Kingsbridge Priory. Prior of this little cell is Philip Porboy.

Philip is one of two sons of a London boatman. The other son, Francis, became a priest. Philip and Francis are both smart, pushy, and fiercely ambitious, and they have chosen the Church as their avenue to fame and fortune.

Philip has done well to become a Prior at a fairly young age (his administrative ability got him the job) but he cannot see further promotion in the immediate future. His brother is somewhat better placed. Francis is an aide to Robert of Gloucester, one of the most powerful men in the Anglo-French empire. (He got the job because he could say the Mass faster than anyone else.) He has made a specialty of arranging fast communications for Robert, and this allows him to send his own letters. He writes in code to Philip.

At the beginning of the year 1136 Francis and his master are in France. Henry I, King of England and Duke of Normandy, has died (on 1 December 1135) and the barons have gathered to discuss the succession. Francis sends Philip this report:

The King is survived by at least 20 children but only one of them is legitimate and that is a female, Maud. He has nominated her as his successor and made the barons swear allegiance to her. Nevertheless she has a serious rival: Theobald IV of Blois, Henry's nephew and the eldest male in line to the throne. Theobald is favoured by all but two of the barons. The dissidents are: Francis's master, Robert of Gloucester, who is the eldest illegitimate son of the dead king and bitterly resents the technicality which prevents him taking the throne - he hopes

to gain power through his half-sister; and the other is ^{Ray}~~Robert~~ of Marlborough, a devout and high-principled man who will not go back on his oath.

Over the opposition of Roger and Robert, the barons nominate Theobald as Duke of Normandy; but while they are dithering over the English throne there is a rather splendid coup d'etat by Theobald's two younger brothers.

Stephen Blois happens to be the largest landowner in England and Henry Blois is the Bishop of Winchester. Stephen has slipped across the Channel to England, won the support of the burghers of London (already the commercial capital of England) and gone on to Winchester (still the political capital) where with the help of Henry he has gained control of the castle and the Treasury.

Hearing this, the barons dump Theobald and acclaim Stephen as King; but Robert and Roger conspire to rebel against Stephen and put Maud on the throne.

Philip Porboy knows how he can use this information to his own advantage.

Philip 6. The mother monastery, Kingsbridge Priory, owns the village of Kingsbridge and a good deal of land around it. The Priory is also responsible for the cathedral church, seat of the Bishop of Kingsbridge.

The Prior there is old, incompetent and ailing. Philip wants his job. A Prior is elected by the monks but must be approved by the Bishop.

Philip now finds an excuse to travel to Kingsbridge. Talking with the monks, he drops heavy hints about how well his monks eat and drink since he reorganised the finances (which is true). They discuss the right of Priors to move a monk from one cell to another without consent - always a grievance - and Philip says he thinks Priors should have no such right (which is not true). Before he leaves, one of the monks asks him if he would accept election as Prior. He says yes.

Philip 7. Philip now goes to see the Bishop, who lives like the fuedal baron he is in a castle many miles from his cathedral. Philip tells the Bishop of the plot against

Stephen (knowing that the clergy favour Stephen). The Bishop is grateful, and asks Philip what reward he wants. Kingsbridge Priory, says Philip.

PART III

8. The Bishop passes the information to Percy de Clare, a knight and small landowner, the feudal lord of twenty or thirty villages in the Kingsbridge area. Percy is the father of William de Clare (from Chapter One). (William is our point-of-view character here.) Percy was planning to add substantially to his family's lands by marrying William to Ann, the daughter of Roger of Marlborough. Roger agreed to the deal, but on condition that his daughter liked William. Neither Percy nor William took this proviso seriously; but Ann found William loathsome and the marriage was called off. Hence William's rage and the abandonment of the half-built house.

Now, with this information from the Bishop, they see a way of destroying the man who humiliated them and acquiring some of those lands.

9. As soon as Roger arrives home from France, young William calls on him, pretending to want to press further his suit for Ann. He is brusquely rejected, but not before he has observed a constant coming-and-going of messengers. After leaving, he captures one of the messengers. Under torture the messenger reveals that he was sent to muster Roger's knights in a distant part of the county and prepare them for the rebellion. This is all the proof Percy needs.

10. At dawn William, Percy and a troop of knights burst into Roger's manor house. There is a battle but the attackers have the advantage of surprise. Roger is arrested, and William enjoys humiliating a terrified Ann.

Roger is imprisoned at Winchester. Robert of Gloucester swears loyalty to Stephen and escapes punishment.

Tom 11. Tom Stoner and Ellen, with their children, leave the forest and continue to search for work. They go to a quarry belonging to Roger of Marlborough but they find it closed. When they call at the manor house they find it is being run by a 15-year-old girl, Ann. She tells them that her mother died many years ago and her father has just been arrested, and that all the workmen left the quarry because she has no money to pay them.

Ellen's son Jack falls in love with Ann.

Tom 12. They go next to Kingsbridge Priory, where (they have heard) there is a new Prior who might want to fix up the tumbledown cathedral.

There is indeed a new Prior - Philip Porboy - but he is not fixing up the cathedral and there is no work for Tom. Nevertheless the monks give the family a meal and a bed for the night.

While they are eating they learn from the monks that the Priory is broke. The new Prior has spent all their money on a flock of sheep and started an austerity drive: they have salt fish and weak beer instead of meat and wine.

By chance the Stoners meet this Prior. So far from being an ogre, they find, he ^{is} a cheerful and surprisingly young man. He is sorry he cannot employ Tom. 'If only the cathedral would be struck by a thunderbolt and destroyed,' he says, 'then I could raise the money to build a new one.'

Jack 13. That night, when all are asleep, Jack gets up, takes a lighted candle from the altar, and sets fire to the wooden roof of the cathedral.

When the blaze is getting going he is shocked to realise that he is being watched by Prior Philip - but Philip does nothing to put out the blaze. 'Our secret,' he whispers. Then they give the alarm.

The monks and the villagers struggle to put out the blaze but they fail. The cathedral is destroyed.

Jack 14. Philip employs Tom and Alfred clearing the site and repairing the underground crypt. At first they must work just for food and shelter.

Alfred and Jack hate one another. Alfred began by trying to lord it over Jack the way he does over his sisters, but Jack, an only child, did not submit. Alfred is something of an ox, strong and forceful but not very bright. He feels deeply threatened by the intrusion of Jack into the family. He reacts by bullying and mistreating Jack at every opportunity. But Jack is intelligent and precocious and sometimes gets the better of his older stepbrother. Rivalry hardens into enmity.

Ellen asks Tom to take on Jack as an apprentice. Tom agrees. This makes Alfred worse. Tom now asks Ellen to teach Alfred to read and write. At first Alfred refuses to learn, but eventually he does it to catch up with Jack.

PART V

Philip 15. Philip now goes to the Bishop for finance for a new cathedral. The Bishop takes him to Winchester to see the King. They ask the King to give the estates of the disgraced Roger of Marlborough to the diocese. But Percy de Clare is also there, demanding the same estates as reward for his role in stopping the rebellion.

Philip realises that he is being used. The Bishop is relying on the burned-out cathedral to appeal to the King's piety - but it will be the Bishop, not the Priory, that gets the estates, and the Bishop will dole out just as much or as little as he likes toward the cost of reconstruction. So, behind the Bishop's back, Philip proposes a compromise to the King: Percy to have the lands, on condition that the monastery can take from the quarry all the stone it wants for the cathedral free of charge. King Stephen buys this. The deal does not endear Philip to the Bishop or to Percy.

William 16. William de Claire rides in triumph to the manor house of Roger Of Marlborough. He throws out the servants, rapes Ann, and takes over the estate.

Ann 17. Ann and her 14-year-old brother Richard set out for Winchester to find their father.

Ann is a capable, independent girl with a lot of her father's inflexible will. Richard by contrast is lazy, selfish and passive.

Their horses are stolen the first night in the forest. Next day on the road they are threatened by thieves. Ann, brutalised by all that has happened, surprises the thieves by drawing a knife and without warning stabbing one of them. It is a lucky stroke and he is killed outright. Richard then belatedly draws his sword and the two remaining thieves flee.

Ann 18. Ann finds her father dying in a dungeon. He makes her swear to take care of her brother. Then he makes Richard swear to regain the family estates from the de Clares. The children have been brought up to take oaths seriously and these deathbed promises will shape their lives.

Ann 19. They return to Kingsbridge in the spring of 1137, homeless and rapidly running out of money. Richard despairs but Ann is made of sterner stuff. She knows that many peasants keep a few sheep and sell the fleeces each spring. The journey to market loses the peasant a whole day's work and makes the operation highly marginal. Ann and Richard now go from village to village buying fleeces for a penny each. When they have a sackful (250 fleeces) they take it to market and sell it for five pounds - a profit of 500%. Ann has become a wool merchant.

PART VI

Philip 20. Another person who makes a healthy profit on wool this spring is Prior Philip, who sells the first fleeces from his herd of sheep. (The cloth-manufacturing industry of Flanders is booming and there is a European shortage of wool.) He makes enough to employ a master builder and start work on the new cathedral.

He also begins to convert more of the monastery's lands to sheep farming,

but this will be a slow process, because under previous slack management many farms have been let to tenants under long leases at fixed rents.

Philip 21. The master builder presents his design, drawn on two sheets of plaster in wooden frames: one a floor plan and the other an elevation. They show a small, conventional, inexpensive building in the round-arched style now known as Romanesque. It is accepted by the monks, by Philip and by the Bishop. The master builder now lays out the east end with wooden stakes, helped by Tom, Alfred and Jack.

Philip 22. As yet Philip can afford to hire only a few craftsmen: a master quarryman, a master forester, a blacksmith and a carpenter with their apprentices and labourers. Work begins.

But when the quarryman arrives at the quarry he is turned away by Percy's men.

This is a major crisis for Philip, who is already building a cathedral on a shoestring. The monks discuss what to do. The sub-prior, Remigius, proposes sending a delegation to protest to the King. Philip scorns this proposal which could take months if not years.

Philip takes all the monks to the quarry in the middle of the night. At dawn Percy's men find monks saying Mass all over the site. They do not know what to do. Philip consolidates his victory by employing all of Percy's quarrymen to work for the monastery.

Philip 23. Impatient but still short of funds, Philip persuades the Bishop to announce that forgiveness for sins can be obtained only by voluntary work on the cathedral, beginning Whit Sunday.

This stunt works like a dream. On that first Sunday people come from far and wide, in holiday mood, to fell trees, cart stones, and help dig the

twenty-five-foot deep foundations. Enterprising businessmen are there setting up stalls selling beer, food, pots, knives, and even needles and thread. At midday Philip finds himself standing with Tom and family and Ann and Richard, all of them gazing with incredulity at the huge crowd of people building the new cathedral.

Book 2Part I

William 1. In 1139 Percy dies and William, now 23, becomes the Earl. He learns that his income from markets is only a fraction of what it was when Roger of Marlborough was the Earl.

A market is a very valuable asset, because the lord of the town or village where it is held charges all sorts of rents and taxes to the stallholders. The right to hold a market can only be granted by the King, who charges a hefty fee or 'fine' for it. In addition, new markets are generally not created where they would compete too much with existing ones, which means (according to a medieval rule-of-thumb) within thirteen-and-two-thirds miles.

William is now told that many of his previous customers now do business at Kingsbridge on Sundays. William is furious. 'Not content with stealing the stone from my quarry, that monk is now taking away my markets!'

The following Sunday he goes to Kingsbridge dressed as a peasant. What he sees astonishes him. The place is transformed. The village has doubled in size with the influx of craftsmen, and has acquired an inn and a cookshop. To serve the hundreds of Sunday volunteers a market has grown up on the building site. On discreet inquiry, William learns that Prior Philip is charging rents and taxes, just as if this were a legitimate market - but his rates are lower than William's...

William thinks he sees Ann but she disappears. When he leaves, at dusk, he is followed. Being alone, he is anxious, and flees. His follower laughs. It is a woman's voice.

William 2. William complains to the Sheriff, who tells him that he is technically in the right, for Kingsbridge has no right to a market. However, since Kingsbridge is 20 miles from another market, it will presumably be granted such a right on payment

of a fine. And even if the King is not disposed to grant the right, there is no prospect of enforcing the law and closing the market, because the King is too busy fighting a civil war: Robert of Gloucester has renounced his allegiance to Stephen and is in open rebellion from his stronghold in Bristol.

Very well, says William; what is sauce for the goose must be sauce for the gander.

In a carefully-planned operation, he goes with a party of knights to the quarry in the middle of the night. He turns the quarrymen and stonecutters out of their huts and fences off the quarry. He tells the master quarryman that he will reopen the quarry when Prior Philip closes the market.

Jack 3. Among those evicted in the middle of the night are Tom Stoner and his stepson Jack, who have been working there. (Jack now becomes a point-of-view character instead of Tom.) They return to the town with the others.

Jack at 15 is wilful, impulsive, rebellious and uncontrollable. He has great charm and a fierce temper. He is generally well-liked, despite his faults, but occasionally he makes people nervous, like a large puppy dog that will not be a puppy much longer.

He has not been to the town for a while (the whole family except Alfred has been living at the quarry) and now he inspects progress on the cathedral. The foundations were finished a year ago and now the walls and columns are rising. He sees how the pieces of stone Tom has been cutting are fitted together to make the piers, arches, capitals and pediments. He sees that the walls are not solid stone but consist of two thicknesses of stone with the cavity between full of rubble and concrete. The tallest trees in the forest, some of them fifty and sixty feet, have been felled and are seasoning here on site, even though the roof will not be made for years yet.

There is a good stockpile of stone. Tom is put on to carving to keep him

busy while Prior Philip deals with the quarry crisis. Jack quickly demonstrates a flair for decorative carving and attracts the attention of the master builder. However, Jack is now back in contact with Alfred, who makes his life a misery, bullying him, mocking him and occasionally sabotaging his work.

Part II

Jack 4. Because of his forest upbringing and his nonconformist mother, Jack is not much influenced by the Church, and he now embarks upon a series of sexual experiments with girls. However, his true love is still Ann. Although she is twenty and a prosperous merchant, and Jack is still an apprentice, he succeeds in charming her. He is precocious and intelligent and one of the few people in the village who is on her intellectual level. However, the friendship is entirely non-sexual for her - anyway she has no time for romance because she is too busy making money.

Ann is to be one of the two great loves of Jack's life. The other will be the cathedral. He now becomes fascinated by the plans, the design, the materials, and the construction techniques, and at every opportunity he watches the master builder checking the masonry, making templates for the stonecutters, counting timbers and sacks of lime, supervising the making of the scaffolding. Soon the master starts asking him to run errands and eventually - despite attempted sabotage by Alfred - the master builder takes Jack as his apprentice.

Ann 5. Alfred, now 18, has completed his apprenticeship and is a fully qualified mason. He has small intelligence and little imagination, but his personality is forceful and he is by medieval standards educated, so he has become one of the leading craftsmen. He and Ann form a parish guild, a sort of club which is joined by all the master craftsmen and market traders except for Malachi, the seller of pins and thread, who is excluded because he is Jewish. The ostensible purpose of the guild is to buy candles for the parish church, but in fact it will represent

the interests of leading townspeople vis-a-vis the monastery, and is an embryonic form of town government.

Alfred is romantically interested in Ann but at first she does not notice.

Philip 6. Prior Philip petitions the King to legitimise the market and force William to reopen the quarry, but he is pessimistic: even if he succeeds in getting the King's attention for a moment during the civil war, Stephen is likely to rule in favour of William, who is one of his staunch supporters.

Philip chooses to buy stone from elsewhere, as this will cost less than closing the market, especially as the market helps to attract his volunteer labourers. Nevertheless he still has a financial crisis. He proposes to reduce the wages of craftsmen. The parish guild resists this plan. Philip says the only alternative is to reduce the number of craftsmen.

Ann inspires the solution. She has long wanted to buy the monastery's fleeces; but Philip is such a major producer that it makes more sense for him to sell them directly to the big buyers. Now, however, he offers to sell to Ann - provided she pays in advance, in instalments throughout the year. She accepts, and Philip has the finance he needs to buy stone.

Alfred declares his love for Ann. She is not so much hostile as indifferent: she has no time for romance and no need of a husband.

Part III

Philip 7. Philip's effort to win a favour from the King is boosted by a letter from his brother Francis, who is still with Robert of Gloucester. Robert's half-sister Maud is coming over from France to lead the rebellion in an attempt to gain the crown her father promised her. She will land at Arundel where her family has a castle.

Philip passes this information to the King, who says: You shall have your market when the war ends.

Maud arrives, in September 1139, and Stephen is able to trap her at Arundel.

But then, to Francis's utter incredulity and Philip's bitter disappointment, Stephen releases her and gives her safe-conduct to Bristol!

8. In the spring of 1140 Philip delivers the monastery's fleeces to Ann and asks her to roll the deal over for another year.

She holds out for a high price at the annual Fleece Fair in Shiring, and consequently is left with some stock - not a lot, but it represents her profit. She hesitates to continue financing Philip. Then she decides to give out her surplus wool to be washed, combed, carded and spun in peasant households. She is expanding into cloth manufacture.

9. In late 1140 Ranulf of Chester, a powerful baron who with his family controls almost a third of England, joins the rebellion. In February 1141 King Stephen is captured in battle and held prisoner by Maud. And now Francis discovers, and reveals to Philip, a fascinating secret: King Stephen is in love with his cousin and arch-enemy Maud.

Maud is a bewitching and ruthless woman and Stephen is not the only powerful man who is under her spell. He first fell in love with her in the summer of 1132 when she was visiting England. She swore then that she would never return to her husband in France - but in the fall she left suddenly. The following summer she gave birth to a son, Henry.

This explains Stephen's absurdly chivalrous gesture, back in 1139, of letting Maud go. Now she locks him up in Bristol and sleeps with him in between taking over his kingdom. But still she will not confirm or deny that Henry is Stephen's son.

And Maud grants market rights to Kingsbridge.

Part IV

Flemish

10. In the spring of 1141 several Flemish merchants call in Kingsbridge on their way to the Shiring Fleece Fair. They buy most of Ann's stock, thereby avoiding

massive taxes due to William.

Inspired by this, and emboldened by the imprisonment of Stephen, Prior Philip announces that next spring Kingsbridge will hold its own Fleece Fair.

William 11. William is enraged by this move, but feels powerless to do anything about it while Stephen is losing the war.

William joins Maud's side, but secretly connives at the capture of Robert of Gloucester.

(Philip's brother Francis now joins Maud's entourage.)

On 1 November 1141 Stephen is released in exchange for Robert. The war goes on.

Ann 12. Alfred is still pressing his suit with Ann. But Ann is no more interested than she ever was. Alfred deeply resents her growing friendship with his kid brother Jack, who is now 18 and although still an apprentice (and therefore unpaid) has become the master builder's second-in-command.

1142 A week before the opening of the Kingsbridge Fleece Fair, Ann takes delivery of the monastery's fleeces, sixty sacks of raw wool, the product of 15,000 sheep, worth a fortune.

At dawn on the first day of the Fair, William rides in with a troop of knights. They wreck the market and set fire to the town. Everything is burned to the ground except the cathedral, the monastery and the parish church (the only stone buildings). Ann's entire stock of wool is lost and she is financially ruined.

Jack 13. The town is soon rebuilt. Work on the cathedral continues more slowly, now that Philip has no income from the market, no credit from Ann and no free stone.

Among those who died in the fire was the master builder. For a while Jack carries on. Then Alfred applies for the job.

Prior Philip is perfectly happy for Jack to do the work free, but the other craftsmen resent his youth and support Alfred. Jack says that Alfred cannot do the job but no one believes him. Reluctantly Philip makes Alfred master builder.

Ann 14. Richard presses his destitute sister to marry Alfred, reminding her that seven years ago she refused a perfectly appropriate marriage on personal grounds and thereby brought about the death of her father. Remembering her oath to her father, she agrees.

Jack 15. Jack asks her not to marry Alfred. They have a long discussion in which she tells him about everything from beginning, including the rape. They make love. But still she refuses to call off the wedding.

Jack fights with Alfred about it and is mercilessly beaten up. He leaves town.

Philip 16. Philip now presses Alfred to speed up construction, for as soon as the east end is roofed the cathedral can be used and can start to earn money.

Ann Alfred's marriage to Ann is a disaster. Ann finds him physically loathsome. *1143* The following year, she gives birth to a red-haired, green-eyed baby - obviously Jack's. Alfred throws her out. She supports herself, her baby and her brother Richard by cleaning and spinning wool.

Philip Alfred begins the roof, but Jack was right - Alfred cannot do the job. When the lead goes on, the structure cannot take the weight, and there is a terrible accident. The massive columns buckle, the roof timbers snap, and the entire building collapses, destroying ten years' work and killing sixty people including Alfred.

Part VI

Jack 17. Jack has spent the intervening period wandering through Europe, sketching buildings and working as a stonecutter. Before he left Kingsbridge he thought there was only one way to build a church. Travel has completed his education.

In Spain, on Moorish buildings, he has seen pointed arches; in France he has seen rib vaulting: these are two of the three essential elements of the nascent Gothic style. (The third is flying buttresses.)

Jack is a master stonecutter, with several craftsmen working under him, building the abbey church of St Denis under the famous Abbot Suger, when he hears, on the masonic grapevine, that Kingsbridge Cathedral has fallen down, all work has stopped, and all the craftsmen have left.

He tells his men that he has been appointed master builder at Kingsbridge and takes some of them with him to England.

Jack 18. He arrives in Kinsbridge on Easter Sunday in 1144, carrying an iron-bound chest. The Bishop is conducting a service in an improvised church in the ruins in front of a few hundred people. (In a decent building there would be thousands.) The service stops as he walks in followed by two dark-skinned Saracens in Turkish costumes bearing the chest. He announces that he has brought with him a fragment of the True Cross. At this, a cripple who has been begging in the town for the last few days lurches forward, touches the chest, and is miraculously healed. There is uproar.

Next day Jack pays off the Saracens and the cripple who are hired ruffians from London. As he is doing so he is observed by Prior Philip. Both are reminded of the time Philip watched Jack set fire to the old cathedral. 'Our secret,' says Philip again.

A few days later there is another miracle. Jack and Philip each assume the other fixed it. It turns out to have been genuine. Jack and Philip are stunned.

Jack 19. Philip employs Jack's craftsmen to build a town wall using stones from the ruined cathedral. When the wall is complete, traders re-open their market stalls, feeling that the wall will protect them from dawn raids by William. Their customers

are the pilgrims who now flock to the cathedral to see the relic. For further protection, the wealthier ones commission stone houses.

20. Jack's observation of the ruins - which bits fell, what direction they fell in, and what remains upright - gives him new insight into why buildings stand up, and he conceives the flying buttress. He then designs the first Gothic cathedral.

The site is cleared. He lays out his new cathedral on the foundations of the old one. Then he and Ann are married there.

Book 3

Part I Book 3 begins in the famine of 1149-53. This causes unrest among the craftsmen (because their wages remain the same while the price of bread goes up) and later a Peasant Revolt.

II In 1153 Henry, the son of Maud, invades England and Prior Philip's brother Francis is now Henry's chaplain (secretary). Philip is with the Bishop and King Stephen. Between them, Philip and Francis manoeuvre Stephen and Henry into a truce, then a meeting at which they recognise one another as father and son, then a negotiated settlement.

III In 1154 Stephen dies and Henry becomes King. He revokes all grants of land made by Stephen and Maud. William de Clare is therefore reduced to his former modest estate and Richard at last comes into his father's lands. Richard immediately goes off on Crusade leaving Ann in charge.

William borrows a thousand marks from Malachi and buys for himself the office of Sheriff. This turns out to be less lucrative than he hoped and he cannot repay the debt. He accuses Malachi of murdering a Christian child at Easter (a common medieval scare story) and tries to start a lynching. Philip protects Malachi, on commercial as well as humanitarian grounds, for Malachi is now financing the cathedral. Philip is successful and Malachi is saved, but Philip loses popularity in the town.

IV The Bishop dies. The monks want Philip as Bishop. The King, for his own reasons, wants to make William Bishop. This last power struggle forms the climax of the story.

Epilogue As an epilogue, Richard dies in the Holy Land, Ann inherits the estate, and Jack becomes the Earl at about the time the cathedral is finished.

The end.

1. Philip is against Becket
2. Becket becomes Archbishop and now Philip is for him
3. When Becket returns in 1170 Philip didn't advise war
4. When Becket is killed Philip resolves the situation by making Becket a martyr.

When Jack dies, Ann walks through the cathedral thinking. He is here.