

# FUTURA PUBLICATIONS LIMITED

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6th March 1979

Ken Follett Esq.,  


Dear Ken,

## TRIPLE

First emphatically, my sincerest congratulations on an excellent thriller. The control and confidence of your writing have taken a leap forward, even since EYE OF THE NEEDLE. It moves with rare verve and is a thoroughly satisfying and convincing novel. I particularly enjoyed the political chess in the KGB. And the humour of agent following agent following agent. The Buffalo taxi-driver, too, should become immortal!

There are a few points which I noted while reading the manuscript. Over to you, for consideration.

1. P.13. 'Don't,damn you, I'll scream' is not consistent with 'her face, flushed with pleasure.'
2. P.40. 'Burglarized'. American-isms do grate. Do they ever say 'burgle'? !!
3. Is '3' your lucky number?

Schultz; apartment 3 X  
3 yale skeleton keyes X  
3 bedrooms  
P.47. 3 days  
P.67. 3 keys  
P.79. 3 people  
P.100. 3 surveillance vehicles  
P.166. 3 different people  
P.181. 3 minutes  
P.216. 3 cranes  
P.223. 3 years  
P.226. 3 days  
P.227. 3 a.m.

P.259. 3 days  
P.260. 3 other men; 3 of the men.  
P.261. 3 reasons  
P.316. 3 men  
P.330. 3 detachments  
P.339. 3 spare magazines  
P.341. 3 teams  
P.343. 3 boats

Quite a catalogue. It might be wise to change the number on some occasions.

4. P.61. 'Oh stop it, you'll have me in tears'. I feel that your Dickstein would have been more likely to snort than reply with those words.
5. P.107. Dickstein's thoughts re the nightclub in Rue Dicks is <sup>m</sup>'wildly surprised to find it unexceptional'. More likely that this impression would have been gained on his first visit. P.74.
6. P.119. Rostov. Probable that he would have known the purpose of Euratom.
7. P.217. In chapter eleven you take on the role of narrator. I doubt the wisdom of changing your style at that stage. P.247 'Abdel (though ~~net~~ <sup>not</sup> was not his name'). Assume he is Saman P.310. Safer to tell the reader to avoid a 'who's he?' disrupting thought.
8. Vaguely around P.300, I feel that a final visit to the KGB would have been excellent counterpoint. It would be one way of having another breath of the gorgeous humour - before all the fast and furious action.
9. The Battle - when the Coparelli is boarded is fabulous; breath-taking tension and Suza's bravery is truly inspiring.

I don't think the rescue of Suza works so well. It's all rather contrived. Perhaps it would be an idea to have Suza jump overboard (with lifebelt) when the Karla's fire alarm goes. The salt water on her burns would be agony, but it might at least save her from being badly scarred. The ship is likely to blow up with or without outside help. And then confusion could explain Suza's escape. Or Rostav maybe wouldn't care if she did go overboard. Who's going to save her? Drowning is what she deserves.

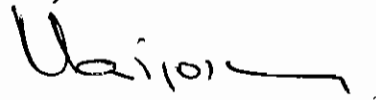
The Epilogue would explain Rostov's fate.

Perhaps some of these thoughts may be of interest.

No matter what, we have all got a winner.

All best wishes,

Yours,

  
MARJORY CHAPMAN

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