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3p
Suzanne Babonka

Dear Ken,

A PLACE CALLED FREEDOM

A superb second draft, and here are my comments, some of which we discussed briefly on the phone this morning.

- ✗ page 3, line 13: 'clapboard' okay - American usage?
- ✓ line 16: 'flat cases' - why 'flat' when they contain wine?
- ✓ page 4, line 19: 'doped out' - meaning?
- ✓ page 14, lines 8 and 13: avoid repetition of 'It was true'
- ✓ page 30, line 20: 'demanded' more forceful here than 'said'?
- ✓ pages 32 (line 13) and 33 (line 5): Use 'Lizzie' here rather than 'Miss Hallim'
- ✓ page 39, line 13: alter 'get there' to 'make it' to avoid repetition of 'get there'
- ✓ page 40, line 16: alter 'said' to 'pointed out' to avoid repetition of 'said'?
- ✗ page 75, line 4: 'drove... crazy' - anachronistic?
- ✓ page 158, line 6: Jay is described as wearing a 'blue bow' - okay?
- ✗ page 207, lines 2-3: Echo closely Jay's mother's words on page 104 (lines 2-3) - shouldn't Jay attribute his thoughts to her?
- ✓ line 6: 'co-operative' better here than 'nice'?
- ✗ page 210, lines 21-22: 'Sir George was not used to opposition from anyone' - see later on pages 330 (line 11) and 331 (line 1). These observations are a little too similar for comfort?
- / page 238, last line: Delete (and first line of page 239) as Lizzie's thoughts in this respect are repeated on page 240 (line 2)

- ✓ page 327, lines 7 and 9: Avoid repetition of 'terrible' and 'terribly'
- ✓ page 332, line 11: Lizzie's mother drops her bombshell about the pregnancy in a flat, undramatic way -deliberately? She must know that this announcement will seal Lizzie's fate, yet she chooses to reveal it almost en passant and in the company of the likes of Sir George and the unfamiliar (to her and to Lizzie) Gordonson. Is she being deliberately insensitive to Lizzie here or is it desperation to settle a seemingly irredeemable situation. Could we see Lizzie react to her mother's delivery of the news and its timing, as well as to the news itself?
- ✗ page 333, line 3: For emphasis, should we add to 'But he was still her husband' something along the lines of 'and now the father of her child'?
- ✓ page 336, line 16: '...Caspar knows about this' - knows about what? It isn't quite clear.
- ✓ page 338, line 3: Alter 'London' to 'the city' to avoid repetition after 'Londoners' (line 2)
- ✓ line 16: 'mixed' is repeated
- ✓ page 341, line 13ff: Wouldn't Lizzie be thinking here first and foremost of the baby which is the strongest 'link' she could have with Jay, rather thinking of the unborn child only in desperation and as an after-thought?
- ✓ page 345, line 5: Does Lizzie know that Mack is on board their ship, as she doesn't react to hearing his voice?
- line 14: Does she manage to get them extra food and water. No further mention of this, eg on page 349. Also, on page 363, line 12, Mack says he hasn't seen her since the trial, which doesn't tally with their encounter on the ship
- ✓ page 356, line 13: What exactly is the vow that Mack makes? 'I won't do that again' is a little vague. We have further references on page 360, line 19 and on page 410, line 18, to this vow, so I think it needs to be spelt out.
- ✓ page 357, line 16: Here you spell out the fact that Jay has decided to keep Mack for himself, so I feel we need to understand his reasoning. Readers may think that he would want Mack as far away as possible from Lizzie, remembering for example the way she stood up for him at the trial. Is it so that Jay can exert some further punishment and suffering on Mack?
- ✗ page 364, line 1: I'm not sure that 'feminine perspiration' is terribly sexy!

- ✓ page 366, line 19: How many months pregnant is Lizzie here?
- ✓ page 380, lines 18 and 19: 'past six months now' and 'six months now' contradict each other
- ✗ page 385, line 10: 'Pregnant as she was' better than 'Pregnant though she was' here?
- ✗ page 454, line 16: Peg is 'a different shape' - can you be more specific?
- ✓ page 468, line 9: Could they really cover 40 miles before daybreak on foot?
- ✓ page 514, line 2: 'Jay' should read 'Mack'
- ✓ page 527, line 13-18: Here one could make more of Jay's desperation in his search for Lizzie and his ultimate desire to safeguard his inheritance. Has he really thought through his actions on finding her: killing her or impregnating her, presumably by rape as Lizzie, I feel, would be the last person to submit to him after all that has gone before? We need to see Jay think this through, weigh up the consequences of murdering Lizzie (and Mack) and thereby cheat Robert of the entire estate.
 - ✓ Jay's mother doesn't tell him what would happen if there is no grandchild - would everything go to Robert? Whatever, the conflicting thoughts flooding Jay's mind as he pursues Lizzie can only serve to heighten even more the tension you have already created in this final scene, especially at their final encounter (page 548) which I feel could be made more dramatic.
- ✓
- ✗ page 529: Has Dobbs questioned Peg at all - it isn't clear

Do call me if any of the above is contentious or unclear, and I'll much look forward to seeing the final draft in the next couple of weeks - and to seeing you soon.

With all best wishes for 1995,

Yours,



Suzanne Baboneau
Publisher, Fiction

