

Outline - 4th draft

New chapter included

Theme of each Part, Chapter, Book - whole thing

In each Part, always an update on each major
character - Jack, Ann, William, Philip Nolan.

The end of each Part and Book should be a
restatement of a problem stated at the beginning

VAULTING

a trilogy

by Ken Follett

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Book One

Part I

1. The story begins in southern England in the year 1135. Tom Appleyard is a stonecutter, a skilled craftsman. A big, strong, forceful man, he is the kind who stops fights and stands up to the boss. He is proud and self-reliant.

His father was a free peasant (as opposed to a serf) who had too many sons and apprenticed Tom to a stonecutter. Now in his middle thirties, Tom has one son, Alfred, 13, who is apprenticed to him, and two younger daughters. His wife Agnes is pregnant. *(She has a premonition about this baby.)*

Tom is a good craftsman somewhat down on his luck. The ideal work for such men is a long-term construction project such as a cathedral, a palace or a monastery. Recently Tom has not found such work. He has been employed building a castle and a small church and now he is working on a modest manor house. In between he has been unemployed, and his savings are gone. However, this house will take him through the winter, and spring is when new building projects begin. Employment is inevitably irregular in this line of work, and so far Tom has always been able to provide for his family, through prudence and foresight and the good domestic management of Agnes, a plain, practical woman.

Alfred is something of a disappointment to Tom. The boy is big and forceful like his father, but not very bright, and in consequence he has turned into something of a bully.

The house they are building is for William de Clare, the nineteen-year-old son of Percy de Clare, a landowning knight. The house is needed because William is to marry.

It is a normal day at the building site. Tom breaks up a fight between

Alfred and another apprentice. At midday Agnes brings them salt herrings, black bread and beer. The workmen josh one another in the manner of workmen everywhere.

As the meal is ending a visitor arrives on horseback. It is William de Clare, and he is in a rage. A handsome, well-built young man, he displays a casual brutality which is an ominous sign of 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 demands that he pay everyone, and holds his horse's head in a determined fashion. William is obliged to throw them a fistful of pennies before Tom will let him go.

2. The Appleyard family decided to head for a group of four towns - Woodstock, Oxford, Abingdon and Wallingford - all of which are large (having at least one thousand head of population) and, more importantly, have stone buildings.

They try to sell a few possessions, but their neighbours rarely use cash - this is still a barter economy for the peasants. They give away what they cannot carry, and the next morning they take to the road. Their only possession of any real value is a pig.

3. Some days later they enter the forest. They are watched by two people, a woman and a boy, both dressed in rags, both strikingly beautiful, with red-gold hair and remarkable amber eyes. They are Ellen and her eleven-year-old son Jack, and they are outlaws, which means that they do not obey the law and they are not entitled to its protection (so that, for example, people could murder them without fear of punishment).

Ellen is a high-born and educated woman who ran away, at the age of

fourteen, to avoid an arranged marriage. She went into a convent, had an affair with a monk, gave birth to Jack and was expelled. She is something of a witch. She believes that lords are no better than serfs, God is no better than man, and men are no better than women. She has taught Jack to read, write, draw and speak Latin.

Life in the forest has suited her for a decade. Game is plentiful if you ignore the laws against poaching, there are wild fruits and nuts, and she has little compunction about stealing anything else she needs from wealthy travellers. But now she is worried about Jack growing up so wild, and she would like to re-enter normal society. However, she cannot. She has no home, no work, no husband, no role. She needs a new identity. She looks wistfully at Agnes, with her husband, her children and her pig. She watches them out of sight.

4. The youngest Appleyard child, Martha, is too small to carry anything so she drives the pig. She falls behind constantly. One time when she is a hundred yards to the rear a man springs out from the undergrowth, fells her with a club, snatches the pig and flees. Tom and Alfred chase him but lose him. Tom can hardly contain his anger.

After a few minutes Martha recovers consciousness and vomits. Tom carries her for a while. Luckily they come upon a small monastery. A monk examines her and says she is going to be fine. After a rest she is ready to go on. The monk, however, suggests that Tom may find work in the town of Salisbury; so when they leave they go in a different direction.

5. The monk was wrong: there is no work for Tom in Salisbury. But he does see his pig, being sold in the marketplace; and Martha points out the thief. Tom follows the man, beats his head in with a hammer, and takes his money.

6. The money does not last long and Tom is unable to find work. Two months later the family is in serious trouble. They have walked in a large circle from Salisbury through Winchester, Wallingford, Oxford, Gloucester, Bristol and Bath. But building work always slows down in winter and builders are hoping to shed labour, not hire men. Because it is the dead of winter the Appleyards cannot even get work as agricultural labourers.

Back in Salisbury Tom, thin as a rail and close to despair, trades their eating knives for a sack of cabbages. All they have left is an iron cooking-pot and the clothes they stand up in. They camp in the forest and make cabbage soup with acorns in it.

That night Agnes gives birth to a boy and dies. The children watch while Tom digs a grave and buries his wife. Having no way to feed the baby he abandons it.

An hour later, repentant, he goes back for the baby, but it is already gone.

Stricken with grief he stumbles on, a strong man brought to his knees. The children follow, frightened and uncomprehending. At dawn Alfred begs him to stop - the girls can walk no farther.

The children lie down and sleep. Tom sits staring into space. He sees a ragged but beautiful woman walking towards him. (We recognise her as Ellen from Chapter 3.) She does not speak. Tom thinks he is either dreaming or in Paradise. The woman seduces him.

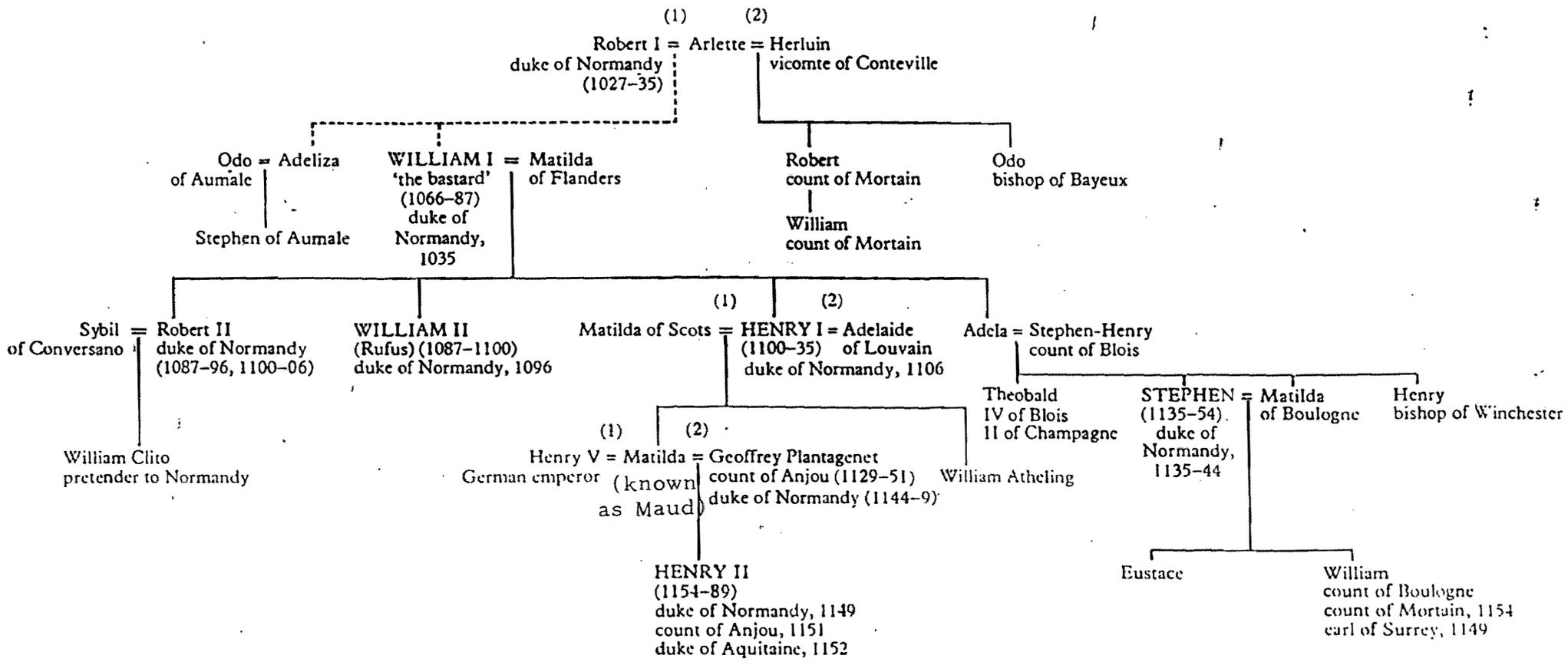
Afterwards a small boy appears, with red-gold hair and amber eyes like hers. He is carrying the abandoned baby.

Part II

7. The monk who examined Martha in Chapter 4 is Philip of Wales, age 27, and he is in fact prior of the little monastery. He and his younger brother Francis were orphaned at the ages of six and four, during Henry I's successful invasion of the North Wales kingdom of Gwynedd. Their parents were put to the sword before their eyes. They were raised by monks, and grew up with a passionate commitment to the Church as the bastion of civilised values against the barely-controlled savagery of State power - a partisan but justified point of view. Naturally bright, the two boys benefitted from the monastic education. They are fiercely ambitious, rationalising their personal aspirations as dedication to the Church. Francis is a secretary with Robert of Gloucester, a powerful baron (and a non-fictional character). Philip's great talent is estate management, which he sees as husbanding God's property, and he has rationalised the assets of this little monastery so effectively that it is now embarrassingly wealthy. And Philip is impatient for a greater challenge.

This monastery is a branch or 'cell' of a large and important one at Kingsbridge, three days' journey away. Today's problem for Philip is a monk who has been transferred here from Kingsbridge. (The right of priors to transfer monks from one house to another is a perennial bone of contention.) Philip can see why Kingsbridge wanted rid of this man, who is called Peter of Wareham. Peter is an irremediable troublemaker. He complains that the monks here live too well, eating the best meat and drinking wine. His sharp-edged scorn can reduce weaker brethren to tears. Philip solves the problem as follows. He announces that Peter is right: God did not bless the monastery with wealth just so that monks could get fat. They are to share what they have with the poor. To that end he is appointing an almoner, who will have the duty of giving away a fixed amount of money and food every week. Since the monastery is in the

The Royal Family, 1066-1154



Candidates for the succession in 1135.

forest and there are no poor people less than a day's journey away, the almoner will spend a good deal of time outside the monastery. The monk he has chosen for this important role is of course Peter. Not only will he be kept out of the way, but Philip hopes that close contact with the vicious, verminous poor of medieval towns will temper his scorn of soft living.

After Philip has dealt with this he finds a visitor waiting: Tom Appleyard, passing the monastery for the second time this winter. Tom is a great deal thinner and seems to have acquired a baby, an eleven-year-old ragamuffin and a new wife. All is soon explained, and Tom asks Philip to pray for the soul of Agnes, buried in the forest without benefit of clergy. Philip agrees. He also inquires whether Tom is married to Ellen, and if not whether they are sinning together. Tom confesses that they are in fact sinning. Philip then makes Tom promise not to sleep with Ellen again until they are married. Ellen will hate Philip forever for this. *They leave the baby at the monastery. (Cventy?)*

He sends them on their way and goes into the chapel to pray for Agnes, who seems not to have committed much in the way of sin. While saying the prayers he reviews his own situation in life.

Kingsbridge Priory, the mother house, has for years been badly run by an elderly prior and his incompetent sub-prior. Slack management of God's assets infuriates Philip. The prior has recently died and Philip wants his job. (The prior is elected by the monks, although the Bishop of Kingsbridge has rights of nomination, veto and confirmation, a situation which leads to conflicts.) Philip has certainly proved his ability, but he is very young and monks are conservative, and the likelihood is that the job will go to the incompetent deputy.

Soon after Philip leaves the chapel a messenger arrives with a letter that takes his mind off his own problems.

It is from his brother. Francis has made a specialty of organising fast communications for Robert of Gloucester, and this enables him to send his own mail. He writes about a series of sudden political developments.

8. Henry I, King of England and Duke of Normandy, a son of William the Conqueror, has died, on 1 December 1135. He is survived by at least twenty children but only one of them is legitimate and that is a female, Maud. Henry nominated Maud as his successor and made his barons swear allegiance to her. Nevertheless, as the barons gather in France to discuss the succession, Maud has a serious rival: Theobald IV of Blois, Henry's eldest nephew, the first male in line to the throne.

Theobald is favoured by all the barons but two. One of the dissidents is Francis' boss, Robert of Gloucester, who is the eldest illegitimate son of the dead king. Robert bitterly resents the technicality which prevents his becoming king and hopes to gain power through his half-sister Maud. The other dissident (a fictional character) is Roger of Shiring, the Earl of Wiltshire, a high-principled, unbending man who will not renege on the oath of loyalty to Maud which Henry made them all swear.

Over the opposition of Robert and Roger the other barons nominate Theobald as Duke of Normandy; but while they are hesitating over the English kingdom there is a coup d'etat.

Theobald has two brothers and they have conspired against him. Stephen Blois, who owns vast estates in England, has slipped across the Channel, won the support of the citizens of London (already the commercial capital of the country) and moved on to Winchester (still the political capital). The Bishop of Winchester is the other brother, Henry Blois, and he is the arch-manipulator of the mid-twelfth century. With Bishop Henry's help, Stephen gains control of the castle and - most importantly - the Treasury.

Bishop Henry is not doing this out of fraternal love. It is a calculated move in the Church-State power game. The dead king ruled with a rod of iron and treated the Church as just another of his assets. Now the Church waits

to start the new reign on a different footing, and Stephen has been forced to promise large concessions to Church power as a quid pro quo for the support of Bishop Henry.

Hearing of Stephen's coup, the barons in France dump Theobald and back Stephen - all except Robert and Roger, who secretly agree to rebel.

Francis knows of this conspiracy, and his ultimate loyalty is to the Church, so he must prevent it - but without compromising himself. So he begs Philip to find a way to warn King Stephen without revealing his source of information.

9. Philip finds an excuse to visit Kingsbridge, and on the way he goes to see Waleron Bigod, the Bishop of Kingsbridge.

The Bishop lives, like the feudal lord he is, in some splendour, with a mistress and a troop of knights, in a stockaded manor house many miles from his cathedral, which he visits as little as possible. Philip approaches him with trepidation. He has never been involved in high politics before and the possession of this dangerous secret makes him highly anxious. The Bishop may put him on the Rack and torture him to reveal his source of information.

Philip tells the Bishop that a knight who was robbed and beaten by outlaws in the forest confessed the conspiracy before dying in his arms. ^{Amherst?} The Bishop raises an eyebrow at this tale but does not press the point. In fact he warms to Philip, recognising a kindred spirit: like Philip, Bishop Waleron is a poor boy who has risen in society by means of the Church.* It is not immediately apparent that there is a crucial difference between the two men: for the Bishop, the Church is merely a means to wealth and power; whereas for Philip, personal ambition is genuinely subordinate to the advancement of ecclesiastical influence and of the civilised values the Church stands for. Because of this difference their friendship will be short-lived.

For now, however, the Bishop simply thanks Philip and sends him on his way.

* More: Philip is somewhat seduced by the Bishop's attitude but on mature reflection sees the danger.

10. Arriving at Kingsbridge, Philip goes first to pay his respects to the sub-prior, Remigius. He tells him that his cell in the forest has plenty of food and asks permission to serve meat twice a day. He takes care to make this request in the hearing of one of the young monks. It is refused but in no time at all the whole monastery has heard of it and Philip has established himself as both a good manager and an indulgent prior.

In a monastery as big as this one, which also has a cathedral church to look after, the prior and sub-prior have a team of officers working under them: a cantor, a sacrist, a novice master, a guest master, a kitchener and several more. Philip takes care to spend a little time with each of them. With one he renews a friendship; another he reminds of an obligation; he commiserates with the grievances of another, hinting that all would be different if he, Philip, were prior.

In the kitchen the subject comes up of a Prior's right to transfer monks from one house to another. Philip says he is against this practice. News of this statement also spreads fast.

Within twenty-four hours a group of officers corner Philip and ask him if he would be willing to be prior. Of course he says Yes.

11. However, Remigius has his supporters, and they fight back. They scare the monks by pointing out that if the monastery is divided, the Bishop may use that as an excuse to impose his own candidate upon them. Remigius claims (falsely) to know that the Bishop would like to give the job to a crony of his called John Woodcock. The monks know of this man's reputation and they panic and swing behind Remigius.

12. The Bishop now pays them one of his rare visits: it is Epiphany and he has to conduct the service. Remigius says he has been elected prior by the

monks. Bishop Waleran refuses to confirm Remigius and nominates Philip.

Philip is duly elected.

And takes his baby with him.

Part III

Waleran in Archdeacon. Demands in return Philip's support for his bid for the bishopric. Gets it, then they quarrel. (Philip eternally regrets his lapse.)

13. Also in Kingsbridge for the Epiphany service is William de Clare, the angry young man from Chapter 1. William's father, Percy, is the feudal lord of a small estate of twenty or thirty villages in Wiltshire. The real power in the family is William's mother Regan, age 40. Grasping, conniving, and borderline psychopathic, she is also hideous, her face covered with sores that she picks at constantly.

Regan hoped to add substantially to her husband's estate by marrying their son to Ann, the beautiful, wilful and spoilt daughter of Roger of Shiring, the Earl of Wiltshire. Roger agreed to the match, but Ann hated William on sight and refused point-blank to go through with the ceremony. Regan is still apoplectic every time she thinks about this, and William suffers the sharp edge of her tongue.

To their surprise the Bishop of Kingsbridge, normally the haughtiest of men, condescends to speak to them after the service. His conversation however is not straightforward. He lets them know that he has heard about their humiliation at the hands of Roger of Shiring; he tells them that he suspects the same Roger of plotting against the new king (a king who has the support of the Church); and he hints that anyone who could get rid of Roger would earn the gratitude of the king and that of the holy mother Church.

Percy and William are all for going after Roger right away and hanging him from the nearest tree. Regan calls them both fools. Why, she asks, is the Bishop himself not going after this traitor? Why has he given them the job? Why did he contrive to run into them casually instead of summoning them to his castle? Why is everything he says couched in hints? Because he is not

sure of the facts, and he wants someone else to do his dirty work in case he is wrong. If they are to be sure of their reward, they will need proof of Roger's treachery.

14. Roger arrives back from France two days later. William goes to Roger's castle, 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.

15. A couple of miles away from the castle William and a small band of his henchmen lie in wait and capture one of the messengers.

They tie him up, suspend him from a branch, take off his boots and light a fire under him. As his feet begin to roast and smoulder he tells them that his mission is to muster Roger's knights on a distant estate and prepare them for rebellion. William has the proof he needs.

16. On their way home William and his men have a little fun tormenting a destitute stonemason and his starving family. William recognises the man who insisted, many months ago, that the redundant craftsmen should be paid for the day. But although Tom Appleyard is half dead of hunger he still looks faintly dangerous and once again William backs off.

17. Two days later at dawn William, Percy and a large force of men-at-arms attack Roger's castle. There is a battle but the attackers have the advantage of surprise and Roger is captured. They take him to Winchester.

(Robert of Gloucester swears loyalty to King Stephen and is pardoned.)

18. Egged on by Regan, William renews his offer of marriage to Ann, hoping

still to gain the Wiltshire estates. He is refused even more scornfully by Ann.

Regan vows she will acquire the estates some other way.

Part IV

19. For the Appleyard family things are going from bad to worse. Jack and Alfred quarrel incessantly. Tom is missing Agnes. He no longer has the consolation of sex with Ellen because of the promise he made to Philip. Ellen is angry about this and beginning to think she should have stayed in the forest.

At last they hear of a working quarry. A quarry can almost always take on another man. But they are disappointed yet again: when they get there they find it closed.

20. Jack goes off on his own to investigate a ruined castle nearby. It is the Earl of Wiltshire's, and there he meets Ann, 17, who is living there with a handful of loyal servants and her 12-year-old brother Richard. (Their mother is dead.) Ann explains that the quarry belongs to her father but he has been arrested and all the quarrymen left because she had no money to pay them.

Jack thinks she is the prettiest, smartest, bravest person he has ever met.

21. Increasingly desperate, the Appleyards go to Kingsbridge, where - they hear - there is a new prior who may want to fix up the dilapidated cathedral.

There is indeed a new prior, they find on arrival, but he is not fixing the place up and there is no work for Tom. In fact the monastery is broke. The new prior has spent all their money on flocks of sheep and instituted an austerity drive. The monks are living on salt fish and weak beer. *

Nevertheless, the Appleyards are given a meal and a place to sleep for the night. By chance they meet the new prior. It is the monk who examined Martha and prayed for Agnes, young Philip of Wales. He is sorry he cannot

*The monks are rebellious and Philip is in trouble.
He looks like a man who has learned the meaning
of the term new-ambitious.*

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.'

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

As the blaze spreads, he is shocked and terrified to realise that he is being observed by the prior. But Philip does nothing to stop the fire. After a few more minutes they give the alarm.

The monks and the villagers struggle to put out the fire but their efforts are in vain. They give up and watch, superstitiously awestruck, as the great old building is totally destroyed.

23. Philip asks Tom to work preparing the site for the building of a new cathedral. At first he will be paid only food.

Tom and Alfred begin clearing the ruins, stacking the stones for re-use, and repairing the underground crypt, which is relatively undamaged and will be part of the foundation of the new building. All the while Tom is vividly aware that his employment lasts only as long as the monastery is solvent. Ellen is even more conscious of this, and she refuses to marry Tom because she does not believe the cathedral will ever be built. They continue to camp on monastery property, Tom and the boys sleeping separately from Ellen and the girls. Tom is terribly disappointed. Ellen, the ultimate free spirit, continues to hate Philip, the ultimate organisation man.

24. Alfred and Jack also hate one another. Alfred began by trying to lord it over Jack the way he does over his sisters, but Jack would not submit to this treatment. Alfred is deeply threatened by the intrusion of Jack into the family. He reacts by mistreating and tormenting Jack at every opportunity.'

But Jack is clever and spunky and sometimes gets the better of Alfred. Their fights cause further friction between Tom and Ellen.

One such incident begins when Alfred, weary after a day's work, imperiously commands Jack to fetch him water. Jack refuses and Alfred hits him. Jack then writes in the soot on the wall 'Alfred is an ox.' Alfred cannot read anything but his own name but the fact that he is unable even to read the insult somehow makes it worse. He starts to beat Jack up. Jack breaks an earthenware jug over Alfred's head. Tom breaks them up.

Tom and Ellen now quarrel over the boys. Tom says that Jack does no work so he should respect Alfred. Ellen says that she will not tolerate Jack beating Alfred for any reason whatsoever. They speak harsh words, then make up. After a while they reach a practical conclusion: Tom will take Jack as an apprentice, and Ellen will spend a few hours each week teaching Alfred to read and write.

So for the first time in his life Jack goes to work.

Part V

Begins with Ann refusing to recognize the truth, that her father is never coming home and she must make her own living.

25. Philip now asks the Bishop for finance for the new cathedral. To his surprise the Bishop will not give any money, saying he is already stretched financially because he is building a stone castle for himself. However he takes Philip to see the king.

King Stephen is a decisive, strong-willed and fast-moving monarch but he has a romantic, impulsive streak, and he lacks the ruthless perseverance required to rule effectively in medieval England. It is his habit, according to a contemporary chronicler, to begin many things vigorously and pursue them slothfully. His reign will go down in history as The Anarchy.

The Bishop of Kingsbridge asks King Stephen to give the estates of the disgraced Roger of Shiring to the diocese to finance the cathedral. But Percy

de Clare is also at court, with his revolting wife Regan and their brutish son William, asking for the same estates, plus the title Earl of Wiltshire, as his reward for unmasking the conspiracy.

Regan contrives to run into Philip. How can you let yourself be used this way, you stupid monk? she says. Philip, who thinks he is pretty smart, is astonished. Regan explains that the Bishop is using the burned-out cathedral to appeal to the king's piety, but is proposing that the Wiltshire estates should be given to him, so that he will be able to dole out as much or as little as he pleases to the cathedral builders.

Philip realises she is right. With much trepidation he goes behind the bishop's back and proposes a compromise deal to the king: let Percy have the lands, but give the quarry and part of the forest to the monastery for raw materials.

King Stephen buys this basic idea but Regan talks him into a last-minute amendment: the quarry and the forest remain Percy's property but the monastery has the right to take unlimited stone and timber for the cathedral.

Philip is highly satisfied, but he has made an enemy of the Bishop.

26. This news is communicated to Roger of Shiring, who sends a message from his prison cell telling his children, Ann and Richard, to flee.

William de Clare, triumphant and vindictive, gets there before the messenger. He throws out the remaining servants and rapes Ann.

27. This series of humiliations has changed Ann. She is still as independent and headstrong as ever, and she still has her father's inflexible will, but there remains no trace of the petulant, selfish, spoilt child. Richard sadly is still foolish, lazy and passive.

They set out for Winchester to find their father. On the first night their

horses are stolen. Next day on the road they are threatened by three thieves. Ann surprises the thieves by drawing a dagger and without warning stabbing one of them. It is a lucky stroke and he is killed outright. Richard belatedly draws his sword and the other two run off. From now on they gain confidence.

28. In Winchester they have great trouble getting in to see their imprisoned father. Eventually they are befriended by a woman whose husband is also incarcerated. The husband is a wool merchant and the wife is carrying on the business, buying fleeces from peasants and selling sacks of raw wool to larger merchants or to cloth manufacturers. She helps Ann and Richard get in to see their father.

They find him dying in a stinking dungeon. He tells them to go to the home of their mother's sister, where Richard will become a squire (a kind of apprentice knight) and Ann a lady-in-waiting. He also tells them there is a priest here in Winchester who has money of Roger's and instructions to give it to Ann.

He makes Richard swear to regain the family estates, then he makes Ann swear to take care of Richard until he regains his rightful inheritance. The children have been brought up to take oaths seriously and these deathbed promises will shape their lives.

29. The priest claims to have no knowledge of the money. Hardened now, Ann and Richard attack him and threaten to kill him. He knows that Ann means it. He gives them the money but he has spent some of it. What is left is about a pound, two months' wages for a craftsman.

Their father's sister takes them in but puts Richard to work in the fields and makes Ann a laundress. They accept this, but when their uncle tries to seduce Ann they run away.

They are now totally alone in the world but they still have their money. Richard despairs but Ann remembers the woman wool merchant in Winchester. Many peasants keep a few sheep and sell the fleeces for two or three pennies each at market. For many people the journey to market loses them a whole day's work, making the operation highly marginal. For others it may not be worth going to market at all. Ann conceives the idea of going from village to village, buying peasants' fleeces, then selling them at a profit in the market.

Richard thinks the idea is crazy but he does not have a better one.

30. Six weeks later they come to Winchester market with a sack of raw wool, 250 fleeces which they have bought for about a penny each. Unfortunately the woman wool merchant - to whom they hoped to sell - has gone. The new buyer offers them a pound, even though he is paying two pounds a sack, because, he says, no one pays a child what they would pay a man.

A monk who has been watching now intervenes. He buys Ann's sack for two pounds, saying that he will sell it directly to the cloth manufacturers, along with the fleeces his monastery produces. The wool merchant then offers to buy the sack from him. The monk makes the merchant pay two pounds and a shilling, then he gives Ann the two pounds and keeps the shilling.

Ann tells him their story. He says he understands how she feels as he too was orphaned. He will always be ready to buy her wool. He tells them his name is Philip of Wales, and he is the prior of the monastery at Kingsbridge.

Part VI

31. Still broke, Philip commissions a master builder on credit. The 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 cathedral in the round-arched Norman style. The design is accepted by the monks, by Philip, and by Bishop Waleran.

Philip's sheep are shorn and he sells the wool at the annual Shiring Fleece Fair to the big Flemish wool buyers. (The cloth-manufacturing industry of Flanders is booming and there is a European shortage of wool.) Philip makes enough money to start building.

32. The master builder sends for his leading craftsmen and, while waiting for them, lays out the east end of the new cathedral with wooden stakes, helped by Tom, Alfred and Jack. (The east end will be built first and will be in use as a church while the rest is going up.)

Philip also buys more sheep and begins to convert more of the monastery's lands to sheep farming. However, this will be a slow process, not just because of the capital outlay but also because under the previous slack management many farms were let to tenants under long leases at fixed rents.

33. Philip's close-to-the-wind dealings are watched anxiously by all the people who are dependent upon him. Tom is now being paid but Ellen will not marry him until she is sure they have a future. Ann and Richard have doubled and redoubled their money under the protection of Philip but if he bankrupts the monastery they will be out in the cold again.

The craftsmen begin to arrive: a master forester and a master quarryman with their apprentices and labourers, plus a carpenter and a blacksmith to make tools. Work begins. But when the quarrymen arrive at the quarry they find

it occupied by workmen employed by Percy and guarded by armed men who refuse them admission. This is a major crisis for Philip: without the promised free raw materials he cannot build at all.

34. The monks discuss what to do. Remigius, who is still the sub-prior, proposes sending a delegation to protest to the king. Philip pours scorn on this idea, which would take months if not years. Instead he takes all the monks to the quarry in the middle of the night. At dawn Percy's men find monks saying prayers all over the quarry. The armed guards are not willing to do violence to the monks and they give up. Philip then consolidates his victory by hiring all of Percy's quarrymen, and everyone goes to work.

(Having hired extra quarrymen, Philip will have to economise somewhere else, probably on masons; which means that he will be cutting stone faster than he can use it and will therefore build a stockpile. On reflection he thinks this is not a bad thing for Percy may again try to close the quarry.)

35. The scheming Regan, now Countess of Wiltshire, who of course was behind the attempt to exclude Philip's men from the quarry, now comes up with a new plan. She and Percy and William go to Bishop Waleran and suggest that the cathedral be built at Shiring, the most important town in Wiltshire. Regan's motive is that the cathedral would greatly increase the prosperity of Shiring. It would also mean that much of the monastery's property, which has been given specifically for the upkeep of the cathedral, would be transferred to a new chapter at Shiring, and the new chapter would be under the bishop's control.

Bishop Waleran buys this deal.

36. Philip hears of the plan, which of course spells disaster for the monastery and for the village of Kingsbridge. The catastrophe could only be averted by

radically advancing the building programme, so that by the time the bishop's plan is approved by the archbishop, the cathedral will be so far advanced that the authorities will be reluctant to waste money by starting again somewhere else.

Philip sends all his monks to visit parish churches throughout the county to announce that forgiveness for sins may be secured by voluntary work on the cathedral building site beginning from Whit Sunday. *

Philip waits anxiously for Whit Sunday. When it comes he is overwhelmed by the response. Hundreds of people of all social classes come from far and wide, in holiday mood, to dig foundations, fell trees, and cart stones. Quick-witted entrepreneurs set up stalls selling food, beer, knives and hats. At midday Philip finds himself standing with Ann and Richard and the Appleyard family. Ann feels safe for the first time since her father was taken away. Ellen at last agrees to marry Tom. William turns up and stays just long enough to understand that his mother's scheme has failed. All of them gaze with incredulity at the vast multitude of people working together to build a new cathedral.

The meeting at which the Shing plan is to be given a formal go-ahead also takes place at Kingsbridge on Whit Sunday.

Book Two

In 1138 Robert of Gloucester renounced his allegiance to King Stephen and started a rebellion. His base was Bristol and he was supported by powerful West Country families. Stephen retaliated, characteristically, with energetic but fitful attacks on rebel strongholds. In a crucial political blunder he lost the support of the Church by moving against a group of over-powerful bishops and levelling their castles. In 1139 Maud returned from France to England as the figurehead for her bastard brother's insurrection. England was in for a long and indecisive civil war.

No. begin at Ch. 24.

Part I

More threat: Wm. all-powerful and wildly ruthless.

1. In 1140 Percy de Clare dies and William, now 24, becomes the Earl of Wiltshire. He is brutal and greedy like his father, but where Percy was cowardly and passive, William is determined and aggressive. Percy was dominated by Regan, his malign and hideous wife; William is influenced, rather than dominated, by her.

He returns home (from fighting on the king's side in the civil war) to find the earldom he has inherited in a financial crisis. The town of Shiring, centrepiece of the estate, is in decline: its population is shrinking and its markets bring in ever lower revenues despite increased rents and taxes. The quarry, once a major source of income, has of course been taken over by the cathedral builders. Some farms are in difficulty and many tenants are in arrears.

2. William makes a tour of his property, taking several days, accompanied by the group of six or eight knights who have become his henchmen. These are not the courtly rescuers in shining armour of Arthurian legend, but a bunch

of thugs, and they cut a bloody swathe through Wiltshire. Coming across an unlicensed mill they demolish it with the miller still inside and confiscate the peasants' corn. They burn the crops on unlicensed assarts (clearings) in the forest. A serf's daughter who has married without paying the customary fee (in lieu of droit de seigneur) is ravished by the knights. Tenants in arrears are beaten up.

William keeps hearing the complaint that the young men are leaving the farms to work as labourers and apprentices on the new cathedral, so he decides to pay a visit to Kingsbridge.

3. He arrives on a Sunday. Everywhere else, his coming has struck fear into people's hearts, but here - to his chagrin - he is hardly noticed. This is not all that surprises him. The sleepy village of Kingsbridge has undergone an astonishing transformation. It is now a thriving small town. It has a cookshop and an alehouse. The number of dwellings has doubled and the monastery has expanded. Most importantly, there is a busy market on the edges of the cathedral building site. William even sees his old bugbear Ann, now 21 and more beautiful than ever, buying wool from peasants.

Clearly, William thinks, Prior Philip is drawing people and business away from Shiring and from the Wiltshire farms, and this is why William's estates are doing so badly. (This assessment is partly right.)

William and his men push through the crowd and confront Philip in the half-built choir of the cathedral. William accuses Philip of holding an illegal market. Philip replies that a man who is known to have committed assault, rape, theft and possibly murder in the past week has no business walking into a church for any purpose other than to beg forgiveness. William becomes abusive but the crowd, who like Philip, murmur angrily and William is forced to back off and leave. *OK: He is frightened by a reminder that he is in a church.*

4. Philip watches with scarcely controlled loathing as William departs. William's tour has sickened Philip. William represents everything that the Church (in Philip's eyes) stands against: unrestrained power, government by savage violence, the brute law of the jungle. He symbolises the barbaric soldiers who slaughtered Philip's parents. Remembering that traumatic childhood scene, Philip is determined to destroy William.

Philip's estate management is as good as ever: sheep farming is a big success, the market is an extra source of income, and he is building his cathedral with free materials and some volunteer labour. But William means trouble.

A few days later Philip hears from the sheriff, who is the local agent of the king and presides over the shire court. He accuses Philip of holding an unauthorised market.

In court the sheriff puts the case simply. The right to hold a market or fair is a privilege which may be granted only by the monarch. No such right has ever been given to Kingsbridge. Nevertheless Kingsbridge has a Sunday market, to the detriment of the market at Shiring, and furthermore Philip is charging the customary dues and taxes.

Philip replies brilliantly. He begins by explaining that the market grew up spontaneously to meet the needs of volunteers working on the new cathedral. He has asked the king to legitimise the market. As everyone knows, it is normal to seek permission after the event, for the king charges a hefty fee or 'fine' for his permission, and the petitioner would have to be sure he was going to get his money back. The king has not yet granted permission, it is true, no doubt because he is too busy fighting a civil war. However, he may be expected to grant it, despite William's objection; for the rule-of-thumb is that a new market is not unfair competition for a neighbouring one unless it is within $13\frac{1}{2}$ miles, and Shiring is 20 miles from Kingsbridge. Of course Philip is technically in the wrong, and he admits it, and is ready to pay the king an appropriate fine.

However, if the sheriff were to consider prohibiting the market, Philip would argue that this court has no power over him, for he is a cleric and can only be tried by an ecclesiastical court.

This last point is disputable, but the sheriff, having no readily available means of enforcing an prohibition, and reluctant to get into a fight with the Church, accepts what is in essence a compromise, and fines Philip, thereby virtually legitimising the market; and William is defeated.

5. Regan tells William he was a fool to expect anything from the court. The law is to protect the weak from the strong! she screeches. It is for priests and peasants, not for us.

Between them they concoct a new scheme to strike back at Philip and hold up the building of the cathedral. William assembles a troop of men-at-arms and they ride to the quarry, where twenty or thirty workmen are living with their families. (The quarry is too far from Kingsbridge to commute.) Arriving at dawn, William's men set fire to the huts, drive the people away, fence off the quarry and set a permanent guard. William sends a message to Philip saying he will re-open the quarry when Philip closes the market.

6. The person chosen from among the workmen to carry the message is Tom Stoner, who has been living at the quarry with his family, all but Alfred who is now 19 and a fully qualified stonemason working independently. They return to Kingsbridge and Tom reports to Prior Philip. Jack, now 16, inspects progress on the cathedral which is rising quite rapidly.

Philip comes out and makes a speech to the workmen, saying that they will not stop building for a single day on William's account. They will continue with the stone they have stockpiled (see Book One, Chapter 34) and Philip will either get the quarry reopened or find an alternative supply.

Part II

7. At sixteen, Jack is imaginative, undisciplined, and unpredictable. He has great charm and a fierce temper. He is generally well-liked, despite his faults, but he makes people nervous, like a large puppy dog that will not be a puppy much longer.

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 bold sexual experiments. He is caught fooling with one of his stepsisters and is severely beaten by Tom (to Ellen's great distress). He has sex with a young monk but decides he prefers women. He seduces several village girls: with his amber eyes, his red-gold hair and his winning charm he finds it easy.

But his true love is the girl he fell for five years ago, Ann. Although she is 21 and a prosperous wool merchant, and he is 16 and an unpaid apprentice, he succeeds in intriguing her. He is intelligent and mature and is one of the few people in Kingsbridge who is on her intellectual level. Her sexuality is severely repressed, so she does not respond to male advances, but because Jack is so much younger she does not see him as sexually threatening and he is able to slip under her defences, as it were. They become friends (not lovers).

8. 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 materials, the construction techniques and the management problems. At every opportunity he watches the *amster* builder checking the masonry, making templates for the stonecutters, counting yards of timber and sacks of lime, and supervising the erection of scaffolding. Before long he has conceived a passionate ambition to be a master builder. As a first step he wants to be apprenticed to the master instead of to his stepfather. The craftsmen consider this unusual request and postpone a decision.

The thorn in his flesh is his stepbrother. Alfred has little intelligence and no imagination, but his personality is forceful and he is by medieval standards educated (thanks to Ellen's lessons) so he is becoming one of the leading craftsmen. He still hates Jack and makes his life a misery, bullying him and mocking him and sometimes sabotaging his work.

This conflict reaches a peak one day when Alfred, feeling even meaner than usual, smashes a carving Jack has been working on for weeks. They fight fiercely, spilling a barrel of mortar, destroying new masonry, and setting fire to a wooden hut before they are pulled apart.

The end of the fight is witnessed by the master builder and Prior Philip. Jack's hope of being apprenticed to the master are dashed. All concerned are agreed that Jack and Alfred cannot work on the same building site. Since Jack is only an apprentice, he must be the one to go.

Jack is heartbroken: working on the cathedral is his great joy. Ellen too is distraught. Jack has no way of earning a living other than in building - he knows nothing of farming or any other trade. So he will have to leave Kingsbridge and be apprenticed to a master in another town.

Philip proposes that Jack become a novice monk. He is already well educated, and this way he could continue his studies. He would also be a help to the novice master in teaching the other novices. Ellen hates the idea but sees it as the only way to keep her son. Jack hates it but sees it as the only way to stay close to Ann. Reluctantly they agree.

9. Ann is completely caught up in the challenge of making money as a merchant. She tells herself that she is bound by the deathbed promise she made to her father, that she would take care of her brother until he comes into his inheritance, and this is part of the truth; but she is also driven by nightmarish memories of destitution - the rape, the man she killed, her uncle's attempt to seduce "

her and the priest who took their money - and she is determined that never again will she allow herself to be vulnerable to such brutes. Nevertheless she also daydreams of life after Maud has won the civil war and restored Richard to the earldom, when she will be relieved of her burden of responsibility.

Meanwhile her great friends are Jack and Prior Philip. Jack appeals to her not just because of his sharp intelligence but also by reason of the undisciplined side of his nature - he has no concept of duty and no respect for oaths - which is such a contrast with her own character. He soon finds ways to sneak out of the monastery and see her.

Philip poses no threat to Ann, as he has no sex life and is evidently happy that way. He is fond of her because she is an orphan like himself. She will always be grateful to him for being her protector. However, as she becomes a major power in the town an element of conflict creeps in and their relationship cools a little.

In four years of trading Ann has become wealthy (although all the money is tied up in the business). She no longer sells her raw wool to Philip but deals directly with the Felmish buyers. Indeed, she wants to buy the monastery's fleeces, but Philip is a big producer and can deal directly as she does.

Against Philip's wishes she forms a parish guild, a sort of club for market traders and master craftsmen. Its ostensible purpose is to buy candles for the parish church. (This church, a small Saxon building, predates both the cathedral and the monastery.) However, it also has a social function, providing a reason for people to meet and dine together; and it can also represent the interests of citizens vis-a-vis the monastery, like a primitive precursor of democratic town government (which is why Philip dislikes it). The guild is joined by everyone of importance in the town except Malachi, the seller of needles and thread, who is excluded because he is Jewish.

Ann's partner in promoting the guild is Alfred. To her surprise he proposes marriage. She declines.

10. This spring she fails to sell all of her wool. The surplus is not vast but it represents all of her profit. She normally deals with any surplus by hiring peasants to process it into cloth, but this is too much. She can get the spinning and weaving done by women and children but she cannot find people to do the fulling. The monastery also has a surplus and is in exactly the same position.

(Fulling, also called felting, is a process in which loosely-woven cloth is put into a trough of water and pounded with a fuller's bat or trampled. The effect is to shrink the fibres and thicken the cloth. A special absorbent clay called fuller's earth may be mixed with the water and has the effect of taking grease out of the cloth. Fulling is the heaviest work in the cloth-manufacturing process and is normally done by men.)

Jack is intrigued by this problem and his imaginative, unconventional mind comes up with a solution. One night he disappears and so do all the hammers from the building site. Eventually he is found in the base of the water-mill. He has attached the hammers to the axle of the mill-wheel in such a way that as the wheel turns the hammers rise and fall, pounding a length of cloth in a trough of water. All alone Jack is doing the work of ten men. He has just invented the fulling mill.

11. Philip finds an alternative quarry but it is far away and the cost of transport (on medieval roads) makes the stone fiercely expensive. As usual Philip's finances are fully stretched and he cannot absorb a cost increase.

He proposes to reduce the wages of craftsmen, knowing that some will leave to seek work elsewhere but confident that others will stay and continue to work, hoping that wages will eventually rise again. But the parish guild provides a forum for the craftsmen and they all agree that no one will work for less than existing rates.

12. Philip's solution is to sell the monastery's fleeces to Ann, as she wants; but only if she will pay for them in advance, in monthly instalments throughout the year. (She gets them at a lower price, of course; and in fact she is practising a legal form of usury.) Ann thus becomes the financier of the building.

Jack is a bad influence on the other novicēs and Philip takes him on as his own personal secretary and assistant. Since much of Philip's time is spent supervising the building, Jack is delighted to be back working on his beloved cathedral.

Part III

13. Finance from Ann is a stopgap solution. Philip must now try to persuade the king to legitimise the market and make William reopen the quarry.

He finds the king ^{- Daring!} at Lincoln. Ranulf of Chester, a powerful baron who is married to a daughter of Robert of Gloucester, has (after some hesitation) joined his father-in-law's rebellion - a great blow to King Stephen - and has occupied Lincoln, one of England's major cities, with more than 5,000 inhabitants. Stephen is trying to win back this important city.

Philip manages to get his attention, argues eloquently, and just about gets the king ^{on} ~~of~~ his side.

14. Then William arrives with reinforcements for Stephen's army and to reward him Stephen refuses Philip.

15. But now Robert of Gloucester arrives with a new army to relieve Ranulf. The rebels win the ensuing battle and both Prior Philip and King Stephen are captured. William escapes.

Philip is released by his brother Francis, who is still working for Robert

of Gloucester; and the brothers are reunited after many years.

16. While Philip is away, Jack is acting as the monastery's liaison with the master builder. He seems to know everything about the job, from which sculptor makes the best gryphons to how many sacks of lime will be needed the week after next. He becomes indispensable.

17. Philip and Francis accompany Robert back to Gloucester. There King Stephen and Maud meet. And now, more or less by accident, Philip and Francis learn a secret which will be important to them in years to come: King Stephen is in love with his cousin and arch-rival Maud.

Maud is a bewitching and ruthless woman and Stephen is not the only powerful man under her spell. He 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, Geoffrey of Anjou. But in the autumn she left suddenly. The following summer she gave birth to a son, Henry. She will not tell Stephen whether the child is his or not.

After this meeting Stephen is taken in chains to Bristol where he is incarcerated.

18. Maud goes to Winchester, where she does a deal with the bishop (the perfidious Henry Blois, now betraying his brother Stephen as he betrayed his brother Theobald). In exchange for Bishop Henry's support (which also means the Pope's support, as Bishop Henry is the papal legate) Maud agrees to leave all ecclesiastical matters in his hands. The ecclesiastical matters in question are of course not theological problems but issues of money and power such as the appointment of bishops and trials of priests. This concession is therefore a great triumph for the Church. Maud is duly 'elected' queen - the crucial prelude to coronation.

Philip reflects that in his lifetime the Church is making great strides. Henry I had the Church under his thumb but both Stephen and Maud have been obliged to make important promises to the Church before they could get elected. Of course, the problem now is to make them keep their promises; but this is still a major improvement on the status quo ante.

Now Francis, by virtue of his position with Robert, is able to get Philip in to see the queen-elect personally. She agrees to grant Kingsbridge 'market rights as at Shiring' and to sign an edict ordering William to give Philip access to the quarry.

Next day Philip goes to pick up the signed and sealed documents. Then he is told that Maud's 'fine' for market rights will be the astronomical sum of one hundred pounds.

Part IV

19. Philip returns to Kingsbridge and solves the immediate problem by borrowing from Malachi. But William still refuses to open the quarry, and Philip is now deeper in debt than ever. He begins to doubt his ability and wonders whether God is telling him not to be so ambitious.

The one bright spot is Jack, who as well as managing the building site is making great strides in his studies of mathematics, Latin and music.

20. In the spring of 1141 Ann takes delivery of the monastery's fleeces and anxiously awaits the Shiring Fleece Fair where she will have to sell twice as much as ever before.

However, several Flemish merchants call in Kingsbridge on their way to Shiring and buy her entire stock, to her great relief. By doing this both she and the buyers avoid massive taxes payable to William on all transactions done

at the Fair. William is furious about this.

Philip asks Ann to buy his next year's fleeces on the same basis of advance payment in instalments, and she agrees.

21. He is able to continue building, but the huge cost of stone is eating into his budget, and he is now also paying interest to Malachi as well as concealed interest to Ann. So he decides to ask Maud to enforce her edict telling William to reopen the quarry.

Maud has gone to London to be crowned at Westminster and Philip catches up with her there. But the citizens of London have always like Stephen and when Maud tries to tax them there is an uprising and she is forced to flee the city - uncrowned.

22. Philip now admits defeat on that front and comes up with a new idea. He announces that next spring, Kingsbridge will hold its own Fleece Fair in competition with Shiring. He plans to attract business by charging lower taxes than William. While a Fair is not specifically mentioned in Maud's charter, it does give him 'market rights as at Shiring' and he considers that this is enough, especially considering how much she charged for it. And the taxes will pay for an awful lot of cathedral stone.

William is incensed by this latest encroachment on his monopolies.

23. In July Maud loses a battle outside Winchester and her brother, Robert of Gloucester, is captured.

With both Robert and Stephen incarcerated the two sides go into negotiation. Francis, negotiating for Maud and the Church, tries desperately to get some concession out of the other side. William, negotiating for Stephen's side, feels confident, especially after Maud's mishandling of the citizens of London; and

furthermore the likes of William are in no rush to end the civil war, for a weak central authority actually widens the powers of local barons. The upshot, in November, is a straight swap, Robert for Stephen, and resumption of the fighting.

24. Spring comes around and the first Kingsbridge Fleece Fair approaches. William makes it an offence for any of his serfs or tenants to go to the Kingsbridge Fair but they get around this law by using intermediaries. Ann takes delivery of the monastery's fleeces, sixty sacks of raw wool, the product of 15,000 sheep, worth three hundred pounds, a fortune - if she can sell it all. William is eaten up by resentment and hatred. Philip calculates gleefully that the first Fair could raise enough money to pay off his debt to Malachi. Jack is somewhat depressed. He still loves working on the cathedral but his love for Ann is becoming stronger and stronger - and a Platonic friendship is no longer enough.

On the first day of the Fair William rides into Kingsbridge with a large force of men-at-arms. They wreck the market and set fire to the town. The place is packed with people and hundreds die. Everything burns to the ground except the few stone buildings - the cathedral, the monastery and the parish church. All Ann's wool is burned and she is financially ruined.

Part V

25. This is a devastating blow for Philip. The town is soon rebuilt - wooden houses can be replaced quickly. But all the market traders leave, fearful of another attack if they resume trading. Half the building workers leave too, for without Ann's finance and with no income from Sunday markets Philip is in trouble. Cathedral building proceeds at a snail's pace.

In the shake-up, Alfred becomes a master stonemason. He renews his proposal of marriage to Ann.

26. Ann is in a deep depression. She has lost everything. She can no longer take care of her brother, and the destitution of nightmarish memory is terrifyingly close. Richard presses her to accept Alfred's proposal, reminding her forcefully that seven years ago she rejected a perfectly appropriate marriage and thereby brought about the death of their father and all their subsequent misfortunes. Under this ^oemotional blackmail Ann gives in.

27. Jack tells Prior Philip that he is in love with Ann and that he wants to leave the monastery but become master builder.

Philip is so broke that he would be glad to get such a competent manager for a low wage. But Alfred hears of the proposal and tells the other craftsmen, and a parish guild meeting agrees that Jack is far too young, and they will refuse to work under him. Philip therefore agrees to appoint a new master builder.

Jack now begs Ann not to go through with it. They have a long discussion in which he confesses that he loves her. She tells him about everything from the rape to the deathbed vows. In the end they make love. But she still refuses to call off the wedding.

Jack now pleads with Alfred but Alfred just taunts him. They have their last and most vicious fight. Jack is beaten to a pulp. When he comes round he leaves town.

28. At the wedding Jack's mother, Ellen, rises to her feet and curses the marriage. She is run out of town as a witch. She returns to her old life in the forest. *heavy baby Edward with Tom*

Terrified by the curse, Alfred is impotent and the marriage is unconsummated.

29. Philip presses the new master builder to hurry the construction so that

the roof can be finished and the building can be used and so begin to make money. But the new man, appointed in a rush under pressure from the guild, is incompetent. When the lead goes on to the roof the structure cannot take the weight, and there is a terrible accident. The massive columns buckle, the huge timbers snap like twigs, and the entire building collapses, killing sixty people and destroying seven years' work.

30. The town goes into decline. Philip becomes totally depressed. The cathedral ruins are left untouched. All the craftsmen leave. William gloats, triumphant.

Ann gives birth to a baby boy with amber eyes and red-gold hair - obviously Jack's child. Alfred throws them out. *Baby John?*

Even if she had the heart to recommence business as a wool merchant - which she does not - she would be unable to, for William has taken her place: his bailiff buys all the peasants' fleeces and it is an offence for them to sell to anyone else. Ann keeps herself, the baby and Richard by spinning wool for William.

Ann assumes like everyone else that Jack and Ellen are living together as outlaws in the forest the way they used to. She goes to their old hut. (Jack showed it to her once.) She finds Ellen, but Jack is not there and never has been.

There must be some will-he-won't-he tension attached to Jack's return.

Part VI

31. Jack has spent the intervening year wandering around Europe, sketching buildings and working as a sculptor. Although he never finished his seven-year stonecutter's apprenticeship, nobody knows that and he is more than competent - in fact he is now a master craftsman with his own team of journeymen, apprentices and labourers.

Before he left Kingsbridge he thought there was only one way to build

a church. Travel has educated him. On Moorish buildings in Spain 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 the flying buttress.)

For the first time in his life he is terribly unhappy. He misses Kingsbridge, he misses his mother, he even misses Prior Philip and the monastery; but most of all he misses Ann and is tortured by thoughts of her being the wife of Alfred.

His frustration is channelled into his work, and he produces carvings of astonishing vigour and boldness, specialising in weird mythical figures and monsters. But what he really wants to do, still, is be a master builder; and now in his mind is forming a picture of the cathedral he would like to build, a church that would combine the grace of Arab architecture with Norman solidity, and use the latest building techniques to create huge windows with sunlight pouring through and an arched vault so high it would ~~see~~^{seem} to touch heaven.

He is working on the abbey church of St Denis, under the great Abbot Suger, when he hears on the masonic grapevine that Kingsbridge cathedral has fallen down, all work has stopped and the craftsmen have left.

He announces that he has been appointed master builder at Kingsbridge, and invites some of the other craftsmen to come with him to England to work on it.

32. On Easter Sunday in 1144 Bishop Waleran is conducting a service in a temporary wooden church in the ruins of the cathedral. There are a hundred or so people present. (A decent cathedral would attract a thousand.) The ceremony stops dead as Jack walks in followed by two beturbanned Saracens carrying an ironbound chest. Jack announces that the chest contains a fragment of the True Cross. At this, a cripple who has been begging in the town for a couple of days lurches forward, touches the chest, and is miraculously healed.

When the uproar dies down Jack presents the relic to the cathedral.

The relic is also substantiated by a dream of a crazed mystical monk.

As soon as he can slip away he finds Ann, learns that Alfred has thrown her out, and sees the son he did not know he had.

Prior Philip soon guesses that the Saracens and the cripple are hired ruffians. He is somewhat torn. He knows the relic will be hugely valuable to the cathedral as an attraction for pilgrims, but he cannot condone a fake relic. He has just about made up his mind to expose the whole thing when a man whom he knows to be a genuine cripple throws himself on the chest and is healed - a real miracle. Philip can see that Jack is shocked to the core by this. Philip smiles: fake or not, God has chosen to work through this relic.

33. Jack studies the ruined cathedral. His observation of which bits fell, what direction they fell in and what remains upright gives him new insight into architecture and he conceives the flying buttress. He then designs the first Gothic cathedral.

Philip accepts the design but will not employ Jack as master builder while Jack is living in adultery with Ann. Jack refuses point-blank to leave her. Philip, enraptured by Jack's design, wants him to build this cathedral; and he also worries that if Jack leaves it may be impossible to rekindle the building project yet again. By way of compromise he offers to apply for an annulment of Ann's marriage to Alfred. This is agreed.

34. News of the healing power of the relic travels fast and pilgrims begin to come. Their donations improve the financial situation.

Jack's craftsmen arrive from France and begin clearing the site. The town starts to come alive. One Sunday Malachi appears and sets up his stall, which everyone takes to be a good omen.

William hears of this and decides to raid the town again.

35. Philip is warned of the raid. The day before it is due to happen, in a lightning operation, he gets everybody - monks, townspeople, market traders and building workers - to build a town wall, using stones from the ruined cathedral.

Next day William charges up with his men-at-arms and is repulsed.

36. Jack lays out the plan on the cleared site. The annulment comes through and he and Ann are married, by Philip, on the site of the new cathedral.