

Outline - 6th draft

VAULTING

by Ken Follett

300,000 words anticipated

12 march 1987

## PROLOGUE 1123

In a small town in Wiltshire, a young man is about to be hanged. He is a stranger, convicted of stealing a silver goblet from a monastery. The crowd of spectators is subdued. Normally they enjoy a hanging - they hate thieves - but this one seems different. Among those present are a priest, a monk and a knight, and these three are responsible for the conviction and execution of the young stranger.

The victim says his prayers, speaking in French to the priest. The Sheriff kicks away the prop; the young man drops with a jerk, and it is all over. Then a young girl steps out of the crowd. She has sleek black hair with a distinctive silver streak. She is 15 and very beautiful. She carries a black cock under her arm. The spectators back off superstitiously, all but the older women, who are mostly with themselves and can see that she is with child. One of them knows who she is: an orphan, a convent runaway.

The girl pulls a knife and with one slice cuts off the head of the cock. She splashes blood on the monk, the priest and the knight, pronouncing a curse on them. Then she runs away, escaping before anyone can recover from the surprise, leaving the headless cock running around in circles beneath the still-swinging body of the hanged man.

## The Monastic Day

Matins: 0230-0330

Lauds: 1500-1600 ending at dawn

Prime: 0730 shortly before daybreak

Terce: 0900

Sext: 1200 (lunch)

Nones: ~~1400~~ 0500

Vespers: 1630 (sunset). Supper is eaten before dark.

Compline: 1800

The monks go to bed before 1900.

5 hours prayer, 5 hours work, 4 hours study every day.

BOOK ONE? 1115 - 1136&

1. How the baby was abandoned

- (i) William meets Tom
- (ii) Tom meets Ellen and Jack
- (iii) Killing the pigstealer
- (iv) Birth of the baby
- (v) Baby taken to the monastery

2. How Philip became Prior

- (i) The letter from Francis
- (ii) Philip meets Waleran
- (iii) Philip becomes Prior

3. How the Hamleights foiled the plot

- (i) Waleran tells them of the plot
- (ii) William gets the proof
- (iii) The Hamleights capture Roger.

4. How ~~Philip~~ burned the cathedral

- (i) Jack burns the cathedral
- (ii) Rebuilding begins
- (iii) Remigius gets rid of Ellen

## Chapter 1

Twelve years later, on a building site in another part of Wiltshire, two apprentices are fighting, kicking and punching one another furiously in the dust and rubble. The aggressor is ~~Alfred, large 13-year-old~~. The fight is broken up by his father, Tom Appleyard, a mason and master builder.

Tom is an unusually big man. Forceful, proud and self-reliant, he is a freeman (as opposed to a serf) and a natural leader. His soft spot is for his children. As well as Tom he has a younger daughter, Martha, aged 9, and his life is dedicated to bringing these two up to be healthy, honest and strong. (He himself was the last of 123 children and somewhat neglected.) Alfred is something of a disappointment to him. The boy is big and forceful like Tom, but not very bright, and he is turning into a bully.

Tom is a good craftsman somewhat down on his luck. The ideal work for a builder is a long-term construction project such as a palace, a monastery, or - best of all - a cathedral. Recently Tom has built a small church and a castle keep, and now he is working on a modest manor house for William Hamleigh, the 19-year-old son of a knight. In between these jobs Tom has been unemployed, and his savings are gone. However, work is inevitably irregular in this line, and so far he has always been able to provide for his family.

At midday his wife, Agnes, brings dinner - salt herrings, black bread, and beer in a jug. Agnes is a capable, dour, ugly woman. Tom is fond of her although it is not easy to see why. While he eats she tells him that she is pregnant. The baby is due in January, which is five months away. Tom is pleased, and hopes for a boy. This house will employ him through the winter, and he will move on in the spring, when new building projects are begun.

this reassuring prospect is immediately blighted. William Hamleigh arrives on horseback. He is in a rage. A handsome, well-set-up young man, he displays a casual brutality which is an ominous sign of his future character. He announces

that his marriage has been called off, so the house is no longer required and all the workmen are dismissed forthwith.

Tom demands that he pay everyone, and holds the horse's head in a determined fashion. William is obliged to hand over money before he can go.

Tom and his family now pack up their few possessions and take to the road.

(ii)

They get casual work helping with the harvest, but that soon comes to an end, and two months later they are on the road again. Martha, aged 9, is too young to carry anything so she drives the pig, their one possession of any real value. However, she falls behind constantly. When they are in the forest 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./

When Tom returns (in a black rage) he finds a strange woman helping Agnes with martha. The stranger's name is Ellen. She is 27 years old, and although dressed in rags she is very beautiful, despite a streak of silver in her dark hair; in fact Tom feels a sharp pang of lust when he sees her, and thinks almost wistfully that it is not a crime to rape an outlaw. With her is a boy of about 11 years whose name is Jack. he is an odd-looking child, with none of his mother's beauty: he has startling blue eyes, very pale skin, and orange-red hair.

They move Martha into the shade. Ellen predicts that she will recover consciousness, throw up, then be fine. This proves correct.

Ellen and Jack are outlaws - forest dwellers who do not obey the law (and are not entitled to its protection). They live on game, which is plentiful for those willing to defy the laws against poaching, and wild fruits, roots and

nuts, supplemented by what they can steal from travellers. They normally hide from people, for outlaws may be robbed, raped and murdered with impunity. Ellen's evident fearlessness, combined with her medical knowledge, leads Agnes to conclude that she is a witch, Tom thinks she is high-born, and this suspicion is supported by the astonishing discovery that Jack can read and write. (Tom is barely literate and his family not at all.)

Ellen tells them a little about herself. She was the only child of a knight who wanted sons, so she was brought up as a boy and learned to hunt and fight. Her father was killed in battle and she was put into a nunnery, where she learned to read and write. She was thrown out for bad behaviour and has since lived in the forest. She has been happy for years, but now Jack is in danger of growing up wild, and she would like to return to normal life. However, she cannot: she has no husband, no work, no home, no place in society. To come back she would need a new identity.

Tom is left with a poignant sense of her dilemma and the certain knowledge that she has no way out of it.

(iii)

A week later they are in Salisbury, having changed direction in the forest to follow up a rumour of building work. The rumour is unfounded, but the change of direction brings them back across the path of the pigstealer. Tom sees the pig being sold in the market, and Martha identifies the thief.

Tom accuses the man but cannot prove that the pig is his. Later he waylays the thief, smashes his head in with a mason's hammer, and takes the money.

(iv)

By Christmas the money has gone and Tom still has not found work. Because it is the dead of winter they cannot get any kind of employment. For Tom, being unable to provide for his children is the ultimate humiliation. Thin as a rail and close to collapse, he trades their eating knives for a sack of cabbages. Now all they have left is the clothes they stand up in and an iron cooking-pot which no one will buy.

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 her. Having no way to feed the baby he abandons it on the grave.

An hour later he goes back, repentant, but the baby is no longer there.

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 children lie down and fall into exhausted sleep. Tom sits in a trance, staring at nothing. As if in a vision, Ellen appears, carrying the abandoned baby. This breaks the spell and Tom weeps. Ellen comforts him. After a while they make love.

(v)

After giving the children food and gets the baby to swallow some warm water. However, there is no milk. The only place that has any is a small monastery deep in the forest where the monks have a goat. Ellen and Tom take the baby there and leave it in the porch of the chapel.

## Chapter 2

The prior of this little monastery is Philip of Gwynedd, 27, a brilliant young monk with a big heart and high ambitions. This is a branch or "cell" of the large and important Kingsbridge Priory, attached to Kingsbridge Cathedral. The priory has for years been ~~badly~~run by an elderly prior and his incompetent deputy. Slack management of God's assets infuriates Philip beyond reason. It is his burning ambition to take charge of Kingsbridge and turn it into the biggest, best-run, wealthiest and most influential monastery in Egnalnd, an impregnable stronghold of decency and compassion in the feudal badlands.

Now the old prior is dying. Philip is very young to take over such an important post, and although he has proved his managerial ability, clerics are conservative, and the favourite candidate for Prior is Remigius, the current sub-prior. (The new prior will be elected by the Kingsbridge monks, with the Bishop having rights of nomination, veto and confirmation, a situation which leads to power struggles.) The problem of how to get himself elected prior is on Philip's mind the day the baby is found.

The baby melts Philip completely (which surprises the monks, who tend to think of him as a hard-hearted bastard). The little mite is obviously starving. But the monastery is in the heart of the forest, and there is no possibility of getting the baby to a wet-nurse in less than 24 hours. Philip calls for goats' milk and figures out a way to feed the baby.

Against the odds the baby survives. The monks anticipate that it will be fostered as soon as possible. Philip surprises them again by saying No. The child has been given to God and Philip intends to raise it himself - the way he was raised.

Philip and his younger brother Francis were orphaned at the ages of

six and four, during Henry I's successful invasion of North Wales (1114). Their parents were put to the sword before their eyes, and the two boys were rescued and brought up by monks. Philip is a complex character, flawed but likeable. The vivid, nightmare memory of his parents' murder, combined with his inexpressible gratitude to the monks who saved him and his little brother, left him with a passionate commitment to the Church as the bastion of civilisation against the barely-controlled savagery of ~~State~~ power. This is a partisan but not entirely unjustified view of the Church. Naturally bright, the two boys benefited from the monastic education, but were temperamentally disposed to use their considerable abilities in the more practical fields of church work. Both are fiercely ambitious, rationalising their personal aspirations as dedication to the Church. Francis is secretary to Robert of Gloucester, a very powerful baron. Philip's expertise is in 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 affluent.

\*

While the monastery is still getting over the news about the baby, a messenger arrives with a letter. It is from Philip's brother Francis, who is in France with his boss. Francis has made a specialty of organising fast communications for Robert and this enables him to send his own mail. He writes about a sudden political development which gravely threatens the interests of the Church.

Henry I, King of England and Duke of Normandy, a son of William the Conqueror, died on 1 December 1135. He had been a king who controlled the barons and oppressed the Church. He is survived by at least 20 children but only one of them is legitimate and that is a female, Matilda or Maud, known as the Empress because she was married to the German Emperor. (Henry's son William was killed on 25 November 1120, in a famous disaster, the wreck of

the White Ship, which also killed two illegitimate royal children, several barons and earls, and most of the royal household. However, Henry suppressed the subsequent rebellions successfully and forced his barons to acknowledge Maud as his successor and heir to the throne (1 January 1127). On 12 June 1128 Maud married the 14-year-old Geoffrey of Anjou.)

Because she is a woman and because her husband is the Duke of Anjou, the barons are willing to break their vows, and when they gather to discuss the succession Maud has a serious rival: Theobald IV of Blois, Henry's eldest nephew, and the first male in line to the throne.

Theobald is favoured by most of the barons. The dissidents are led by Robert of Gloucester, ~~Francis's~~ boss, 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 leading dissident is Roger of Shiring, the Earl of Wiltshire, a high-principled, unbending man who will not renege on the oath of loyalty which Henry made him swear to Maud. (Roger is the father of Ann, whose rejection of William Hamleigh caused trouble in Chapter 1.)

The two sides are even; the succession is stalled; and into this power vacuum steps the Church.

Theobald has two brothers: Stephen, who is the biggest landowner in England; and Henry, the Bishop of Winchester, who is the arch-manipulator of the twelfth century. These two have conspired against Theobald. Bishop Henry is backing Stephen for king, and has enabled him to gain control of the castle and the Treasury at Winchester (which is the capital). Bishop Henry then persuades the Archbishop of Canterbury to crown Stephen at Westminster on 22 December. In exchange for all this Stephen has made solemn and binding promises to respect the rights and property of the Church. Hearing of this

fait accompli, the barons dump Theobald and accept Stephen. The Church is well pleased: it has prevented a succession dispute and secured a pro-Church king.

However, Robert of Gloucester and Roger of Shiring secretly conspire to foment a rebellion, unseat Stephen and put Maud on the throne. The rebellion is to be ignited by Roger, whose castle, just outside the town of Shiring, is a day or two's journey from the monastery.

Francis cannot but know of this conspiracy. His ultimate loyalty is to the Church and he must prevent the rebellion - but without compromising himself, for he is useful to the Church where he is. His letter begs Philip to find a way to warn Stephen without betraying his source of information.

Philip finds an excuse to make a trip to Kingsbridge Priory. On the way he will call on the Bishop.

(ii)

On the road Philip chats briefly to a travelling builder and his family. He tells them about the abandoned baby. The builder, Tom Appleyard, is unexpectedly moved by the story. But soon Philip, who is on horseback, moves ahead.

\*

The Bishop of Kingsbridge lives, like the feudal lord he is, in some splendour, with a mistress, in a palace many miles from his cathedral. Philip approaches the palace with trepidation: he has never been involved in high politics 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. But he must go through with it, for the conspiracy could do lasting damage to the Church, and Philip is the only one who can stop it.

At the palace he is received, not by the Bishop but by his deputy, Archdeacon

Archdeacon Waleran Bigod. Waleran is a cold, ruthless man, driven by lust for power. He believes that God has destined him for greatness and this justifies any cruelty or barbarism. He intends one day to be ARchbishop of Canterbury if not Pope. ~~Abbot~~ Philip (who is not as worldly-wise as he will be) completely misjudge Waleran and sees him as a man like himself, dedicated to advancing the cause of the Church.

Philip tells Waleran a prepared tale: a knight who was beaten and robbed by outlaws in the forest confessed the conspiracy before dying in Philip's arms. Waleran raises an eyebrow at this romantic tale but chooses not to challenge it,, to Philip's great relief. He promises to warn the king. There is much subtle sparring in this conversation, a subtext of hints, gestures and undertones, each trying to read the other. Philip leaves with a feeling that Waleran will take care to get the credit for unmasking the plot; but Philip sees this as reasonable self-advancement.

As he is saying goodbye, the builder and his family enter the compound, hoping to be employed repairing the stonework of the palace. Waleran is shocked by the sight of the woman, Ellen. "That woman!!" he blurts involuntarily. Philip soberly warns him against the sin of lust. But on later reflection Philip has a feeling that it was not lust, but some other emotion, that disturbed the ambitious archdeacon.

(iii) (portait of a monastery)

When Philip arrives at Kingsbridge the old prior is dead.

Philip must now make his bid for election. If he fails, he will not get another chance to reform the priory until the new prior dies, which could be decades. His determination is redoubled when he sees how the monastery is being run under Remigius, the sub-prior and favourite candidate for prior, who

has been in charge ~~for~~ the old prior fell ill a year ago. The school is depleted, the parish churches are being neglected, prayers are sloppy and the whole place is looking grubby. There is also financial irresponsibility, with lands being neglected while money is spent on jew~~el~~ ornaments for the Church.

Philip tells Remigius that the little cell in the forest has too much food, and asks permission to serve meat twice a day. The requ~~est~~ is refused, but he has taken care to make it in the presence of a young monk, and in no time ~~at~~ all the story has gone all ~~ab~~ound the monastery, confirming Philip's reputation as a good manager and a generous provider.

In a large house such as this, which also has charge of a cathedral, the prior and sub-prior have a management team working under them: some in charge of branches of the spiritual work, such as the sacrist and the cantor; some involved in practical work, such as the guest master and the novice master; and some administrators such as the cellarer and the kitchener. Inevitably these are influential people, and Philip takes care to spend a little time with each of them, sounding them out and subtly angling for their support. With one he renews and old friendship; another he reminds of an obligation; he commiserates with the grievances of a third, hinting that all would be different if he, Philip, were prior; and he writes off a fourth as a hopeless case, content in his idleness and inefficiency.

In the kitchen the subject comes up of a prior's right to transfer monks from one house to another (a perennial bone of contention). Philip gives the impression that he is against this practice.

Within 24 hours a group of officers asks him if he would consent to stand for election.

(All this time Philip is also wondering how baby Geoffrey is.)

The supporters of Remigius, led by the contentedly idle cellarer, now fight back. They point out that if the monks are divided, the Bishop may use this as an excuse to impose his own candidate. They say he has someone in mind, a crony of his called Brother Osbert. This scares the monks and support swings back to Remigius, who is at least the devil they know.

\*

The following day is Epiphany (6 January 1136) and according to custom the Bishop comes to conduct the service in the cathedral. He is accompanied by Brother Osbert and Archdeacon Waleran.

Waleran takes Philip to one side. the Bishop has asked for Waleran's recommendation. If he proposes Philip, will Philip in turn support Waleran for Bishop when the Bishop dies? Suppressing a twinge of conscience, Philip agrees. He is duly elected.

(Philip incidentally finds out that Waleran was sure of the old Prior's support but it is not clear why.)

Before the service, Philip asks Waleran whether he has yet warned King Stephen of the conspiracy. Waleran says that Earl Roger has just arrived from France, and he, Waleran, is about to nip the whole thing in the bud, using as his tool someone who is here for the service: Percy **Hamleigh**.

Philip prays that Waleran knows what he is doing.

Chapter 3

Percy Hamleigh is a landowning knight, the feudal lord of ~~five~~ villages centred on his manor of Hamleigh, where he has been lord since 1923. With him is his son William, 20. But the real power in the family is William's mother Regan, 40. Grasping, conniving, and borderline crazy, she is also hideous, her face covered with soers that she picks at constantly.

Regan hoped to add substantially to her husband's estate by mrrying their son to Ann, 16, the beautiful, wilful and spoilt daughter of Roger, Earl of Wils~~shire~~. Earl Roger agreed to the match but Ann, who is terribly romat~~tic~~ and dreams of a fairy-tale wedding, hated the oafish William on sight and refused point-blank to go through with the ~~weddi~~age. Earl Roger could perhaps have coerced her but he chose not to try. This slight has enrged Regan and she still cannot think about it without trembling.

William is cruel and avaricious like his mother but also fearful and superstitious like his fther. In later life he will commit many murders out of greed but he will always be tormented by fear of divine retribution.

The Hamleighs are approached after the service by Archdeacon Waleran. He commiserates with them about their humiliation at the hands of Earl Roger, and says that Roger should have horsewhipped his daughter into ~~sub~~mission, a common point of view. The Hamleighs wonder why he is raising the subject six months after the event. They soon find out. Waleran tells them that the same Earl Roger is plotting against King Stephen - a monarch who has the support of the Church. Whoever gets rid of Roger and nips the rebellion in the bud will have earned the eternal gratifude of King Stephen and the hly mother Church.

Percy and William are all for going after Roger and hanging him from the nearest tree. Regan calls them both fools. Why, she asks, is Waleran not

going after this traitor himself? Why have they been approached in this informal way? Why is ~~the~~ whole thing couched in hints? Either Waleran is protecting a spy, or he is unsure of his information, or both; and he wants someone to do the dirty work for him. If the Hamleights are going to get involved they must have proof of Roger's treachery.

(ii) (port~~rait~~ of a baronial castle)

William goes to Roger's castle outside Shiring, pretending to renew his courtship of Ann. Seeing her again rekindles his desire: she is not just beautiful but fiery, spirited and magnetic. Even though she is spoiled, her servants adore her. She rejects William ~~again~~, but not before he has ~~had~~ a chance to observe a busy coming-and-going of messengers. He also ~~make~~s plans an attack on the castle.

\*

With a band of henchmen he lies in wait a couple of miles away, and when a messenger comes along they waylay him. They tie him up, suspend him from a bough, take off his boots and light a fire beneath him. When his feet start to burn he tells them that his mission is to muster Roger's knights in a distant manor and prepare them for an insurrection.

William has the proof they need.

\*

On their way home they have a little fun tormenting a destitute builder and his starving family. William recognises Tom, the man he fired six months ago. But although Tom is half dead of hunger he still looks dangerous and again William is faced down.

The builder is headed for Roger's castle.

(iii)

Tom and his family are still scrapping along on the edge of starvation. The Earl of Wiltshire owns a large quarry famous for the quality of its sandstone, and Tom plans to seek work there. They go along to the castle and the Earl hires Tom.

Alfred tries to lord it over Jack the way he does over Martha, but Jack does not submit. Alfred is deeply threatened by the intrusion into the family of this lovable rival. He reacts by mistreating Jack at every opportunity. Jack is much smaller than Alfred, but he is clever and spunky and sometimes gets the better of Alfred. Their fights cause friction between Ellen and Tom.

The three children meet up with Earl Roger's son Richard, a childish boy who threatens Martha with a wooden sword. The others realise that Jack does not know about the role men play in reproduction, and they tease him mercilessly.

The three children meet up with Earl Roger's children: Richard, a childish 12-year-old who threatens Martha with a wooden sword; and Ann, 16, halfway between childhood and adulthood. Jack is enchanted by Ann and deeply ashamed when Alfred humiliates him in front of her.

Jack asks Ellen what his father's name was. She is always reluctant to talk about the past but she relents and tells him: Jack Shareburg.

\*

At dawn William and Percy attack Earl Roger's castle with a large force. There is a pitched battle, observed from inside by Tom and Jack and from outside by William. Jack is close to Ann for much of the time and is captivated by her bravery.

The attackers benefit from the element of surprise and the castle is taken. Earl Roger is captured and the conspiracy is foiled.

William renews his offer of marriage to Ann. For a third time he is

haughtily refused.

Annn is left to live in th ruined castle withaaffew loyal servants. The quarry is closed, and Tom and family move on. They hear that there is a new young prior at Kingsbridge, who may want to repair the dilapidated old cathedral. They head for Kingsbridge.

Chapter 4,

There is indeed a new prior, but he is not doing any repairs. Philip has invested all the monastery's cash in sheep farming and has instituted an ~~usterity~~ ~~crive~~. ~~The monks~~, living on salt fish and weak beer, are regretting their choice and are mutinous. Nevertheless Tom and his family are given a meal and a bed for the night. When they ~~say the~~ news about Roger of Shiring the prior comes rushing in to hear the details.

They recognise Philip and Tom asks about the abandoned baby. We have called him Geoffrey, says Philip; would you like to see him? And he shows ~~the baby~~ off like a proud father. Tom is much moved: his child is in safe hands.

Philip is sorry he cannot employ Tom. He explains that he plans one day to rebuild the cathedral, but first he has to sort out the monastery's finances, which will take about ten years.

When he has gone, Tom says: If only a thunderbolt would strike the church and destroy it - then ~~we would~~ be forced to start rebuilding right away.

\*

That night, when all are asleep, Jack gets up, goes into the church, ~~and~~ ~~sees~~ candle from the altar, and sets fire to the ancient timber roof.

The monks and the villagers struggle to put out the blaze but their efforts are all in vain. They give up and watch, superstitiously awestruck, as the ~~great~~ old church is completely destroyed.

(ii)

Philip will now have to build a new cathedral, and this completely ~~wrecks~~ his long-term financial ~~plan~~. However, there is no alternative.

He starts right away by asking Tom if he would prepare the site for rebuilding, working only for board and lodging at first. ~~Of course~~ Tom accepts.

The family is saved - for now.

Remigius is horrified when he learns that they are to live here. "That woman?" he says. Philip remembers Archdeacon Waleran's peculiar reaction to Ellen, and questions Remigius. Remigius says she is a witch. Philip suspects there is more to it than that.

\*

Archdeacon Waleran inspects the ruins. Remigius gets him alone and says: That woman is living here. Waleran is surprised to learn that Remigius knows who she is, but Remigius says the old prior told him everything.

Waleran is at first tempted to have Ellen killed; but first, it is no simple matter to organise a murder; and second, if anything were to go wrong it could reopen the whole case. He asks Remigius to find a way to get rid of Ellen.

( (iii)

One day Alfred, weary after work, imperiously commands Jack to fetch him a drink. Jack refuses and Alfred hits him. Jack then writes in the soot on the wall "Alfred is an ox." Alfred recognises his own name but cannot read the insult - which somehow makes it worse. He starts to beat Jack up. Tom separates them.

Tom and Ellen quarrel over this. Tom says that Jack does no work so he ought to serve Alfred. Ellen says she will not sanction Alfred's beating Jack for any reason whatsoever. They speak harsh words!

Then Remigius appears. He has discovered that Tom and Ellen are not married. He decrees that they must separate immediately, and Ellen must do penance as an adulteress.

This causes Ellen to review her situation. In the forest she had food, shelter and security. Her association with Tom has led her into desolation. True, he has employment now, but he is not getting paid, and there is no knowing

how long even this shift will last, for Prior Philip is a long way from raising the money to build a new cathedral, so they could be starting again next winter. Now she is to be put through the humiliation of public penance (when she does not even subscribe to the religion). she did it for Jack - but he is lying bruised and bleeding, and not for the first time. She decides to leave Tom.

Tom is devastated, but he is determined to get her back. He evolves a plan. He could take Jack as an apprentice, and teach him to be a mason. ~~Eleanor~~ could teach Alfred to read and write. The boys would then be equals. But he must be able to offer her security too. He decides that when the rebuilding starts in earnest he will seek her out and ask her to come back.

BOOK TWO1137 - 11385. How Philip won the quarry

- (i) Waleran takes Philip to see the king.
- (ii) William rapes Ann

6. How ~~Ann~~ became a marchant

- (i) Ann kills a thief
- (ii) The deathbed oaths
- (iii) The randy uncle
- (iv) Ann buys wool and makes a profit

7. How the cathedral got started

- (i) Philip occupies the quarry
- (ii) Waleran tries to move the cathedral
- (iii) Philip mobilises the volunteers

Ages in 1137:

Jack is 13

Alfred and Richard are 15

Ann is 18

Geoffrey is 1

## Chapter 5

A year later Philip still does not have enough money to start rebuilding. Then the Bishop dies, and with Philip's help Waleran Bigod becomes the new Bishop. During the election, Peter of Wareham asks Philip whether Waleran is a godly man. Philip ~~realizes~~ has not asked this question. However, he is bound by a promise.

\*

Philip asks Waleran for a big contribution to the building fund. To Philip's astonishment Waleran refuses point-blank, saying he has to rebuild the palace. However, he proposes that he and Philip should go to see the king.

\*

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

Bishop Waleran asks the king to ~~give~~ the estates of the ~~disgraced~~ Earl of Wiltshire to the diocese to finance the building of a new cathedral. But Percy Hamleigh is also at court, with his hideous wife Regan and their brutish son William, claiming the same estates (plus the title) as their reward for preventing the insurrection.

Percy's request is more reasonable but Waleran plays on the king's piety. William is desperate for this ploy to succeed, for it will finally redeem his failure to woo Ann, and will also complete her humiliation at his hands. (He still lusts after her.)

\*

Regan now contrives to run into Philip. How can you let yourself be used like this, you stupid monk? she says. Philip, who thinks himself pretty smart, is flabbergasted. Regan points out that if the king grants Waleran's request, the lands will go to the Bishop, not to the prior, and Waleran will be able to dole out as much or as little as he likes to the cathedral builders.

Philip realises she is right. He proposes a compromise: let Percy have the villages and farms, but let the monastery have the hill country for its sheep, plus the forests for timber and the quarry for stone. With some trepidation he goes behind Waleran's back to the king. The king buys it. However, Regan talks him into a last-minute amendment: as the quarry is in the middle of the estate, it should remain Percy's property, but the monastery should have the right to take stone free for the cathedral.

Walter is jubilant, for he can now start building (albeit on a shoestring). Unfortunately, he has made an enemy of Waleran.

King Stephen orders that the decision should be communicated to Roger of Shiring, and for the first time Philip wonders what will happen to the old Earl's family.

## (ii)

The Hamleights are also jubilant. William rides at once to Shiring castle with his knights.

Ann is still playing the spoilt child of the manor among the ruins, living in a dream world, talking and acting as if her father is temporarily absent. However, beneath her romanticism is her father's inflexible will, and she is headstrong and independent. Her major soft spot is for her brother Richard. He is lazy, passive and foolish, but she is blind to his faults and fiercely protective of him.

She is still acting and talking as if her father is about to come home when William arrives with his knights. They throw out the servants and rape Ann.

## Chapter 6

Ann's spirit is not yet broken. She and Ricahrd escape with two horses. Ann says she is going to ~~tdl~~ tell the king what has happened. She is sure he will then hang William and reinstate her father. She and Richard set out for Winchester. Richard wears a sword that is too big for him and Ann carries a knife in her sleeve.

\*

On the first night in the forest their horses are stolen. Next day on the road they are threatened by two thieves. But when one thief knocks Ricahrd down, Ann at last blows her cool. She pulls the knife and without warning stabs the man who hit Richard. It is a lucky stroke and he falls down dying. The ~~other~~ thief runs away.

The first thief takes a long time ~~td~~ to die. Ann decides he must be finished off. She maeks Richard do it.

(ii)

In Winchester they realise they are not ~~going~~ to get anywhere near the king and they have difficulty even in 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 ~~freel from peasants and selling~~ sacks of raw wool to larger merchants or cloth manufacturers. She helps Ann and Richard get into the jail (and warns ~~them~~ to enter the dungeon one at a time or else they may never get out).

they find their father dying in a stinking dungeon. He makes Richard swear to regain the family estates, then he makes Ann swear to take care of Richard until he comes into his rightful inheritance. The children have been

brought up to take oaths seriously, and these deathbed promises will shape their lives.

Roger tells them that there is a priest here in Winchester who has a little of his money. they must get the money and go to the home of their late mother's sister, where Richard will become a squire (an apprentice knight) and Ann will be a lady-in-waiting.

\*

The priest claims to have no knowledge of the money. But Ann and Richard are no longer to be pushed around. They overpower him and threaten to kill him. Terrified, he hands over a purse. He has spent much of the money but there is a pound left, about two months' wages for a well-paid craftsman.

(i

(iii)

Their aunt takes them in, but puts Richard to work in the fields and Ann in the laundry. Ann accepts this stoically, but draws the line when her uncle tries to seduce her. They run away again.

They are now quite alone in the world but Ann still has the money. Richard despairs but she is made of sterner stuff. She remembers the woman wool merchant in Winchester. Many peasants keep a few sheep and sell the fleeces for two or three pennies at the market. For a lot of people the journey to market costs them a whole day's work, making the operation highly marginal; and others may not go to market at all. Ann conceives the idea of touring outlying villages, buying the peasants' fleeces, and selling them in the market at a profit.

Richard thinks the idea is crazy but he cannot think of anything better.

(iv)

Six weeks later (spring 1138) they come to Winchester market with a sack of raw wool, 250 fleeces which they have bought for a penny each. Unfortunately

the woman wool merchant has gone. Another merchant has taken her place, and he offers them a pound, even though he is paying two pounds, because, he says, no one pays a child what they would pay a man.

A monk watches this exchange then haggles a price of two pounds and a shilling for a sack of wool. Then he gives Ann the two pounds, gives Ann's sack to the merchant, and keeps the shilling, as he says, for God.

Ann tells him who she is and he is much moved by her story (and guilty, of course). He says he will always help her sell her wool. He is Philip of Kingsbridge.

## Chapter 7

This is Philip's second spring as a sheep farmer and he, too, sells his fleeces, at the annual Shiring Fleece Fair, at a profit. (The cloth-manufacturing industry of Flanders is booming and there is a European shortage of wool.) Philip buys more sheep. In the long run he will convert all of the monastery's marginal land to sheep farming, but this will be a slow process, not just because of the capital outlay, but also because under previous slack management many farms were let to tenants under long leases at fixed rents. Philip however has a fistful of money-raising schemes all going on at the same time. His close-to-the-wind dealings are watched anxiously by Ann, who is doing famously under his protection but fears what might happen to her otherwise, and by Tom, who waits impatiently for some symbol of permanence that will enable him to offer Ellen a secure future.

Tom prepares a design for the new cathedral, drawn on two sheets of plaster in wooden frames - one a floor plan and the other an elevation. They show a conventional cathedral in the round-arched Norman style. Philip suppresses a wish that it could be the longest, highest and most richly decorated cathedral in Christendom, and gets on with making it happen.

\*

Tom lays out the floor plan of the east end with wooden stakes, helped by Alfred. (The east end will be built first, and will be used as a church while the rest is going up.) Now the first craftsmen begin to arrive: a master forester and a master quarryman with their apprentices and labourers, plus a blacksmith and a carpenter to make tools. But when the quarrymen go to the quarry they find it occupied by workmen employed by Percy and guarded by armed men who refuse them admission.

Without free stone the whole project is not viable. The monks discuss what to do. Remigius characteristically proposes sending a delegation to protest

to the king. Philip, equally characteristically, pours scorn on this passive-aggressive response, which could take months if not years. Instead he takes all the monks to the quarry in the middle of the night. At daybreak Percy's workmen find monks saying prayers all over their ~~site~~. The armed guards are not prepared to do violence to the monks and they give up. Philip then hires all Percy's quarrymen.

(having hired extra quarrymen he will have to economise somewhere else, probably on masons; which means he will be cutting stone faster than he can use it and will build up a stockpile; Although this is bad for his cash flow it will at least insure against the likelihood that at some future date Percy will again close the quarry.)

## (ii)

The scheming Regan Hamleigh, now Countess of Wiltshire, who of course was behind the closure of the quarry, now comes up with a new plan. She and Percy and William go to Bishop Waleran and suggest that the new cathedral be built at Shiring, which is after all the most important town in Wiltshire. The building project would be good for the town, which is the centrepiece of their estate. The benefit for Waleran is that the new cathedral would be cared for by a new chapter of monks or canons who would be under Waleran's control much more firmly than Philip is; and Waleran might even regain the lands the king gave to Philip.

W

‡

Waleran puts this scheme to the Archbishop, arguing that Philip does not have the resources to build a cathedral and Kingsbridge is the wrong place for it. The Archbishop decides to go and see for himself.

Waleran goes there first. Looking at the rainswept ruins, with a few slow-moving labourers picking over them, he feels sure that the Archbishop

will reach the right decision.

(iii)

Philip is forewarned of this whole plot by a monk at Canterbury. He racks his brains for a way of deflecting it. He cannot speed up the building programme, cannot suddenly acquire new resources, cannot turn Kingsbridge from a village into a county town overnight....

Finally he has a brainwave. He sends out all his monks to visit parish churches throughout the country and announce that forgiveness for sins may be obtained by voluntary work on the cathedral building site, beginning on Whit Sunday, the day of the visitation.

He waits anxiously to see the result.

\*

It begins slowly, with a disappointing handful of people for the early service. They are set to work digging foundation holes. Then, around nine o'clock, the trickle turns into a veritable flood. Hundreds, maybe thousands of people from all social classes come from far and wide, in holiday mood, to dig foundations, cart stones, fell trees and saw planks. Quick-witted entrepreneurs set up stalls selling beer, food, hoes and knives. When the archbishop comes he is delighted to see such a multitude enthusiastically doing god's work; and Waleran's scheme is dropped.

Ellen and Jack are in the crowd. Tom puts his proposal to Ellen, and she accepts.

Percy Handleigh sees Ellen and goes pale. Is it that woman? he says to Waleran. Yes, says Waleran; I thought Remigius had got rid of her.

Jack, now 14 and becoming a man, sees Ann again. They speak briefly. Although she is 19 he falls in love with her. But he will not be content to worship her from afar; he means to have her.

BOOK THREE

1140 - 1142

8. How William tried to ruin Philip

- (i) William's bloody tour
- (ii) William comes to Shiring
- (iii) William closes the quarry

9. How Philip fought back

- (i) Philip sees King Stephen
- (ii) Philip sees Queen Maud

10. How Ann fell in love with Jack

- (i) Jack, hopelessly in love, invents the fulling mill
- (ii) Ann falls for him
- (iii) Jack becomes a monk
- (iv) William burns the town.

Ages in 1140:

Ann is 21

Alfred and Richard are 17

Jack is 16

Geoffrey is 3

## Chapter 8

Percy Hamleigh dies in 1149 and his son William becomes the Earl. William is brutal and greedy like his father but also has a ~~streak~~ of real sadism. He still nurses a passion for Ann, and he will never forget raping her; in fact the only way he can now get sexual satisfaction is by recreating that scene, with a weeping girl and a crowd of male onlookers. William's other ambition is to get rid of Richard and eliminate the rival to the title. William's main weakness is that he is terrified of divine retribution, and this will be exploited by Bishop Waleran, who will find that he can make William do anything in return for absolution.

When Percy dies, William is away fighting. Robert of Gloucester has rebelled again (in 1138), promoting his half-sister Maud as queen. Stephen has reneged on his promises and lost the support of the Church. The two sides ~~are~~ evenly matched and England is in for a long civil war.

William comes home to find his inheritance in a financial crisis. The town of shiring, jewel 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 big earner, is in the hands of the cathedral builders. Some farms are in trouble and many tenants are in arrears.

\*

William makes a tour of his proerty, accompanied by the six knights who have become his henchmen. These young thugs cut a bloody swathe through the country.

Coming across an unlicensed mill they demolish it with the miller inside. They burnt he crops on illegitimate assarts in the forest. A serf's daughter who has married without paying the customary fee (in lieu of droit de seigneur) is ravished. Tenants in arrears are ~~beat~~nup.

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.1

## (ii)

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, almost as if people think they are safe from armed ruffians. And this is not all that surprises him. The sleepy village of Kingsbridge has become a thriving small town. The number of dwellings has trebled, the monastery is bigger, the cathedral walls are rising fast, and there is a cookshop and an alehouse. Most importantly, there is a busy market on the building site.

Clearly, William thinks, Prior Philip is drawing people and business away from Shiring and the Wiltshire villages, and this is why the estate is in trouble. (This analysis is partly right - sheer bad management is also a factor.)

William and his men push through the crowd and confront Philip in the choir of the half-built east end. William accuses Philip of holding an illegal market. Philip, who is technically guilty, replies that a man who has committed assault, rape and murder in the past week has no business coming into a church for any purpose other than to beg forgiveness. The realisation that he is in a Church (albeit half-built) frightens William and he leaves.

## (iii)

William assembles a troop of men-at-arms and they ride to the quarry, where 20 or 30 workmen are living in huts with their families. Arriving at dawn, William's men set fire to the huts, drive the people away, fence the quarry and set a permanent guard.

## Chapter 9

Philip has heard with horror the reports of William's bloody tour. William stands for everything Philip hates most: unrestrained power, government by savagery, the brute law of the jungle. He symbolises the barbarians who slaughtered Philip's parents. Philip's nightmare is that Geoffrey (now 4) should suffer as he and Francis did.

William's tour has sickened the whole country, but no one can do anything about it. The only power capable of restraining him is the Crown, but the sheriff, who is the local representative of the monarch, does not have the muscle to restrain him, and the king himself is (a) preoccupied with the civil war and (b) indebted to William for support. The other powerful figures are Bishop Waleran, who hates Philip, and Philip, who has no knights. Philip must defeat William without use of force.

On the day that William occupies the quarry, two other things happen. Ann, who is prospering, offers to buy all the monastery's wool. Philip turns her down: he can do better by dealing directly with the Flemish buyers. More importantly, he receives a writ from the sheriff warning him to desist from holding an unlicensed market. Ironically, the sheriff cannot stop William committing murder but he can prevent Philip's market.

Apart from the money it brings in, the market is mainly responsible for attracting the continuing flow of volunteer labourers every Sunday who do so much of the unskilled work on the building. Without them, and without free stone, building must stop.

Philip decides to go to see the king.

\*

He finds King Stephen besieging Lincoln, which is occupied by the rebels.

Philip persuades the king of the justice of his case, and Stephen seems ready to grant him market rights and force William to reopen the quarry, when William himself arrives with reinforcements for Stephen's army; and to reward William, Stephen refuses Philip.

\*

Then Robert of Gloucester and his army arrive to raise the siege. The loyalists lose the ensuing battle, and both King Stephen and Prior Philip are captured.

(2 Feb 1141)

(iii)

Philip is released by his brother Francis, who is still working for Robert of Gloucester, and the ~~brothers~~ are reunited after many years.

\*

Maud enters into negotiations with the Church, in the person of our old friend Henry Blois, Bishop of Winchester, who now betrays his brother Stephen just as he previously betrayed his brother Theobald, and recognises Maud as Queen (8 April 1141). Francis is able to arrange for Philip to see her personally. She grants him "market rights as at Shiring", to Philip's great delight - then charges him a hundred pounds for the privilege.

\*

Philip solves his immediate cash flow problem by selling next year's wool to Ann at a discount in advance (a way of borrowing which avoids the sin of usury). Then he announces that not ~~only~~ will he reinstate the weekly market but he will hold an annual Fleece Fair to rival that of Shiring.

William vows that this will never come to pass.

## Chapter 10

Jack at 16 is something of a misfit. Growing up in the forest he never learned discipline, deference or conformity, and now he never will. He also has a fierce temper. However, he is tremendously charming. People find him likeable and amusing, but he makes them nervous, like a large puppy dog that will not be a puppy much longer. Because of his education, Philip wants Jack to become a monk - the Church needs bright youngsters. Ellen, who hates the Church, vetoes this proposal. It is an example of Philip's occasional blindness: Jack is totally irreligious and completely unsuited to the monastic life. However, Philip has a way of persisting until he gets what he wants in the end.

It is not easy to get laid in a medieval village and Jack is a technical virgin. He is caught fooling with Martha, and is savagely beaten by Tom (to Ellen's great distress). This makes him cautious.

He is more than ever bewitched by Ann. Her combination of beauty, spirit and hauteur fascinates him (and plenty of others). But she is 21, a wealthy merchant and an earl's daughter, whereas he is penniless 16-year-old apprentice and a bastard. Despite all his efforts she thinks he is a long way beneath her. He is discouraged but not despairing.

Ann is to be one of the two great loves of Jack's life. The other will be the cathedral. He is fascinated by the plans, the materials, the construction techniques and the management problems. He watches Tom 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 himself.

\*

Both Ann and Philip have failed to sell all their wool this year. Ann wants to

process the surplus and sell it as cloth. She can get peasant women and children to do the spinning and weaving but she cannot find enough men to do the felting.

Jack is intrigued by this problem and his unconventional, imaginative mind comes up with a solution. One night he disappears. Next morning all the hammers have gone from the building site. (Tom's key is gone. Tom: "When I catch that boy....") Eventually Jack is found inside the water mill. He has attached the hammers to the shaft of the millwheel in such a way that as the wheel turns the hammers rise and fall, pounding a length of cloth in a trough of water. Jack has invented the fulling mill.

(ii9)

Ann is much caught up in the business of making money as a wool merchant. She tells herself that she is bound by the deathbed promise she made to her father, that she would look after Richard until he can claim his rightful inheritance; and this is part of the truth. Indeed, on Richard's 18th birthday she proudly sends him off, with his warhorse and armour and his own squire, to fight in Queen Maud's army.

But Ann is also driven by nightmare memories of destitution - the rape, the man she killed, her father's dungeon, the dishonest pries and the lascivious uncle - and she is fiercely determined never again to be vulnerable to such brutes. Nevertheless she daydreams of the time when Richard is safely installed in **Shiring Castle** and she can relax. meanwhile she reads French chansons de geste, verse narratives about the knights of Charlemagne, the medieval escapist literature.

\*

Philip is especially fond of Ann because she is an orphan as he is. She in turn will always be grateful to ~~her~~ for being her protector in the early days. She is sexually repressed, and does not readily form relationships with men, but Philip is an exception, because he has no ~~sex~~ life and appears happy that way,

so he presents no threat. However, as Ann becomes a major power in the town, elements of conflict creep into their relationship, and it cools a little.

Against Philip's wishes, Ann and Alfred form a parish guild, a sort of club for traders and master craftsmen. Its ostensible purpose is to buy candles for the parish church. (This small Saxon building antedates both the cathedral and the monastery.) However, the guild also has a social function, providing a reason for people to meet and sup together; and it can also represent the interests of citizens vis-a-vis the monastery - which is why Philip is against it.

Alfred, now 19, has grown into a man of little intelligence and no imagination, but his personality is forceful and he is by medieval standards educated (thanks to Ellen's lessons) (so that, now he has completed his apprenticeship, he is becoming one of the town's leading citizens.

Everyone of importance joins the guild, except Malachi, the seller of needles and thread, who is excluded because he is Jewish.

To Ann's surprise, Alfred proposes marriage to her. She turns him down.

\*

One day Ann is disturbed by Jack while she is reading a book, a chanson de geste which her father brought back for her from his last trip to France. Jack begins to tell her a verse story of a different kind, a romance with magical elements. She is intrigued - she did not realise he knew French. ~~She is also spellbound by the story.~~ She is also spellbound by the story. These poems are very long, sometimes 20,000 lines, and are normally told in instalments; and Jack cleverly stops at a cliffhanger. She begs him to tell her more and they make a date.

Ann rejects all advances from men (and she gets plenty) but because Jack is so young she makes the mistake of not seeing him as a sexual threat.

and he slips under her guard. She discovers that he is one of the few people in Kingsbridge who is on her intellectual level - he can read and write and draw, and he knows poetry and songs and even a little philosophy. (Living in the forest, Ellen had nothing to do with her leisure except educate Jack, and she taught him all she knew.)

Ann also knows all about these romances, and tells Jack that they are told by troubadours on the pilgrim routes. ~~Elleonsks~~ He has learned it from one of those troubadours. But she has never been on a pilgrimage. Jack concludes that his father was a troubadour.

As Ann warms to Jack, she begins to like the undisciplined side of his nature - he has no concept of duty and no respect for oaths - because it is such a contrast with her own uptight personality.

Jack adapts the ongoing versse story, introducing a romance between a wealthy woman and a penniless boy. Gradually Ann starts to like him touching her, even kissing her. Eventually her sexuality is awakened and she falls passionately and permanently in love with him.

(iii)

Because of Ann, the boyhood enmity between Alfred and Jack flares again. Alfred bullies and mocks Jack constantly, and sometimes sabotages his work. The conflict reaches a peak when Alfred publicly taunts Jack, saying his father was hanged as a thief. They fight fiercely, spilling barrels of mortar, wrecking new masonry, and setting fire to a lodge. The end of the fight is witnessed by Tom and Philip, and the two men agree that Alfred and Jack cannot work on the same site. As Jack is a mere apprentice he obviously must be the one to go.

But how shall he earn his keep, if not as an apprentice? He knows nothing of any other trade except poaching and he is certainly no farmer.

There is only one solution: he must be apprenticed to a mason on another building site, which means in another town.

Jack is distraught at the prospect of leaving not only Ann but his beloved cathedral. Ellen is miserable about losing her child. Ann is heartbroken. Alfred is delighted.

Jack pleads for a reprieve, and yet again Philip has a solution. He renews his proposal that Jack become a monk. He can even continue to work on the cathedral, as an administrative clerk. Ellen withdraws her opposition. Jack and Ann plan to elope immediately after the next Fleece Fair.

\*

For the sake of continuing to work on the cathedral Jack at last learns to conform with others and he lives the monastic life. However, he contrives a way to sneak out and see Ann. Their relationship is now intensely physical.

Remigius takes an apparently kindly interest in Jack. He tells him that his father stole a silver chalice from this monastery and was hanged for it.

Remigius tells Waleran about Jack, and the fact that he knows his father's name and profession. Waleran is worried but proposes no action.

(iv)

By spring of 1142 Stephen has been released from captivity and the civil war is on again. Nevertheless, Philip has an unimpeachable royal licence to hold a Fair. And now it is too late to cancel it even if he wanted to.

William forbids his tenants to sell wool at the Kiggsbridge Fair, but many of them find intermediaries, and many others are outside William's control. The Fair is shaping up to be a big success, and Philip calculates gleefully that soon he will be able to double the speed of cathedral building.

A few days before the Fair, Ann takes delivery of the monastery's fleeces, sixty sacks of raw wool, the product of 15,000 sheep, worth £300 - a fortune -

if she can sell it all.

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 and many people die. Everything burns to the ground except the few stone buildings - the monastery, the cathedral and the parish church. All Ann's wool is burned and she is financially ruined. And Tom is among the dead.

BOOK FOUR

1

1142 - 114411. How Ann married Alfred

- (i) Alfred proposes
- (ii) Jack leaves town
- (iii) Ellen curses the marriage

12. How Ann found Jack

- (i) The cathedral falls down
- (ii) Ann has a baby
- (iii) Ann finds Jack

13. How it started again

- (i) The relic
- (ii) the new design
- (iii) The wall

Ages in 1142:

Ann is 23

Alfred is 20

Jack is 18

Richard is 19

Geoffrey is 5

Chapter 11

Alfred takes over the supervision of the cathedral building following the death of his father. (He is a little too young to be appointed master builder, but he can supervise construction while Philip headhunts.) He wants to improve on his father's design, and proposes a grand tower over the crossing. Philip sees that this would serve as a lookout point, for warning of such dangers as a raid by William, and he accepts the plan.

\*

Jack's meetings with Ann are found out (or betrayed by Alfred?) and Jack is put in the monastery's punishment cell. Jack warns Philip that the ground beneath the crossing will not stand the weight of a tower but his motive for saying this is suspect and the warning is unheeded.

\*

Richard comes home for more money and learns that there is none: he must give up soldiering, and with it his hopes of becoming the earl. He is ungracious about this.

\*

Ann is in a deep depression. The destitution of nightmare memory is terrifyingly close. In these circumstances Alfred renews his proposal of marriage. Richard forcefully reminds her that seven years ago she turned down a perfectly appropriate marriage and thereby brought about the death of their father and all their subsequent misfortunes. Under this emotional blackmail, Ann consents to the marriage.

(ii)

Ellen knows that cell - it is the one where Jack's father was kept - and she helps Jack escape. He goes to Ann and begs her to call it off. ~~They make~~

love. for the first time. But still she refuses to call off the wedding.

Jack now pleads with Alfred, but Alfred taunts him. She loves me, not you, says Jack. They have their last and most vicious fight. Jack is beaten to a pulp. When he comes round he leaves town.

(iii)

At the wedding, Ellen, now a widow, rises to her feet and curses both the marriage and the cathedral. Waleran and Remigius have her run out of town as a witch. She returns to her former life in the forest.

\*

Spooked by the curse, Alfred is unable to consummate the marriage.

But Ann is pregnant.

## Chapter 12

Jack was right about the tower. When it is almost finished, the ground beneath the crossing shifts and the tower falls. It topples eastward and destroys the finished east end. Sixty people are killed, seven years' work is destroyed, and the whole town is plunged into a depression.

### (ii)

Ann gives birth to a white-skinned, blue-eyed, orange-haired child just like Jack. Alfred throws her out.

Even if she had the heart to resume business as a wool merchant - which she has not - she would be unable to, for William has taken her place: his bailiff buys all the peasants' fleeces. She decided to go looking for Jack.

### (iii)

Jack has followed the pilgrim route to Santiago da Compostella, searching for traces of his father the troubadour, working on cathedrals as he goes.

Before he left Kingsbridge he thought there was only one way to build a church - Tom's way. Travel has educated him. On Moorish buildings in Spain he has seen pointed arches, and in France he has worked on rib vaulting - two of the three essential elements in the nascent Gothic style. (the third is the flying buttress.)

He is not happy. He misses Ann desperately, and no other woman will do. His frustration is channelled into his work, and he produces carvings of astonishing vigour and boldness, specialising in weird and mythical figures and monsters. But what he really wants to do, still, is be a master builder, and in his mind is forming a picture of the church he would like to build, a church that would combine the grace of Arab architecture with Norman solidity, and use

use the latest building techniques to create huge windows with sunlight pouring through and an arched vault so high it would seem to reach heaven.

Ann catches up with him and they have a joyful reunion. She tells him the news: his father is dead; Kingsbridge Cathedral has fallen down and all the builders have left; he has a son.

Jack thinks hard for 24 hours. Then he decides to abandon the search for traces of his father. He announces that he has been appointed master builder at Kingsbridge, and invites other craftsmen to follow him back to England.

(iv)

On his way home, in the French port of Cherbourg, people look at him as if they are seeing a ghost. It turns out that he is the double of a troubadour who lived here. Could this have been Jack's father? It seems not, for this man died on 25 November 1120, three years before Jack was born, in a famous disaster, the wreck of the White Ship, which killed the only son and heir of Henry I together with half the royal household. Is it possible that there were other survivors? And that one of them fathered Jack and was hanged for stealing from a monastery? My father's name was ~~Henry~~ Shareburg, says Jack. Then it must be the same man, they say; for this man's name was Jacques, and since he came from here he would be known as ~~Jack~~ Shareburg or Cherbourg.

Jack returns via London. He has decided to bring to Kingsbridge a miracle-working relic, such as the bones of a saint or a piece of Christ's shroud. Seeing an old house being demolished he takes a piece of ancient timber. He then buys a beautiful ironbound chest lined with silk and puts the old lump of wood in it. He hires three ruffians and fits them out with disguises, one as a crippled beggar and the other two as Arabs.

\*

On Easter Sunday of 1144, Bishop Waleran is conducting a service in a temporary wooden church in the ruins of the cathedral in front of a handful of people. The service 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 the past couple of days lurches forward, touches the box and is miraculously healed. When the uproar dies down, Jack presents the relic to the cathedral.

Afterwards he tells Philip that he wants to rebuild the cathedral. Philip asks where the money will come from. Jack points out that the relic will attract pilgrims, and their donations, plus the businesses they will bring to the town, will provide extra funds. In fact Jack knows that revival is a question of morale much more than of funds, but the relic will be equally effective in that area.

Philip ponders. He suspects that the relic is a fake and he is quite sure the Saracens are phoneyes. He is just making up his mind to reject the relic and turn Jack down when a genuine cripple throws himself on the chest and is miraculously healed. Philip takes this as a sign that God intends to make use of this relic whether it is genuine or not.

Philip also insists that Jack and Ann live apart. He promises to help

Ann get her marriage to Alfred annulled on the grounds of non-consummation.

## (ii)

Jack studies the ruined cathedral. His observation of which bits fell, what direction they fell in and what remains, gives him new insight into what makes buildings stand up, and he conceives the flying buttress. Then he designs the first Gothic cathedral.

**Jack locates**

\*

Jack locates his mother in the forest and asks her about ~~Jack~~ Shareburg. She tells him that he was accused of stealing from the monastery, but he was innocent. So who gave false evidence? A monk, a priest and a knight, she says; but she does not know their names.

But the Sheriff keeps records, and ~~Jack~~ is able to look them up. The monk was the prior of Kingsbridge, now dead; the knight was Percy Hamleigh, now dead; and the priest was Waleran Bigod, now Bishop of Kingsbridge.

\*

News of the healing power of the relic travels fast, and pilgrims start to come. Jack's craftsmen arrive from France and begin to clear the site. Once again the volunteers come on Sundays. One day Malachi returns and sets up his stall. Soon there is a Sunday market.

William decides to raid the town again.

## (iii)

Philip is forewarned of William's raid. The day before, in a lightning operation, he gets everyone - monks, builders, traders, townspeople - to build a town wall using stones from the ruins.

When William and his knights arrive they are unable to get in.

Bishop Waleran blocks the annulment, and once again Jack and Ann have to conduct their love affair in secret.

## BOOK FIVE

1151 - 115514. How Willaim and Waleran stopped the building again

- (i) William receives absolution
- (ii) Jack gives Alfred a job
  
- (iii) The builders move to Shiring

15. How Henry became King

- (i) Richard joins the outlaws
- (ii) Invasion, war, negotiation and truce
- (iii) Ann throws William out

16. How Richard went to Jerusalem

- (i) Richard keeps the quarry
- (ii) William becomes sheriff
- (iii) Richard kills a man

17. How Alfred became Earl

- (i) ann hands over the quarry
- (ii) Richard dies           μ
- (iii) Alfred becomes Earl

## Chapter 14

On Easter Sunday of 1151, thousands of people from all over the county are riding and walking to Kingsbridge for the most important service of the year, conducted by the Bishop. There are even more people than is usual because today for the first time the service will be held in the newly-completed east end of the cathedral, and everyone is eager to look at the building.

Kingsbridge has been an oasis of peace and prosperity during the last six years of the Anarchy. Too small to be of strategic importance, it is also too well defended (by its wall) to be easily overrun. Its pilgrims, its Sunday market and its construction program have helped it to prosper. It has no Fleece Fair - William still controls the wooldtrade in the countryside, - but Flemish buyers still come to the monastery every year to buy Philip's fleeces, and after 13 years his flocks are vast. Everything is going well, and even two bad harvests in a row have not seriously diminished the wealth of the monastery.

But Philip and Jack still have their enemies.

One of them is William Hamleigh, Earl of Wiltshire, and he is even now among those riding toward Kingsbridge. The civil war has petered out, leaving Stephen dominant rather than triumphant, and William is home from the fighting. Now 35, he is fleshy and florid but still active. He still lusts after Ann, still wants to kill Richard, still resents Philip for causing a continuing drain of wealth and population from shiring to Kingsbridge. He is as mean as ever but even more terrified of the punishments of the afterlife.

As they approach the town, the new building comes into view. The crowd begins to murmur in astonishment. This church has wings! It looks like a flock of birds in a line all poised to take to the air. As people get closer they see that the wings are flying buttresses supporting the highest roof any of them has ever seen.

The interior is another revelation. Nothing could be more different from the stout Norman pillars, cartwheel arches and small windows of Tom's design. Instead there are graceful columns that seem too slender to support anything, rising unbroken to a vault as high as heaven, and in between - nothing! Just huge windows through which the sunshine pours in, filling the church with light.

William is still awestruck when he kneels to confess his sins to Bishop Waleran.

Waleran has developed an abiding hatred of Philip, ~~whis~~ plans for self-aggrandisement are in a permanent stall because of Philip and people like him.

Now William confesses a grisly list of killings, rapes, robbery and treachery throughout the civil war. The Bishop imposes a swingeing penance: William is to found a new monastery.

When they discuss the details, ~~William's~~ motive becomes clear. The house is to be at Shiring, and it will be attached to an aggressively Puritan order of monks who will put Philip's easygoing ways to shame. Waleran is setting up a rival power centre.

(ii)

The harvest of 1151 is bad for the third year in a row. Yields are down by half and the price of corn rockets. William takes advantage of the famine to evict tenants and repossess their land - a useful economic shakeout of Thatcherite cast. Some peasants starve, some become outlaws, and some come to the monastery to beg. Philip employs as many as he can and gives everyone a meal and a bed for one night. Among them is Alfred, fallen on hard times. Jack gives him a job.

There is a slump in the cloth trade, perhaps because starving people do not buy clothes, and the price of wool drops. In the spring of 1152 Philip has to sell his fleeces at knockdown prices. Then the harvest of 1152 is another bad one.

bad one. The price of bread rockets, and the building workers demand another raise, but Philip cannot pay it.

(iii)

William owns no sheep, so is not impoverished by the wool slump. Many of his rents are payable in kind, and he sometimes gets his sack of corn and brace of geese even when the family that gives it to him is living on acorn soup. And the rising price of corn actually enriches him since he is a net seller. Ann knows his lands well, and she is enraged by the knowledge that, properly managed, the estate could feed all its peasants even in a bad year.

Guided by his mother and Bishop Waleran, William now conspires with Alfred. Alfred leads the cathedral builders out on strike, and William employs them all to build a magnificent new church for his new monastery at Shiring. Once again work stops of the cathedral!

## Chapter 15

In the terrible winter of 1152-3, when thousands die of cold and hunger, the swollen bands of outlaws in Wiltshire are united under a mysterious leader called Just John, actually Jack's mother Ellen. Richard joins them and they hail him as the rightful Earl. They raid William's flocks and storehouses. William expends every effort to hunt Richard down.

Philip writes to his brother Francis, who

(ii)

Philip writes to his brother Francis, who is now working for Matilda's son, Henry of Anjou. Philip describes the chaos and famine in England. Henry has been waiting for the right moment and he invades in January 1153.

A traitor (Remigius?) gives William the location of Just John's hideout in the forest. William goes there with an army, ready to wipe out forever the outlaws and especially Richard. But the outlaw camp is newly deserted: they have all gone to join Henry's invading army.

(iii)

After some months of fighting, Philip and Francis negotiate a deal whereby Stephen remains king and Henry becomes his heir and successor.

The following year Stephen dies and Henry duly becomes king. Richard is rewarded with the earldom and Ann has the satisfaction of throwing William out of Shiring castle.

## Chapter 16

Richard is almost as bad a landlord as William was. Lifge has not prepared him for estate management - fighting is all he is good for. And with stupefying ingratitude he refuses to hand over the quarry to Philip.

The accession of Henry II and a good harvest in 1154 end the depression and Philip starts building again. William is reduced to the status of knight, with a handful of manors centred on the village of Hamleigh. Funds for his new monastery dry up and the builders return to Kingsbridge.

(ii)

William may be down but he is not out. He borrows a large sum of money from (a reluctant) Malachi and buys for himself the office of Sheriff. He uses this position to enrich himself and oppress the monastery.

For years the leading townsmen have been pressing for Borough status, which would make them independent of the sheriff. It would also make them independent of Philip, and he has always opposed the idea; but now he supports it. But the king refuses.

(iii)

Richard kills a man in a drunken brawl. Sheriff William gleefully proposes to arrest him. Richard takes sanctuary in the monastery.

This puts Philip in an awkward position. He is not going to hand Richard over to William, but he cannot shelter a murderer indefinitely. With characteristic deviousness, he resolves the problem by persuading Richard to join the Knights Templar and go to Jerusalem, where he will find plenty of fighting.

Ann then takes over the estate - and immediately opens the quarry to Philip. Cathedral building goes on at double speed.

Chapter 17

Richard is killed in Jerusalem. Ann inherits the estate, and the title passes to Alfred, who is still her legitimate husband.

## BOOK SIX

1170 - 1172

1170 - 117218. How Philip became Bishop of Kingsbridge

- (i) The Malachi riot
- (ii) The Geoffrey trial
- (iii) The return of Becket

19. How the cathedral was completed

- (i) The death of Becket
- (ii) Loose ends

## Chapter 18

The office of sheriff does not bring in as much money as William anticipated, and he cannot repay Malachi. He tries to liquidate the creditor instead of the debt. he spreads a rumour that malachi mrudered a Christian child at Easter (a common medieval scare story=. Philip protects Malachi from the threatened lynching, but at great cost to his standing in the town. He realises that the town he created has grown, like a son, into something he can no longer control.

(ii)

Geoffrey, the abandoned baby from Chapter 1, is now in his twenties and Philip proudly makes him kitchener of the priory, an important post. Waleran now alleges that Georffrey is Philip's illegitimate son. Philip is arraigned before an ecclesiastical court, accused of fornication and nepotism.

Ellen comes out of hiding to tell the true story of Geoffrey. **Hearing** this is a deeply emotional event for Philip, who has treated Geoffrey as his own son.

jack turns the tables on Waleran by persuading his mother to talk about the death of henry Shareburg. She says that henry was innocent. She does not know why the prior of Kiggstidge testified against him, but she does know that the other two false witnesses were rewarded for theri perjury: Waleran became archdeacon and Percy became lord of Hamleigh and the surrounding villages

Remigius, the now elderly sub-prior, confesses that the old prior knew perfectly well that jack Shareburger was innocent, and the knowledge that he had helped to hang an honest man haunted him for the rest of his life and was the reason he became lethargic and allowed the monastery to decline into the state it was in when Philip took over.

Waleran denies everything, but the scandal is enough to force the AR archbishop to move him, and he becomes Bishop of Shrewsbury.

And still Jack does not know why they killed his father.

(iii)

Waleran persuades the king to nominate William as Bishop of Kingsbridge. This proposal is of course outrageous and the monks refuse point-blank to go through with the election. Henry then authorises William and Alfred to "compel their obedience". They assemble a force of knights.

Philip is warned of this by his brother Francis, and slips away. The rest of the monks barricade themselves in. William besieges the monastery but stops short of bloodshed.

Philip sees Archbishop Thomas, in exile in France after quarrelling with the king. Philip and Francis negotiate a compromise deal which enables Thomas to return to England. Thomas then nominates Philip as Bishop of Kingsbridge and the monks elect him.

## Chapter 19

Waleran now foments a conspiracy to murder the archbishop, using William as his agent, giving him absolution in advance.

By chance Philip is at Canterbury when the assassins come (29 December 1172) and he witnesses the murder. It seems to him that all the progress made in his lifetime by the Church and by England has been wiped out by this act of barbarism.

Then, in the depths of his despair, with the corpse of Thomas in front of him, he recalls how in previous crises he has won through by clinging on the help of ordinary people: such as when it seemed the cathedral would be built at Shirign, until he raised volunteers from all over the country to begin building at Kingsbridge; and such as when William was about to attack them and they built a town wall in a day. Even this murder could be turned into a triumph, he realises.

He pulls a bloody sword out of the still-warm body and carries it into the street, crying the crime aloud. In no time at all Canterbury is in a ferment. In the following days and weeks Philip carries the sword from town to town, retelling the story of the murder. All England, and eventually all Christendom, is horrified, and King Henry is completely humbled by public opinion.,

(ii)

Philip is confirmed as Bishop of Kingsbridge. Geoffrey becomes prior.

Jack's son, who has followed in his father's footsteps and studied architecture in Europe, comes home with a new concept, stained glass, and begins installing it in the cathedral.

Following the death of Archbishop Thomas, Bishop Waleran is stripped of all offices. He finally realises that God has got destined him for greatness.

after all. He undergoes a genuine change of heart, and begs to be accepted as a monk at Kingsbridge Priory. Geoffrey accepts him, warning him that he will never be given even the humblest of monastic offices but will always remain a simple monk. One day in his cell, dressed in the monks' homespun habit, shaven-headed and barefoot, Waleran finally tells Jack the truth about his father. The sinking of the White Ship was perpetrated by barons who resented the strong rule of Henry I because it circumscribed their freedom to do as they pleased in their territories. J~~Henry~~ Shareburg survived the wreck and knew of the conspiracy. He was kept under wraps at Kingsbridge for a while, but when it became clear that the conspirators would not be able to shake Henry's power, the man who knew too much had to be killed. Waleran was given conspirator - was given the job of organising it, and Percy Hamleigh faked the evidence.

And now the wheel comes full circle as Percy's son William is hanged for his part in the murder of Archbishop Thomas.

Finally Philip, as Bishop, grants Ann the annulment, and she and Jack are married in the finished cathedral.

### Epilogue

When Jack dies he is buried in the cathedral he spent his life building.

After the service Ann walks around, remembering the trials, the delays, the battles, the tragedies and the lives that were lost in the building of this great church. Even in her grief she feels glad that she had the privilege of knowing and loving this extraordinary man. Everywhere she looks, she sees his personality - his skill, his wit, his intellect, his love of beauty and his joy in life - all embodied in stone. As long as this cathedral stands, Ann thinks, Jack will be alive.

The end