

ALBERT ZUCKERMAN, D.F.A.  
JUDITH EHRLICH  
MARJORIE BAIR

August 2, 1978

Mr. Ken Follett

Dear Ken,

Two more thoughts about YELLOWCAKE PIRATES.

First, I agree with Anthony and with Felicia here in our office that we have some sort of problem with Suza who doesn't in your outline seem to be organic to the story. It occurred to me that she and Dickstein might have had a relationship while she was still a child. Ashford, the scholar and absent-minded professor might have had little or no time to be a father or companion; and Dickstein ~~might well~~ as a student and family friend might have taken a special interest in her, which could be a memory that as a young adult she still treasures, and all that would help lead into their adult relationship. What do you think?

*Something like that*

My other thought was that the prologue might perhaps be expanded into two chapters rather than just one, the point being to expand and enrich the relationship between your three principals as young man. If they were friends and/or friendly rivals as students, perhaps even roommates, I think the subsequent drama would have greater poignancy and emotional impact; and if you can think up a way to do this, it might be a good idea.

And now I'll leave you alone on this until you get here.

Love,

Al

*Again: too contrived?*

AZ:sr

*P.S. Is Mary coming?*  
*P.P.S. Ken, your reservations are set: Biltmore. Begins at 10am on the 16<sup>th</sup> of August until August 24<sup>th</sup>. Confirmation to be sent one double room at the*

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*& I will forward it on to you. Now, for the typewriter... ! Was must write Sue*