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9th March 1993

Ken Follett
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SENT BY FAX: 352 5168

Dear Ken

RE: A DANGEROUS FORTUNE

Here are the queries in full. I wish I had not had to do a rushed job on this second draft, but I'm confident that anything I, Al or Dell have missed will be picked up at copy-editing stage, when I'll go through the script again.

Do you think the nitrate question needs a brief author's note? Though I'm happy if you're happy.

Basically, I think you've done a grand job of enrichment. Peta (my editorial assistant) who came to the novel for the first time, absolutely loved it. Hugh's character, which concerned me as you know, is much stronger, and everyone who deserves it gets their comeuppance.

Any thoughts on the family tree?

See you Friday.

All the best



Jane Wood



A DANGEROUS FORTUNE / Ken Follett - Editorial Notes

Page	Line	Comment
x 15		Wouldn't Hugh and Tonio wait for Peter, or wouldn't Hugh at least ask Tonio if he was coming?
? 44		The Pilaster nose as a 'big curved beak' or big blade - the same description every time. See P 26 and elsewhere below.
x 46		Would a farm boy be fair-skinned?
✓ 47		Joseph, Samuel, Joel, (see query below P 60)
x 51		We already know the history of Tobias Pilaster, see P 12 and 17. How about changing to 'But after his father's tragic suicide, Hugh had left...'?
✓ 60	(queried before)	Joseph, Samuel etc. Methodist Pilasters have very Jewish names and appearance with their noses! OK?
x 62		Madeleine's nose. The references start to become repetitive.
✓ 71		No need to repeat 'Hugh's father, now dead'?
x 85		<u>Looked an inquiry</u> OK?
✓ 86		Lobster salad again (see Augusta's earlier 'drum') - OK?
x 89		Is it possible for a Jewish girl to have a turned up nose? Do I sound racist?
✓	(queried before)	Chestnut hair and pale eyelashes sounds unlikely. I could not describe eyelashes that are nearly white as pretty.
x 114		The Pilaster nose again - 'beak-like'.
x 121		Queried before Hugh not a <u>little</u> lad? Delete little?
✓ 120-124	- queried before	I have started to become aware of the girls' language. I really don't know how they would have spoken, but this seems a little over the top. At any rate it makes the reader stop and think about it, which I think is wrong. It also gives the wrong impression of Maisie, who is in fact not a

- 120-124 - queried before
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- ✓ 152
You've answered my previous query why did he wait seven years? But it raises another one - why did David Middleton approach Samuel Pilaster? Why not Edward, Joseph or Augusta - ie the immediate family?
- ? 156
Should Micky pause before saying Yes? P157 - Does it give the game away too soon that Micky is the murderer? ?
- ✓ 161
Lobster salad again?
- ✗ 169 6 up
'Aye'- Sounds odd now you've dropped dialect, and she no longer hails from Scotland. *Gentles say Aye.*
- ✓ 178 6
'He was proud...' repetitious theme from P 176, 2 up 'He was thrilled...' OK?
- ✗ 215
By the time Joseph and the servants have arrived on the stairs/landing, would Maisie still be naked? *Yes*
- ✓ 224
I don't think Maisie would cry in front of Augusta.
- ✓ 226 bot
Would Augusta really send Hugh to bed? Wouldn't she just say 'Now, goodnight'?
- ✓ 228
Micky lives in Southwark. P72 you said Walworth. OK?
- ✗ 244
Hugh continued to fold clothes? (Dotty already folding them.)
- ✗ 244
If Hugh's mother in eighth year of widowhood, can Dotty be six (P242)? *Yes.*
- ✓ 251
I queried this before. It seems unlikely that Maisie hasn't already realised that she's pregnant. If she genuinely hasn't, then her reaction here, and the whole conversation with April, is remarkably flippant - the curse, one fuck, etc. I worried that some of this language sticks out like a sore thumb.

- 256 7 up Danny was 14 when he ran away, but here he says he was 13 and working on the railways in the States?
- X 258 top There are huge emotions at play here (Maisie and Danny meeting up, Maisie being pregnant, etc). We seem to be skating over them somewhat. Needs a bit more thought I think?
- X 261 It is September and Papa Miranda has been in London since May. Why has he only just told Micky of his plans. Shouldn't he have made a trip back to Cordova in the interim, and return enraged that no progress has been made?
- ✓ 265 It seems odd that Samuel still comes to tea as though everything were normal. Since his debacle with Augusta, he behaves as though it never happened. OK?
- X 270 I like this new sex at deathbed scene, but can't believe they both come barely touching each other. *It's a dry hump.*
- ✓ 282 Repetitious description of the three women, particularly Madeleine's nose! Description of Augusta only here perhaps?
- ✓ 282 Has Hugh been away five years (P273) or six years, as here? Is Dotty 12 or 13 (P274)?
- X 300 Would it not have occurred to the worldly Augusta that her son might be homosexual? *No.*
- ✓ 307 Do you think Augusta's adoration of Edward is fully explained? Blood is thicker than water, so she will naturally fight for him, but her blindness to his true character seems odd.
- X 310 Wounded him deeply six years ago? See queries about P282 etc.
- X 316 How do you do Duke is so clearly a social gaffe that maybe you should say so? *No it's not.*
- ✓ 316 Six years older?
- ✓ 317 I still think Danny turning up in Kingsbridge is odd. He doesn't know the Duke. How does he know Maisie is there?
- ~ 326 Why was Bertie not passed off as Solly's child? Who was to know? *?*

!!

- ✓ 333 Nipples don't change dramatically after breastfeeding, and cigarette ends seems an odd simile for the period?
- X 363 Why isn't Joseph considered high society? He is one of the richest men in the world. Later on, we discover that Hugh had an invitation, so surely Joseph and Augusta would have had one too?
- X 371 bot We've already heard Augusta's scheme. This is repetitious?
- ✓ 375 5 David Middleton has never met Hugh. This very direct 'coming to the point', seems rather ill-mannered?
- ✓ 378 Is it odd that we never meet Strang? Did he die, or never visit London, or leave for the colonies?
- 414 Expression 'groaned inwardly' already used a few times. Can you trace on your word search?
- ✓ 419 I really baulk at cute in this novel.
- ✓ 427 We've already had Hugh reading THE DUCHESS OF SODOM - OK?
- ✓ 428 Isn't Micky incriminating himself by ignoring the hotel clerk? If he replied that he was visiting a friend, he would not draw attention to himself?
- X 433 Would Emily really not know what a brothel is?
- ✓ 445 9 Augusta is frequently grinding her teeth. Cut?
- ✓ 463 This plan does not explain how Emily will know whether it was Micky's or Edward's child if she gets pregnant. Does this matter?
- ✓ 470 Hugh is finally offered his partnership again. No mention is ever made of how he tells Ben Greenbourne that he won't be working for Greenebourne's after all. OK?
- ✓ 478 Two months between Tonic showing Hugh the article and then Hugh finding him in hospital. Too long?
- ✓ 490 Edward buying a country house - wouldn't Micky already know about this?

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- ✓ 501/2 Six years of happiness? See queries above.
- X 512 At the beginning of Part III, should some mention be made of the fact that despite a huge enquiry by the police etc, there were still no clues as to the identity of Solly's murderer? Not mentioning it at all, makes it seem as though everyone has forgotten.
- ✓ 514 Would Hugh's hair be quite grey at 37? It seems a little young. Don't beards go white before hair usually?
- ✓ 516 Whitehaven House is hardly an example of Methodist puritanism? I would tone down a lot of Methodist puritanism?
- X 543 Why would anyone suspect Hugh was Bertie's real father, when no-one except Solly and his parents knew that Maisie was pregnant before she married Solly? *Because he pays B's school fees.*
- ✓ 544 Here Hugh's hair is silver-streaked which is fine (rather than quite grey above).
- ✓ 558 If Peter knew that Micky had stolen the money, should we not have some mention in the Prologue of how fortuitous it was for Micky that Peter was in the water hole? *No.* Also, why didn't Peter just go straight to the Head?
- ✓ 562 Augusta seems quite unperturbed by the years of deceit and blackmail which she now knows she has suffered at the hands of Micky. Wouldn't she be furious? At any rate, I feel sure there would have been a longer and fiercer battle in her mind between her love and hate for him.
- ✓ 567 Seven o'clock is evening, not afternoon?
- ✓ 613 4 It is our money, she screeched. Better?
- ✓ 619 7 Something missing?
- ✓ 623 Rose Porter was nine months pregnant in September (P 534). She has her baby in November. Better change nine months on P 534 to seven?
- ✓ 634 Final paragraph repetitious I think - Trim detail? Particularly on Methodism and meanness which we've definitely had before.

✓ 640 THE DUCHESS OF SODOM again?
 ✓ 647 5 A lot closer seems an exaggeration at this stage?
 ✓ 660 Cut A countryman? Augusta knows this.
 / 700 6 up Nora, not Maisie.