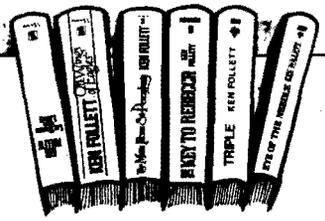


June : Narrative suspense
Sexual tension
Big set pieces.

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1. Characters larger than life.
 2. High stakes and/or personal fulfillment imbued with dramatic intensity.
 3. The dramatic question and/or the high concept (a radical or outlandish premise)
 4. Big scenes in which all the above show
 5. high background & great wealth, power, danger etc.
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KEN FOLLETT

(The) Fire in the Soul
OR
The Flame of Freedom
OR
Thanksgiving

Outline: 1st draft - *with notes*
5 November 1993

Jane : Sexual Humour

Narrative suspense

Set - piece scenes.

These things shall be! A loftier race
Than e'er the world has known shall rise
With flame of freedom in their souls
And light of knowledge in their eyes

--John Addington Symonds

Prologue: London, 1766

Peg and her father. He has spent the day thieving and has handed over the spoils to Lennox. The parish constable shows up in the evening and finds incriminating evidence. Father is taken away and Peg knows she will never see him again: she has seen hangings. She is afraid. Lennox shows up and says she can work for him. It occurs to her briefly to wonder how Lennox knew she would be alone. It is almost as if he was in with the police. But that cannot be so, and she dismisses the suspicion.

Back story: Some incident that links Jay, Lizzie and Mack in childhood. Connected with this, a rumour or suspicion that George Jamisson's fortune is founded on a horrible crime.

Part I: Scotland, 1767

Begin with Mack and his sister Esther walking to church. She shares his longing to be free but she believes he is about to do something very dangerous and she tries to talk him out of it. Better, she thinks, that he should just run away. But, he explains, then he would not be able to come back. He wants his freedom but he does not want to lose contact with Esther, his cousin Annie, his brother Saul, and Saul's son Billy, etc.

Mack believes that the vicar, as the source of moral authority, will back him up. In this he is being slightly naive. It is true that if the vicar backed him it would be difficult for the mineowner to resist. But Mack is naive to believe that the vicar will be swayed solely by argument: the mineowner is too powerful.

When Mack thinks of freedom he thinks of the pedlar that comes to the village every few months selling clothing, kitchenware, ribbons and trinkets. As a boy, ever since he started at the age of seven to do a 15-hour shift in the coal mine, Mack has envied the pedlar's ability to go to sleep as soon as he is tired and get up when he wakes up.

Mack has never read Hobbes, Locke or Rousseau, but all the same the ideas of these philosophers have filtered down through all levels of society, and Mack believes with them that the authority of the government comes from the consent of the people. By contrast, King George III and his Tory supporters argue that the authority of the king is God-given and cannot be taken away by the people.

This philosophical clash is being brought to life in political battles between king and citizens in London, Paris and Boston. The miners know about such battles from the newspapers and occasional magazines which are read aloud in the village tavern on Saturday nights. Among the journals is the "North Briton", a savagely satirical anti-government publication edited by John Wilkes.

It includes articles by a London lawyer called Caspar Gordonson. In the animated discussions that always follow these readings, Mack invariably argues that rulers may do wrong--citing Herod, David, Pontius Pilate--and that the laws enslaving miners are in fact unlawful.

Locke adds that any individual who rejects the "social contract" (a phrase introduced by Rousseau in 1763) has the option of leaving the country and going "in vacuis locis"--to empty places--which in this century means America. Mack knows about America and he has heard of people who have emigrated. But the only way poor people can get their is to sell themselves for seven years--and to Mack that is just another way of being a slave.

Also walking to church are Jay and Lizzie. Lizzie has a suitor, Stephen Alpen, worthy and sincere but deadly dull. She is drifting into marriage with him through inertia and financial pressure from her mother. Jay is a charmer, an accomplished horseman and hunter. He shares with her his fantasy of going to Virginia and taking over his family's plantation. She is seduced by this dream and hopes he will propose to her.

1. In a small coal-mining village in Lanarkshire a child is being christened. As part of the ceremony, the mine-owner presents the parents with a traditional payment called arles. In return they pledge the child to work at the mine *for life*.

Scottish miners in the eighteenth century are paid slaves. Once a man has worked a year and a day at the mine he loses his freedom. He may not change his job or travel without permission from his employer, and if he runs away he is held guilty of theft, for he has stolen another man's property, namely himself. Miners may be bought and sold between mine-owners, and in one exceptional but notorious case a miner was swapped for a donkey.

But liberty is in the air, in London, Paris and Boston, and even here. At the back of the church sits Malachi McAsh, known as Mack, 21, dark-haired and bright-eyed, passionate and brave. Like the baby at the font, Mack was pledged at birth to this mine. His energy and physical strength make him the most productive hewer of coal in the village, but he is a troublemaker. The son of an opinionated, discontented father and a pious bible-reading mother, Mack is literate, articulate and independent-minded.

He resents his servitude angrily, and longs for freedom with all his heart and soul. Ever since he reached the age of reason he has been questioning the legality and morality of miners' servitude. Recently he wrote a letter to a famous liberal lawyer in London, Frank Gordonson. The consultation cost his savings(???), but the answer changed his life. Gordonson says that while miners' slavery is perfectly legal in general, the payment of arles is a traditional custom that has no basis in Scottish or English law, and the parents cannot sell what they do not own, namely the freedom of a grown man. Once a man

reaches the age of 21 he may leave the mine--until, that is, he has worked a year and a day as an adult, whereupon he legally loses his freedom again.

This letter is now burning a hole in Mack's pocket. It means he is a free man: he can leave legitimately, without fear of pursuit, secure in the knowledge that he can return at any time to see his friends and family. *A friend of his ran away and was brought back. There is no alternative employment except salt panning, which is subject to the same laws as coal mining, and domestic service, which Mack thinks of a slavery. Everyone else is a peasant. Furthermore, "vagabonds" i.e. anyone with no fixed address, may be seized by mineowners and forcibly put to work.*

Mack plans to get a berth on a coal ship--which would enable him to outstrip pursuit--and go to London, and make his fortune there as a free man. N.B. Neither Esther nor Annie could go with him, because women cannot be sailors. But he must make the letter public, and the place to do this is in church.

However, an unexpected development has made the situation more dramatic than he intended. The mine-owner, George Jamisson, lives in London, and is normally represented at these ceremonies by his manager. But he is making a rare visit to his Scottish castle, and today he is in church with his family and guests, all in their wigs and silk stockings and petticoats.

Jamisson, 55, has a wide range of business and political interests. He runs six lucrative coal mines, a West Indian sugar plantation with a thousand slaves, a tobacco plantation in Virginia and a fleet of merchant ships. In London he is a magistrate and Alderman of Wapping, which means he is responsible for policing the waterfront. He is a big, beefy man with hearty appetites and a jovial manner, but though shrewd he is shallow, and when his interests are threatened he is ruthless and brutal.

But Mack is nothing if not resolute, and when the parents make the pledge he stands up, interrupts the service, and says the ceremony is meaningless and the promise is unenforceable.

The father of the baby is Mack's cousin Saul, and he protests about Mack's interruption, for he wants the money.

The vicar tries to contradict him but is thrown into confusion by the lawyer's letter--for this is a society in which questions of legality and rights are not abstractions but everyday issues. *At first the vicar backs him up. Then, under pressure from the Jamissons, he backs down, to Mack's dismay. The vicar will later admit to being ashamed of this.*

Then the mine-owner's son steps in. He is Jonathan Jamisson, 25, known as Jay. Handsome, athletic and personable, Jay is a sincere but unimaginative defender of all that is traditional, especially his own rights, privileges and profits. He is an officer in the British army, but this is only intermittently a full-time job, and he spends most of his time with his father, running the business empire he will eventually inherit.

In a confrontation that will be the beginning of a lifelong enmity, Jay

tries to overwhelm Mack with his status. This is only partially successful: Mack is intimidated but not silenced. When Jay condescends to argue, Mack proves more than a match for him. This infuriates Jay who finally snatches the lawyer's letter and tears it up. Mack is devastated to lose it but in a way he has triumphed, for the gesture convinces everyone that Mack must be in the right. The service ends in uproar.

Outside the church Mack is accosted by one of the Jamissons' guests. She is Lizzie Montworth, 20, beautiful and spirited, wilful and proud. Flushed with indignation, she tells him he deserves to be horsewhipped. Mack replies coolly: "I doubt that you've ever seen the inside of a coal mine, lady, so you're speaking from ignorance, which is never wise."

2. Lizzie is piqued by this taunt, and when the party returns to the castle she asks Jay to take her down the mine. He tells her it is no place for a lady, but this only inflames her curiosity, and she proposes to disguise herself as a man. George Jamisson says patronisingly that he is much too beautiful to get away with that.

Beneath his charm Jay is completely ruthless about achieving his aims. He is a power freak, believing that enslavement is the only way to make the common people work. In Virginia he wants to rule over hundreds of slaves and perhaps become the nearest thing to king--Governor of Virginia.

Jay and his father are worried about the situation in America. The Revenue Act, imposing duties on various imports into America, is supposed to raise the money to pay for defence of the colonies, but the colonists are outraged, and the proposed boycott of British goods will be very bad for trade.

George has often hinted that he will give the Virginia property to Jay, but when it comes to the crunch he never signs it over. Now Jay tells George he is thinking of proposing to Lizzie. George immediately says Great, now we can mine the widow's land. Jay coolly says No: she doesn't want to tear up the turf. But the land will be yours, says George. In the end Jay offers him a deal: he will let George mine the land if George gives him the plantation. George accepts.

He warns his son that Lizzie will be a troublesome wife. But they agree that once she is Mrs Jamisson, Jay can do as he likes with her. It is clear to us that Jay does not love Lizzie and she should not marry him.

George Jamisson now gets his son alone for a few moments and asks whether Jay is attracted to Lizzie. Jay responds with enthusiasm. For him Lizzie has the appeal of a mettlesome horse that needs to be tamed. But, he adds, she would be a troublesome wife. Man to man, George confides that such women have to be indulged just until the wedding ceremony is over--then they may easily be brought into line. Jay notes that his father is very quick to talk weddings, and George confesses an ulterior motive: Lizzie's widowed mother owns a bankrupt Scottish estate that almost certainly bears coal, and George would dearly love to take her land into the family holdings and mine it.

Jay is keen to please his formidable father and lusts after Lizzie, so he agrees to propose to her.

At lunch the party is joined by a fresh-faced young clergyman who begins to behave badly after a glass or two of wine--flirting with the women and using strong language. When he chokes over his cigar he is revealed to be Lizzie in disguise. Having been completely fooled by her disguise Jay and George are disarmed, and Jay now agrees to take her down the mine.

3. Despite Lizzie's predictable reaction to Mack's outburst in church, she is in fact something of a nonconformist. Ever since puberty she has resented being a girl. Her individuality is suffocated by polite society, in which upper-class women have little to do but dress up and gossip. She hates restrictive corsets and cumbersome petticoats. She is interested in guns and horses and sports, and she prefers male company to female any time.

Like most young women, she finds Jay appealing: he is nice-looking, charming and rich. But for Lizzie there is a further, crucial attraction. His worldwide possessions promise a life of travel and adventure to whomever becomes his wife. Marriage to Jay would free her, she thinks.

Next morning she is eager and excited as she approaches the pit head at the start of the shift.

Access to the coal face is by a spiral stair that winds around the inside of the 200-ft. deep shaft. There is no mechanical lifting gear except for a water pump powered by a horse. Lizzie and Jay descend the long staircase and enter one of the tunnels.

Before the miners begin work they test for the explosive gas they call firedamp (methane). One of the miners is designated fireman and paid extra for doing this dangerous job. The post is held by Mack McAsh. Lizzie watches while Jay explains. The only known way to test for the gas is (believe it or not) with a lighted candle. Mack advances into the tunnel, periodically lifting his candle slowly to roof level (where the lighter-than-air gas gathers) while watching the flame for the tell-tale blue tinge. Lizzie begins to grasp what a dangerous place a coal mine is.

Testing over, the miners start work. Each man works a twelve-foot-wide section of the coal face called a room. Between one room and the next a pillar of coal, also twelve feet wide, is left untouched, to support the roof. The rooms remind Lizzie of the small chapels off the aisle of a great cathedral, and the churchlike effect is heightened by the flickering candlelight.

A miner begins his work by undercutting the coal face at floor level, making an indentation across the width of the room. Then he uses wedges to break up the coal above the indentation, causing it to crumble and fall in lumps.

When the miners have been working for a while the bearers arrive to begin carrying the coal to the pit head. Lizzie is surprised to see that they are mostly women and children. Jay explains that a miner is paid by the weight

of coal he delivers to the pit head, and if he is married his family to do the carrying, to save him the cost of employing a bearer. The miners work 10 hours a day, the bearers 15. Men, women and children drink gallons of strong beer, eat a lot of red meat, and die young. Their earnings are relatively high--three times the pay of domestic servants--but still mine-owners can never find enough workers; hence the slave system.

The women and children shovel the coal into huge baskets called corves. It takes two people to lift a corf on to the back of a third, where it is secured with a strap around the bearer's forehead. She usually carries her candle between her teeth.

One of the black-faced miners now asks Lizzie if she would like to feel the weight of a corf about to be toted by "a young lad just like yourself, sir." Over Jay's protests she agrees. She collapses under the weight, and is saved from injury by the miner, who knew what would happen. She falls into his arms and feels him freeze as he realises this is a woman's body. Their eyes meet, and in a flash she recognises Mack, and he her.

Mack repeats the gas test and finds a faint blue tinge. The overman, reluctant to halt production if the amount of gas should be small, tells Mack to test other locations. Mack says pointedly that if the Jamissons would pay to sink ventilation shafts there would be no need to risk lives.

Jay is not willing to risk his own life or Lizzie's and they leave. Climbing the 200-ft. shaft, Lizzie has to stop frequently for rests. When she does so the women and children climb past her with their corves full. She sees that some of the younger and smaller ones are crying with pain and exhaustion, but they are hurried on by their mothers, who will not allow them to rest before they reach the top.

Then the alarm bell rings, and Jay picks up Lizzie and carries her the rest of the way.

4. Jay has found that the gas is spreading rapidly. (*He talks to Annie & Esther about this.*) It is his job as fireman to get rid of it by the only known method, which is to set fire to it.

At the foot of the shaft, where the gas cannot accumulate, a large torch is made and fixed upright to a board that can be pulled along by a string. In the tunnel, where the gas is rapidly thickening, a shallow trench is dug. Mack wraps himself in wet rags and lies in the trench. The men hand him the string attached to the torch. Then they lay a thick board over him, pour more water over the board, and hurry away.

Mack slowly pulls the blazing torch into the tunnel. When he feels the gas is about to explode. to his horror he hears a child crying and saying: "Where's everybody?"

He can guess what has happened. Boys start work at the age of seven, doing simple tasks such as opening and closing ventilation doors; and at that age they often fall asleep during their 15-hour shift. This boy obviously slept

through the alarm.

Mack leaps out of the trench and runs to the child. It is Saul's boy Billy. There is no room for two in the trench so he picks up the boy and runs for the shaft. The gas blows just before he gets there. He is thrown to the ground and suffers minor burns but escapes serious injury, and the child is unscathed.

At the pit head Jay Jamisson congratulates him. Mack scorns Jay's praise. Tomorrow is his 22nd birthday, he announces. He is one day short of servitude. But he is not going to work the fatal one-year-and-a-day. He is leaving.

5. Jay is seething with rage after a second humiliation by Mack McAsh. He and his father agree that, whatever the legalities may be, the Scottish coal industry will be crippled if young miners are allowed to leave at the height of their productive life. McAsh must be stopped. *They justify their harshness by patriotism: the country needs their coal. However, there is some difference between them about how violent they should be. Jay is more hardline, George more crafty.*

Jay is aware that Lizzie's thoughtless conservatism has been shaken by the visit to the mine, and he does not tell her what he plans to do with Mack.

6. The Jamissons are not Mack's only opposition. His bearer Annie is in love with him, and she now begs him not to leave. He is attracted to her but his yearning for freedom is stronger. When he stands firm, she in desperation tries to seduce him. He cannot resist the temptation, and with a sense that he is sealing his doom he lies down with her.

But before they can consummate the act of love, Jay and three of his father's gamekeepers burst in and drag Mack away.

He is taken to the pithead and subjected to a traditional punishment, "going the rown". When the miners arrive for their next shift they see him tied to the water-pump horse, forced to run around backward in a circle all day.

7. Despite Jay's efforts Lizzie sees Mack's humiliation. She has misgivings about marrying Jay and will not accept his proposal.

Now George Jamisson contacts Lizzie's mother's creditors. He takes over her debts and, through a nominee, refuses to renew her mortgages, in the hope that she will pressure Lizzie to accept Jay.

8. Mack is released at the end of the shift and is reminded by Jay that he has been at the mine a year and a day and is therefore a slave for life. Mack decides to run away.

Esther vows to follow him one day, saying: "I will never marry, for if I should then I would be stuck here for life."

Jay, anticipating Mack's flight, posts men at the bridge on the only road out of the valley. Mack decides to swim the river at night.

Lizzie, troubled and restless, slips away from the house party. As she stands on the river bank, swathed in furs, she sees Mack swimming across, his clothes in a bundle on his head. He emerges from the freezing water. Lizzie has never seen a naked man. His skin seems very white in the moonlight.

He sees her and fears she will give the alarm. But she lets him go.

9. Lizzie learns of her mother's difficulties and feels guilty about refusing Jay.

George suggests to Jay that they let Mack go without pursuit. He has failed to carry his point about the legality of slavery, and they will be well rid of such a troublemaker.

Jay presents this decision to Lizzie as an act of mercy. It convinces her that she was wrong to suspect Jay of brutality, and she decides to marry him.

Part II: London, 1768

Begin with Peg. Conditions in London. Peg does a day's work robbing, in collaboration with Colin Anglesey. She meets Mack.

1. Mack arrives in London during the hardest winter in living memory. The Thames is frozen, the price of bread has doubled because of a European grain shortage, and unemployment has been increased by an American boycott of British goods. He is not able to find work at first.

Early on he is robbed by a 12-year-old girl. He catches her and she talks him round. She is Margaret Knapp, known as Quick Peg. Her father, an out-of-work tailor, turned to crime and was hanged for stealing, and she now lives by theft. The goods she steals are fenced by Sidney Lennox, 40, landlord of The Sun tavern in Wapping. Lennox has a number of more-or-less shady business interests. Among other things he is an "undertaker", organising gangs of coal-heavers to unload ships in the Thames.

Peg now takes Mack to The Sun and introduces him to Lennox, who offers him a job as a coal-heaver. Shovelling the coal out of the holds of ships into Thames barges is brutally hard work, done mainly by muscular Irish immigrants. On his first day Mack is surprised by the vast quantities of beer and gin sent on to the coal ship by Lennox. The men sweat buckets and drink gallons, but those who slake their thirst on gin are, not surprisingly, accident-prone.

At the end of the week he goes to collect his wages at The Sun. The men are kept waiting all evening, during which time they run up big bills at the bar. When at last the money is paid Mack is dismayed by the deductions, not just for liquor but for such things as rent of a shovel, in consequence of which his actual wage is about a tenth of what he has nominally earned. He vows to drink less next week.

2. *Begin with Jay's daily life with his regiment. He wants to get transferred to the colonies. He will do this by proving how good they are at suppressing dissent at home.*

Also, the Jamissons are worried about unrest at home and abroad. Lennox betrays someone to them. They tell him to bring them political subversives.

There is no police force of any kind in Britain at this period. Order is kept by a network of magistrates--generally prosperous merchants or landowners--assisted by parish constables and paid informants. As a last resort the magistrates have the power to call out the military.

George Jamisson is one such magistrate, and Sidney Lennox is his most important informant. The reason Lennox has prospered so long in his shady enterprises is that he protects himself by regularly betraying peripheral gang members to Jamisson. In fact Peg's father was one of his victims.

3. *Preparations are going ahead for the wedding of Lizzie, who is the envy of every girl in London. Her doubts about Jay recur but she is not the type to change her mind once she has committed herself. Or, the Jamissons bring pressure to bear through her mother's creditors.*

Perhaps Jay and Lizzie go foxhunting?

4. *On Mack's second payday he finds his deductions are the same, although he has drunk very little of Lennox's liquor. This angers him and he argues with Lennox--to the consternation of Peg, who begs him not to make an enemy of such a powerful man. In the end Lennox gives him his money--and fires him.*

Better if Mack protests about the ill-treatment of someone else. He is angry but accepting of his own misfortune, but is galvanised into action by someone more helpless.

He goes looking for work again. The other gangs of coal-heavers are all run on the same lines, for the tavern-keepers have monopolised the supply of shovels; and anyway no undertaker will employ Mack now. He is unable to find any kind of work. He begins to find fault with himself for always asserting his rights. *Set up the bare-knuckle fight.*

5. *As a last fling Lizzie, again dressed as a man, goes to a bare-knuckle prizefight. She knows Mack will be there. She is not squeamish--quite the reverse--but the spectacle is too brutal for her to enjoy it.*

One of the contestants is Mack McAsh. He is immensely strong and he fights bravely but he lacks the killer instinct and he is defeated.

Afterwards she seeks him out and they talk. He begins to fall in love with her.

6. *Mack's spirits lift after this meeting. He pays a visit to Frank*

Gordonson, the lawyer whose letter started it all. Gordonson is intrigued to meet the liberty-loving coal miner. *And he hates the Jamissons for the selfish and cruel people they are.* He tells Mack that the coal-heavers' "liquor payments" are a long-standing scandal. Parliament has tried to regulate the business but the undertakers have found ways around the legislation.

Together they devise an alternative ganging system and get authorization from an enlightened magistrate to implement it.

7. Lizzie marries Jay. Mack watches mournfully from a distance. Peg is openly scornful of his romantic feelings.

Peg is a child and will remain so throughout our story but she nourishes a hopeless romantic love for Mack.

Lizzie finds her first experience of sex a little disappointing but she hopes it will improve.

8. Lennox and the other undertakers are deeply threatened by the McAsh-Gordonson initiative. Lennox, helped by Jamisson, persuades coal shippers to boycott the new gangs. The coal-heavers go on strike. Peg becomes a runner for the strikers. *More personal: what Mack & Peg do, also Colin Anglesey and another coal-heaver.*

9. This historically true dispute is part of a wave of industrial unrest washing over London in the spring of 1768. Hatters are on strike, sawyers are burning sawmills, tailors march on Parliament and seamen immobilise the port of London. The charismatic liberal leader John Wilkes wins an election and is jailed. American merchants pay his legal costs. Crowds chant "Wilkes and Liberty" to the fury of King George III. Meanwhile in Boston a mob stones the Customs Commissioners.

The Jamissons are threatened by demands for liberty on either side of the Atlantic. Their profits are cushioned by a raft of protective legislation, from the rules that enslave Scottish coal miners to the law that forbids Boston's rum distillers to buy their molasses from French sugar plantations that rival Jamisson's. Jamisson is leader of a group of hard-line magistrates who meet to plan drastic action.

They move the troops in on several fronts. Outside the King's Bench Prison, where Wilkes is incarcerated, Jay's regiment fires into a crowd of protestors, killing 11 people in what rapidly becomes known as the Massacre of St George's Fields. *This set piece forms the climax of Part II. Each of the four PoV characters is there. Continuous with the massacre, Mack and Peg are arrested and Jay gets his transfer to Virginia.* Two regiments are dispatched to Boston to restore order. The coal-heavers' leaders, identified by Lennox, are rounded up and charged with treason. Jay takes great pleasure in personally arresting Mack.

The clampdown succeeds and order is restored.

10. Lennox is angry with Peg and all who sided with Mack and the coal-heavers. He informs on her to Jamisson and she is arrested. She realises that Lennox has betrayed her and must have done the same to her father. She is convicted, but because of her youth she is not hanged but transported to America.

This is not the soft option it may seem. On a good crossing one in ten convicts will die en route; on a bad crossing half of them will die. When they reach the other side they will be sold as slaves for seven years (a period that may be increased as a punishment for running away or other offenses). The harshness of their lives, and the unfamiliar disease climate of America, means that few return.

11. Mack is sentenced to death for treason, but Lizzie appears in court and pleads for him, and his sentence is commuted to transportation. *Gordonson is Mack's lawyer. The vicar from the village turns up, still guilty about having let Jamisson bully him. He will take the news of the trial back to the village.*

Jay is enraged by her intervention, and when she remains defiant he beats her.

She considers running away. Then his regiment, with its experience of crushing dissent, is posted to America to put down rebellious colonists. The prospect of a new life on the other side of the world excites Lizzie and she decides to stay with Jay.

12. The criminal underworld is shocked by what Lennox has done to Peg, and several people inform on him--*led by Colin Anglesey*. Lennox too is transported.

Part III: The Crossing, 1768

1. Lizzie & Jay cross the Atlantic in a warship of the Royal Navy. The mischievous cabin boys have a way of rigging a hammock so that it collapses when someone tries to climb into it. Lizzie is horrified to see a nine-year-old flogged for this offence with that cat-o'-nine-tails, a whip with nine strands of toughened rope embedded with sharp stones and shards of metal to draw blood. She intervenes and stops the flogging, which leads to another row with Jay.

She has a miscarriage.

2. The convicts cross the ocean chained in pairs, lying on wooden bunks like shelves, with insufficient headroom to sit upright. Prisoners are brought up on deck in small groups for exercise, and the younger women and men are routinely raped by the crew. During one such exercise period Mack attempts to take over the ship, but he falls and is flogged mercilessly.

The mutiny is betrayed by Lennox, who is made overseer as his reward.

Part IV: Virginia, 1769

1. Lizzie and Jay set up home on the Jamisson plantation near Fredericksburg, Virginia. *Jay's regiment is stationed here. Jay takes part in local politics, siding with the Tories against the revolutionaries, eager to clamp down on the Sons of Liberty, still plotting to become Governor. (Washington & Jefferson are both Virginians.)*

Lizzie has been looking forward to a free-and-easy outdoor life, but she is badly disappointed: women in Virginia high society are as aimless and idle as at home. Her sex life with Jay is equally dull.

She would like to run the plantation herself, especially while Jay is away fighting, but to her dismay she finds Sidney Lennox installed as overseer. She clashes with him over his ill-treatment of the slaves. He is superficially servile but subtly insubordinate. She asks Jay to get rid of him but he refuses, and Lizzie begins to wonder if there is something sinister about the relationship between the two men.

2. Mack and Peg dock at Fredericksburg, grateful to be alive. They are put up for sale just like slaves, except that they fetch a lower price than African slaves because their term is limited. The sale takes place on Fair Day, a colourful occasion when the gentry from the surrounding countryside come into town for the races. Peg and Mack hope to be sold together.

Lizzie and Mack do not expect to see one another and when their eyes meet they are both shocked.

Even more shocking, Jay--who still harbours resentment against Mack--buys him in order to torment him. He will put Mack to work in the fields and treat him worse than the black slaves.

The unsold convicts, including Peg, are bought in a job lot like remaindered books and driven up country in a herd to be sold to remote farmers.

Do not lose sight of Esher, George Jamisson, or Lizzie's mother.

3. Lizzie catches Jay in bed with a very young slave girl. She discovers that he has been abusing the slaves in this way from the very start, and that Lennox is the one who arranges everything.

From now on she keeps her bedroom door locked.

4. Mack befriends a slave, Kobe, and they talk about escape. Colonial America has few towns big enough for a fugitive to disappear into, and runaways are generally caught within a hundred miles of their origin, trying to get paid work. So Mack and Kobe plan to head for the uncharted frontier

and live off the land. Kobe has previously been slave to a pioneer farmer and so knows how to start a farm.

Mack sees the prospect of freedom at last.

5. Jay goes away to join his regiment. *Or: Jay's regiment is called into action by some local act of rebellion.* Lizzie makes Mack a house servant to get him out of Lennox's control. Mack has been in love with her for some time and this is sweet servitude. She begins to reciprocate his feelings, and passion smoulders. Mack postpones the escape, and Kobe becomes impatient.

6. Peg is bought by a farmer who treats her foully. One night she kills him and runs away. She shows up on the Jamisson plantation. Mack and Lizzie hide her. *Break this into two parts.*

7. Lizzie and Mack sleep together at last. Lizzie decides to run away with them.

Lennox finds out they are sleeping together and warns Jay.

8. Risking everything for the promise of freedom, the four of them set out: Mack, Lizzie, Kobe and Peg. *They take with them farming implements and seed. At the same time there is some kind of local rising against the British.*

At first they pass as legitimate travellers, a wealthy white woman in a covered wagon with some servants and slaves. They head for Richmond, Virginia.

Jay arrives home and sets out in pursuit of them. *Embarrassed to admit that his wife has run away from him, he puts out the story that she has been kidnapped.*

9. Peg is recognised as the suspect wanted for the murder of a farmer. The fugitives take to the trails. They pass through Charlottesville, Staunton, Fincastle, Fort Chiswell and Abingdon up into the Blue Ridge Mountains that form the western limit of settled country. After 300 miles they cross the mountains via a pass called Cumberland Gap and enter unmapped territory.

10. Jay is close on their heels but runs out of supplies and turns back at the Cumberland Gap. But he will return.

Part V: Kentucky, 1770

1. At this point in history, Kentucky is unpopulated. Both Cherokee and Shawnee hunt over it, as do a few intrepid whites, notably Daniel Boone; but nobody actually lives there. The fugitives follow the Warriors' Trail into a vast, fertile, empty land.

Free at last, Mack and Kobe stake their claims and clear their land. (In years to come they will have to regularise their title to the land, but in true pioneer fashion they will cross that bridge when they come to it.) Lizzie throws away her petticoats, puts on buckskins, and spends her days hunting the plentiful game, with Peg in tow.

2. They have their first encounter with the Cherokee and make peace.

A pair of passing trappers (*or British land surveyors?*) pick a fight with Kobe. Mack chases them away, but realises that sooner or later the outside world will catch up with them.

3. On 5 March Jay's regiment once again fires into a crowd, in an incident that will go down in history as the Boston Massacre.

Jay learns where Lizzie is and comes after her with Lennox and a platoon of his most vicious soldiers.

In Kentucky they run into a party of Cherokee hunters and massacre them.

4. Jay's men surprise Mack and Kobe and capture them. Then Lizzie and Peg rescue them.

The soldiers are attacked by the Cherokee in revenge. Jay and Lennox are tortured, scalped and left for dead.

The four fugitives resume their lives.

THE END