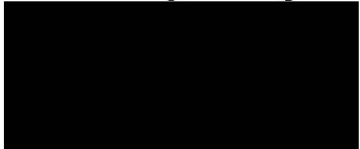


KPuni

Ken Follett



August 23, 1982

Dear Ken,

I will certainly get in touch with you the next time I'm in London. We can have a drink and talk about being elegant.

Touch down DFW

I was very tired, had only catnapped since leaving Turkey. The last time I had slept was at the boarder in Turkey. After Ralph told us it would take about five hours before we could leave the border post, (it took about 12) I took a sleeping bag and went outside to a small wooden shack that had wooden benches all along the walls. I stretched out on one of the benches and went to sleep. When I woke there were two Turkish guards sitting around a wood burning stove eating cheese and bread. They asked if I would join them for breakfast which I did. I guess I had slept for about four or five hours since it was now light outside.

I had eaten very little on the plane, (I despise plane food) and we had no chance to eat in England since we arrived about 2 a.m. and left the hotel early to get to the airport. I had been drinking on the plane, but not a lot, maybe 10 drinks. I had not shaved since the day of the prison break. I had taken one shower in England since leaving the house in Tehran. I was wearing an orange ski jacket, a dark blue navy watch cap, a dark green sweater, levies and cowboy boots.

The thing I most looked forward to was clean clothes which I went out and purchased the next day.

I very much wanted to sit down with my family and relax. We were not really able to do this until about a week later when we left for Hawaii.

First seeing of family

All our families were on tour busses outside the airport entrance. As we came out of customs the EDS security guards directed us out to the busses. I saw my kids sitting at a table in the rear of the bus that I was taken to. I walked down the aisle and stopped in front of the table. Liz Coburn was sitting next to Mary. I stood there for about two seconds when Liz asked Mary if she was going to say hello to me. Mary was startled, she really did not recognize me dressed as I was and with a beard. I had lost about 15 pounds. I picked up both kids in my arms and hugged them. Dawn would not let go, she hung around my neck. Mike finally let go so I could hug Mary, but Dawn held on. For the next month she held my hand everywhere we went and as soon as I sat down she was in my lap.

Mary and Dawn kept saying they missed me. Mary said she had been getting worried when she hadn't heard from me for so long, but then they told her we were on our way from England and she felt relieved. She then told me I had lost too much weight. She asked how Paul and Bill were and Mike wanted me to tell him what had happened. How did you get them out, he kept asking. Mary was wearing a dress, the kids levis and sport shirts, both kids had dark blue wind-breakers on. Everyone was laughing and crying at the same time. When I kissed Mary I kept thinking, she is not going to like this

beard. (She didn't and neither did Dawn, who would not kiss me again until I shaved the next morning).

At times of great happiness I feel very calm inside and I become very quite.

Walked into concord room

The first people I saw were Linda Norsworthy, Jim Senseman and Ron Sperberg. We didn't have a chance to talk to anyone until after the speeches since we were all grouped together by the microphones. The speeches by Ross, Paul and Bill were emotional, although I don't recall the exact words. I remember it was getting very warm in the room with all the people packed in and we had just come out of the cold of the mountains of Turkey. My son, Mike wormed his way thru the crowd and came and stood beside me during the speeches. The only thing I was thinking about was how I must look and how bad the clothes I had on smelled and how clean everyone looked. It seemed that everyone in the room was taking pictures.

When the welcome broke up I don't recall much about who I talked to, except to Ron Sperberg and his wife. I was very worried about getting my black handbag back since it contained all the money that I had collected and counted on the plane. I handed it to Bill Dvoranchik, prior to going into the concord room, and told him not to set it down anywhere until I came back and got it.

Just as I found Bill and the bag, the cars we were to be driven home in, arrived and we left. I think I was glad to leave because the crowd and the people were beginning to overwhelm me as it was probably the first time I really thought that we had done something that was going to be known outside of our little circle.

That evening

We went right home to the apartment Mary had rented in Plano. Linda Norsworthy (Mary's closest friend) was there. I was not hungry, but Mary made me a sandwich and we all talked for a few hours and then I went to bed. I remember before going to sleep I kept thinking that I had to get up early and go buy some clothes, but that I still was going to have to put the old ones on so I could get to a store as I didn't have another thing to my name. Everything I owned except what I had on was in Tehran.

J. Keane Taylor