

CROWN PUBLISHERS Inc.

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FAX TRANSMITTAL

January 17, 1995

Ken Follett
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AI: What do you think?

Dear Ken:

Thanks for your fax. Today I'm sending you along Part 3, for which I've suggested no significant plot changes at all, only the little edits you've seen in the first two parts.

I can live with all your decisions in Part 2, and your reasons for not making the will change are excellent ones. The only one I would make one more stab at is cutting the watch/rescue scene. Let me tell you why. You seem to think that you need that emotional scene between Mack and Lizzie, but I think you've set up their relationship so well that it really doesn't add much at all. In fact, I think it detracts since she's already saved him from the river. It seems better that she saves him right from the jaws of death each time, rather than at an intermediary step.

You also point out that people don't want to read about Lizzie and Jay. Up to a point that's true, but I do think it's important that we have a sense of her relationship with Jay so that we can see her relationship with Mack in contrast. Watching a hanging with Jay and seeing his reaction versus Lizzie's would be more telling and easily set up. I don't think either way it's going to make or break the book, so this is my final nag.

Part 3 and my short notes are going out express mail today, so you should have them tomorrow or the next day.

All best,



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Dear Ken:

Here are my notes on Part 3. As you'll see, they're very similar to those in Part 2: little stuff on the pages and larger issues here. Once again, you'll see I'm asking you questions about Lizzie and Jay's relationship, not because I want you to go on at length but because there are so few scenes between them that is hard to get a real grasp on what their life is like. A few extra sentences would go a long way. I've made specific suggestions.

- ✓ Page 351
Could we see a snapshot from Mack's point of view on how Cora and Peg look after the journey?

- ✓ Page 363
Didn't Mack see Lizzie on the ship on the day they boarded?

- ✗ Page 366 and following
Could you tell us a little bit more on the state of Jay and Lizzie's relationship once they land in the New World? Did they heal during the voyage? Did they have sex? And could we have a little more on Lizzie's impressions of the plantation, perhaps having her compare it to High Glen?

- ✗ The party scene starts on page 369, yet in the first snapshot of the plantation, it was dilapidated. Did Jay borrow money to fix it up in the intervening time? Did he overspend in his grandness?

✓ In their introductory scene, we need a better sense of how much time has elapsed, what their relationship is, what their roles in the New World are. It feels rushed now and like we're missing a couple of steps.

You'll see throughout that I've made notes on the passage of time because it's a bit confused. This comes into play particularly between their arrival and Jay's going to Williamstown where their social reality is set up. But the way I read it, only a few weeks have elapsed. Can you clarify? Perhaps we just need another scene on page 369 between the unpacking and the party.

✓ Page 372

Should Jay make the link to some of Wilkes' ideas? The same ideas that had caused strikes in London have greeted him here. I mention this because it's of particular interest to Americans relatively ignorant of history to see how the ideas are translated on either side of the Atlantic.

Page 380

✓ Here I wish to see Lizzie having more thoughts of her baby and her pregnancy. I have no idea how Jay felt about the prospect of the baby, as word never passed between them about it, except for the warning that she shouldn't be riding horses. I'm not saying she has to be one of those women who does nothing but knit and moon over the impending arrival, yet since the loss hits her as hard as it does, we need some build up to it, otherwise it lacks appropriate impact. Perhaps right in the beginning where we learn of what the relationship is like in the new world, I would particularly like to get a sense of both of their feelings about the coming baby and how important it is to the re-cementing of their relationship, if that's the case.

✓ Page 387

I'm perplexed that Sowerby left when he's owed so much money. When he got paid wouldn't he be able to pay Lennox? And if he were to leave knowing he was owed money, wouldn't he steal something of value? This is a minor detail, but it's one that stopped me and diverted my attention from the story.

You'll see that in each of the letters, I've suggested cutting and/or moving the readers' thoughts so that the letter could be set all in one piece. This may be my own personal preference, but I find it distracting to have the indented body of a letter interrupted. If you prefer it the other way, you can overrule me.

✓ Page 442

Could we also hear or see how Jay responded when he heard the baby was dead? Did he brush it off because it had been born a girl? Did he blame Lizzie for not acting properly as a female and losing the child? Did he treat her like she was merely a servant and vessel to have his baby? I think this is an important movement in the story and we need to actually see Jay's response or have Lizzie repeat them or hear them in her thoughts. One sentence just isn't enough.

Page 553

✗ This might be overkill but it occurs to me that either Lizzie or Mack might want to take Jay's ring off his finger, if indeed he wears one, before they bury him and perhaps hurl it away. This would make a nice parallel to Mack's neck ring. See what you think.

That's it. I found tears coming in Part 3, which is always an excellent sign, especially since I had already read it twice. With these final details, we're there. As soon as you have a sense of when you'll be finished, please let me know; the troops are gathered and waiting to put this into print so we can have galleys for ABA.

All best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'A' followed by a horizontal line that loops back under the initial.

AP:rw
enc.