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Notes on ANATOMY OF A MURDER

By F.S.B.

Most of these notes are of a very minor nature. They are words and phrases that stop me on my second reading of the book.

- ✓ P. 31: "faltering newlyweds" ??
- ✓ P. 13: "What Makes Sammy Run in Iron County" ??
- ? Unmarked Page: "Both of us wondered how the old man continued to get the better criminal retainers" Omit
- P. 60: "being made up" Not clear -- being invented?
- Intentional* → P. 76: New 76. "share equally one of the most exquisite," etc. Too many adjectives?
- OK* P. 88: Bottom to 89. Omit as indicated (*Go end?*)
- P. 96: Cut some (*Have already*)
- Explain this guy*
and
Deleted P. 128: "but he dragged me back" ?? Did you ever try to rape someone in the front seat? "but he dragged me into the back seat of the car" ??
- P. 138: "a poor name that had been," etc. "a wrong nick name" ?? Clarify. Not apparent at first glance.
- ✓ P. 152: Bottom -- repeat cut some
- ✓ P. 172: "It seemed the better part of valor" Paquette out of character?
- ✓ P. 213: Cut some of the first half of this page.
- ✓ P. 245: Chapter 30 -- cut some. Up to here we are all right with some minor changes.
- ✓ P. 291: Cut a little.
- ✓ P. 335: " " "
- ✓ P. 362: Cut a little at top and middle of page.
- ✓ P. 366: Cut a little and part of previous page. Slows action too much.
- ✓ P. 411: I still think this interlude should be pared down. Note that up to this point it's all Polly's trial. There is no doubt in the reader's mind of the verdict of acquittal. Better get in some trouble quick.
- P. 440: Doctor & Polly go on a page too long. (*Disagree*)
- P. 441: "Alligator," ? What's this? I ain't hep, kid! (*Song*)
- P. 459: "Blew his stack" (I think you have used this two or three times in this section.)

Notes on ANATOMY OF A MURDER continued.

P. 484: "this courtroom ritual was after all a savage and primitive battle for survival itself." *(Don't understand)*

P. 512 3/4: cut "stinks" and some of the remaining part of the paragraph. It piles it on too much and I don't like the lack of dignity in the last sentence.

I haven't the manuscript in front of me, but I have a strong impression that in the final plea of Polly, you have broken up his long speech with some stage directions such as "I pounded on the rail of the jury box." I know this isn't exactly the way it is said, but examine these descriptions. You will have to find another technique of rounding out the picture of what Polly does as he is speaking. The way it stands now, it gives a very studied impression. It takes the reader out of the heat of the trial and detracts from our sympathy. Give this last section of Polly's speech a cold and fishy eye. Ian and I both have the impression that Dancer is more effective than our hero.

Good luck!