

KEN FOLLETT

SPECIFIC LINE COMMENTS

<i>PAGE</i>	<i>LINE</i>	<i>PART I</i>
✓ 5	2	Peggy's description of her father as 'slow' repeats ref. on <i>p.4, l. 2</i>
✓ 7	4 ✗ 10 ✓ 11	'washed out' - anachronism? 'gave <u>off</u> little heat' better I'm uneasy about Black Annie having the same name as Mack's cousin Annie (particularly as eg on this page, <i>l. 15</i> you refer to her as Annie).
✗ 8	13	'Thirst' more accurate in this context than 'hunger'
9	✓ 5 ✓ 19	'Colin explained nervously' better than 'Colin said nervously'? I can't imagine Lennox ever being 'mild'. Suggest 'Lennox said sardonically' instead of 'mildly'?
✓ 11	5-8	To avoid repetition of 'said' and to heighten drama of this scene a little, I suggest reworking as follows: 'They're coming up!' Peggy heard fear in Pa's voice. 'Who is it?' she said. 'Hide under the bedclothes!' he ordered.
✓ 12	3	See back to <i>p. 4 l. 14</i> and ref. to the the gallows on the edge of Hyde Park. We need to make clear that Tyburn Cross is one and the same.
	24	' <u>an</u> information' - okay?
✓ 13	14 15	'Peggy asked' rather than 'Peggy said'? 'Mrs Inkpen <u>said</u> ' is weak here. She's in full flow: something like 'demanded' or 'ordered' ie more emphatic.

✓14	✓12	'she stayed there' is a little vague. Prefer eg 'she remained where she was'.
	✓18	'sponging' - anachronism?
✓17	19	What did Mack's mother die of?
✓18	6	Presumably Mack and Esther were taught to read by their parents?
	✓ 13	Spelling of 'Mrs Weighel' is inconsistent (see pp. 17, 76 and 81)
	✓ 22-23	'It would change his life beyond recognition. It would set him free.' - make clear that this is Mack's point of view, rather than the narrator's.
✓19	✓4	Waking at 2.00 am and working till 5.00pm: these are the bearer's hours (see pp 50 and 75) while the Hewers work from midnight until 10.00 am. When did Mack become a hewer ie change his hours?
	✓ 8	On p. 5 of your final outline you say the mines had no holidays (Christmas had been abolished in 1641!). Presumably New Year's Eve was the exception?
✓21	25	'She exclaimed angrily' more emphatic than 'she said angrily'?
✓23	✓1	'Hallim' rather than 'Hallam'.
	✓17	Could you qualify 'everyone'?
✓29	17	'a sermon about truth' - again could you qualify a little?
✓ 31	23	'Mack declared' sounds more forceful here than 'Mack said'.
✓37	21-22	Avoid awkwardness of 'graceful' followed by 'graciously'.
✓ 40	✓ 22	'The family used it rarely' repeats 'a rare visit' on p. 21 l. 19.
	✓23-24	Makes better sense to read: 'so no improvements had been made or extensions built since...'
✓41	9	How did Olive die?
✓43	11	What exactly does Robert mean here?

	17-18	Could you explain under what circumstances a criminal was sentenced to death/transported to America, or was it purely arbitrary?
	24	'highly lucrative' better than 'very lucrative'?
45	24	Better to qualify 'the others' as 'the other two'.
47	7	Prefer 'rose to his feet' to 'got to his feet'.
	21	' <u>I will kill Robert</u> ' echoes exactly his thought on p. 45 l. 17, so need something here like 'he repeated to himself.'
	24-26	Avoid repetition of 'rather' (x3)
X50	18	'employed to enforce' is better
54	2	'Lizzie thought <u>hysterically</u> ' - a touch OTT especially for Lizzie?
69	6	Avoid this use of 'burn' in the context of what has just happened with the fire down the mine.
	11	'Seethe' better?
	11	'Something to' unnecessary here
71	23	Lady Hallim's observation here uncomfortably close to the one she made on p. 23 l. 9
73	11	use of 'dangerously' a little elliptical here - presumably you mean 'taking a risk'?
74	12	"'But what?'" Robert asked' varies the style a little here
	18	Similarly, 'Jay suggested' rather than 'Jay said'?
80	25	'blow from' rather than 'blow with'
87	1-4	This sequence would flow better if we restructure this: 'Dressed for hunting, Lizzie Hallim looked like a pretty pixie in a black fur cape and [little] leather boots. As Jay watched Robert greet her in the big cold hall of Castle Jamisson, he could see that his brother was smitten by her..'
	11	Prefer 'high' to 'not low'
88	2	'holding two dogs' better than 'having'?

100	8	Further on, on <i>p. 115</i> , we're told the river is 30 yards wide. I doubt even Mack could cross it 'in a few seconds'.
	10-12	too close to Annie's reference to Jimmy Lee (top of <i>p. 78</i>) and Mack's retort.
	19, 23, 24 and 26	Avoid repetition of 'ship' but substituting 'one' in <i>l. 24</i> .
101	22	I think we need to understand Mack's reasons for not taking his beloved Esther with him.
104	22-24	This makes it sound as if the Jamissons spend a lot of time in the castle, yet we know they rarely visit.
105	14	'William' is 'Angus' on <i>p. 90 l. 9</i> (and see <i>p. 108 l. 19</i>)
108	2 and 5	'cool' and 'she was quite something' sound kinda American contemporary to me! 'Cool' crops up again on <i>p. 110 l. 8</i> .
109	2-3	repeats Robert's observation on <i>p. 73 l. 19-20</i>
? 111	1	'deprecating' should, I think, read 'deprecativ'
112	3	'the thing' - can you be more precise here?
113	6	'The only question <u>in her mind</u> , had been...' Shows more clearly that this is what Lizzie thinks.
115	13	'She really liked' repeats her feelings on <i>p. 114 l. 3</i> and I think unnecessary here.
117	7	'with an effort' rather than 'by an effort'
123	18	'old shit' - okay for the 18th Century? and <i>p. 254 l. 7</i>
127	13	'Last Sunday...': presumably Mack is referring the incident outside the Church (<i>p. 36</i>) but what about their encounter down the mine (<i>p. 57</i>) showing her in a different light?
128	3	Was Mack wounded when the branch struck his head? (<i>p. 116 l. 18</i>)

PART II

- ~~132~~ 9 Could Colin's pocket, however roomy, really conceal a walking cane? We're told on *p. 4* that he is a small man.
- ~~133~~ 8
~~16~~ Who are 'they all'?
'all the way down the hallway...' better?
- ~~137~~ ~~4~~
~~24~~ Would Peggy, who presumably has never been to London, really be able to identify a Scottish accent?
reference to 'ship' here: should we hear a little more about Mack's passage to London? Have him tell Peggy about his journey? The first real, albeit brief mention of it isn't until *p. 331*.
- ~~140~~ 14 'asked Mack' rather than 'said Mack'?
- ~~141~~ 2 Remember Hyde Park has already been mentioned on *p. 4* in connection with the site of the gallows.
- ~~142~~ 21 Is this repetition of Lennox's description of *p. 7* deliberate here? We have in total four descriptions of him, albeit through different people's eyes:
p. 7 Peggy's view
p. 142 Jay's
p. 290 Lizzie's
p. 348 Jay's again
At the moment, the repeated descriptions seem inadvertent rather than for emphasis. We quickly get the measure of this odious man through his actions so I wonder if we need all the aboves' observations?
- ~~148~~ 25 'Do you think Lennox can help' is clearer here?
- ~~153~~ 10-11 'Jay had lost nothing but a pretty bride...' - presumably this is his father's point of view, but needs to be clearer.
- x 154 9 Italicise 'she' for emphasis?
- ~~155~~ 17 'Jay smiled happily' - a little flip after he's just found out his father is a liar and a cheat?
- ~~158~~ 22 'perspicuity' should, I think, read 'perspicacity' in this context.

169	11	Wouldn't Mack spare a thought here for the other coal hewers who lost their jobs because of him?
183	13	Would 'winced' be better than 'squirmed' (which usually signifies embarrassment)?
184	13 and 16	avoid repetition of 'little boy' by replacing one ref. with eg 'young boy'?
188	3-4	'three months ago'. By my calculation, Mack had been in London for 3 weeks before he met Peg, worked for 1 week coal-heaving, then another week intervened before the fight. Add the week he spent getting to London by ship (<i>see p 139</i>) and that makes six weeks since he left Heugh ie 3 months seems excessive?
190	1	'developed this habit' - yet Lizzie has only twice dressed up as a man that Mack is aware of (once down the mine, then at the fight) - hardly a habit?
191	8	Not sure of this use of 'because' here - why would Mack assume Gordonson had a high voice?
197	14	unnecessary use of 'rather' here.
203	11 - }	To my mind, this flashback is intrusive and artificially positioned. Do we need it and if we do, could a condensed version be relocated to the beginning of Part II (around <i>p. 131</i>)?
208	1 }	
209	1-4	Peggy's fears of the hanging procedure are becoming a little repetitive and thus losing their force.
210	16 and 19	Was it common for 13 year old girls to smoke a pipe?
211	25	'palliasse' means a mattress filled with straw so 'stuffed with straw' is redundant.
222	17	Is Mack's face really still covered in coal dust?
223	5	Didn't Jay mention on <i>p. 215 l. 15</i> , that the watch had been stowed in the mattress?
227	7 and 10	Avoid repetition of 'dangerous'

233	2	'which could happen a year from now or never' - sounds like he is referring to the sailing - could you clarify?
	7	Avoid 'nicer' - too weak a word to describe Sir George!
259	11	'longed to be grown up' more emphatic than 'wanted..?'
268	22	'very' is unnecessary here.
278	10	'Mack was at stunned' - something missing here
283	13	'dead or wounded' rather than 'dead and wounded'
288	6	I don't like 'with an unfinished feeling'. 'Unfulfilled' better or 'disappointed' or both?
297	5-6	'unable to get through to him' - anachronism? Better 'unable to make him comprehend'?

PART III

306		Part III rather than Part II
308	19	The last we heard of Cora (p. 272) was that Sir George has declared her unfit to stand trial. Has she since been retried? See p. 327 l. 11
	26	'Among the men...she saw Sidney Lennox' to avoid any confusion with the women and children.
310	1	Don't forget Mack visited <u>The Rosebud</u> on p. 238 - would he recall this here?
312	1	'figure out' - anachronistic and American to boot? (likewise p. 411 l. 25 and p. 445 l. 10)
313	13	Add after 'north to Boston' 'to rejoin his regiment'
320	23	'blinded' better than 'blind'?
332	20	avoid repetition of 'last' here
337	15-16	References to 'the convicts' thirst' are becoming a little repetitive now

- ~~339~~ 9-10 avoid awkward repetition of 'stop' by changing first ref. to 'an end'?
- ~~350~~ 18 'he was feeling injured' weak and a touch vague. Are we meant to feel some sympathy for Jay here? (I don't believe so).
- ~~353~~ 23-24 'He stank to heaven...'
Like the thirst above, we already know how smelly they are!
- ~~358~~ 23 'She seemed all right' - a shade dismissive after her ordeal and Jack's concern?
- ~~361~~ 22 'punched and kicked her repeatedly' - too harsh (and unsubtle) even for Jay - wouldn't he spare a thought for the baby - his heir?
- ~~364~~ 1 Wouldn't Lizzie's thoughts be with the welfare of her unborn child? The reader's will, I'm sure, (or this one's were!) and her announcement on p. 367 comes a little late and predictably. Also, p. 367, 'sad and bitter' are rather passive emotions compared to what most women would experience in such ghastly circumstances?

PART IV

- ~~373~~ 13 'included a lot of' - clumsy wording
- ~~377~~ 21 'not' should read 'far'?
- ~~380~~ 19 'Although it was hardly a surprise, Peg felt shocked' - I'm not quite sure what you mean here.
- X382 13 words 'she thought' are unnecessary here.
- ~~383~~ 14-15 'Hmmm...I wrote this in the margin on first reading and I'm still not convinced by Lizzie's attitude here. I think we need more insight into her feelings eg would she be wanting to get pregnant again so soon; wouldn't she feel ~~muddled~~ *revolted* by his touch? Thoughts of Mack??

- ~~384~~ 3-6 I found myself noting down other instances where Lizzie associates Virginia with free living and there are rather a lot
p. 114, l. 11 - keep
p. 175, l. 5 - keep
p. 287, l. 7 - keep
p. 403, l. 19 and p. 404 - keep
p. 484, l. 7 - keep
p. 499, l. 25-26 - keep
p. 562, l. 3 line
 Can we lose one or more of these references?
- ~~389~~ 12 'car' should read 'cart'?
- ~~390~~ 6 'vulture' rather than 'jackal'?
- ~~403~~ 19 See my comment above (relating to *p. 384*). In any case, Jay and Lizzie discussed riding side saddle on *p. 175* so why is Jay quite so surprised and aghast to see Lizzie riding thus?
- ~~408~~ ~~1~~
20 Substitute 'replied' for 'said' here? 'Whiggish' probably needs a little explanation in this context.
- ~~418~~ 5 'got mad' - again a bit 20th Century American slang?
- ~~424~~ 6 'disbelieving' here rather than 'unbelieving'
- ~~425~~ 14 This thought has already occurred to Peg on the previous page (*l. 22*).
- ~~431~~ ~~1~~
28 'utterly' better here than 'completely'? Is 'nice' a Mack sort of word? (As you can probably tell, I was taught that 'nice' wasn't a very nice word to use!)
- ~~433~~ 5 'cornpone' - what is this?
- ~~435~~ 8 'hogsheads' have already been described on *p. 373 l. 9*.
- ~~436~~ 13-14 'almost a year ago'? It was January, I think, when Lizzie spotted Mack in the river, now only mid-October? Okay to be less specific about time here.

446	16	'policy' seems an odd word to use here, especially relating to Peg.
448	15-16	we already know that Cora (<i>p. 380 l. 16</i>) has been sold to the Pennyweathers, so insert something like 'Peg recalled'
X451	15	Add 'as best she could' to 'she cleaned herself up'?
X452	1	'a pair of old dykes' - okay for 18th Century? Ditto ref. to 'girlfriend' on <i>p. 454 l. 20</i> .
455	22	'I've been so worried about you' is too great a cliché to be effective here, I think.
463	22 26	'asked' better than 'said' here? 'was silent' rather than 'said nothing'?
464	3	'she exclaimed' more emphatic than 'she said'?
X466	21	'shag' - okay for this period?
472	15-16	'witnessed' better than 'looked at'?
475	18	delete 'massive'. 'Murder hunt' is quite evocative enough.
X475	12	'terrified' more effective here than 'scared'?
487	23-24	"How can you be so mean..." she wailed' - A weak response to the severity of Jay's attack on her and I don't think Lizzie would ever 'wail' - (too closely akin to 'whine' in my book).
490	22-26	Cut this to keep focus on immediate action in this scene - time for analysis afterwards.
491	8-9	Again cut 'He looked so foolish...even angrier' unnecessary observation.
495	7 and 10	'She felt funny...She felt a little sick' - both of these weak reactions of Lizzie's part. She would be suffering much more than is implied here.
505	4	yet on <i>p. 501 l. 12</i> it was Lizzie who wanted to leave immediately.

513	6	Jay only had dinner on the previous page (<i>l. 3</i>) - how much later is it now that he'd be wanting supper?
520	23	'scarily'?
529		Can we vary some of these 'said's' (x8)
532	14-15	'nothing to be unhappy about' - except the constant fear of being recognised!
533	11	'no one was anybody else's property' - clumsy wording
534	1 x26	delete 'look' 'prick': okay in 18th Century?
535	10-11	'we're meant for one another' - another cliché!
536	9	Lizzie's dress wouldn't drag her down under water would it?
537	8 and 9	Can we delete 'showing her teeth' and 'through slitted eyelids' - neither make her sound very attractive!
538	14 26	'screwing' - okay? Sorry if I'm being oversensitive - perhaps all these words have been used since time immemorial! 'Liz' should remain as 'Lizzie' (and overleaf, <i>l. 5</i>)
540	18	'asked' better than 'said' here?
543	18-23	Cut - hardly necessary?
543	9-10	I think we need to see, from Peg's point of view, her reasons for running away - if only as confirmation of the others' discussion on <i>p. 438</i> .
557	23	delete 'Jamisson'.