Marilyn—

Same rules as usual on this: double-spaced, about 25 lines to a page. Where I've put a #, leave four spaces between paragraphs.

Please don't number the pages, except maybe lightly in the corner with pencil.

I guess one new thing I'm doing is interrupting dialogue with a dash, like this "—could do" or "What—?" If you come onto any of this, do it just as it is; I'm purposely ignoring capitals at the start of such lines.

Did I tell you I'd like this on Monday, if possible?

best, 
I.
J & J--

Please give this just a quick read, to see if anything thunderingly wrong comes out at you. It begins as the four Swedes are waiting for their night to escape from Sitka, and Braaf, you may remember, is the thief and Melander the leader. I've included this first page to see whether you savvy the stuff about the Aleut calendar.

I haven't had time to copyread this yet, so there'll be typing errors, probably.

The Swedes and I t'ank you.

ivan
Dear Marilyn and Marilyn—

By tomorrow afternoon, I'll have ready another batch of manuscript to be typed. I think it'll total 60-70 typed pages, and I'd like to have it by Monday, if possible. Can the pair of you divvy that and get it done that quickly?

The last batch of manuscript, probably another 60 or so pages, I'll have ready no later than the end of the afternoon on Friday the 11th, and that one I'll need done in a hurry, too, by Monday the 11th. Will that be okay, too?

Sorry the manuscript is coming to you this late in the year, but this book keeps behaving differently than the others.

all best
Merlyn--

Finally I have some ms ready for you. Marilyn tells me she’d prefer to wait until Dec., when I’ll have another batch about this size, to share any typing with you, so that’s fine with me. I think there’ll be about 140-150 typed pages here, and I’ll need them by the first of December—okay?

As usual, double-space, about 25 lines per page. Wherever I’ve put a #, please leave 4 spaces between paragraphs. And please type in the page numbers as you go.

ivan
My notion is that I could use an outside opinion on the readability of the first half of my "Sitka" ms. So if you'd read it, in the way you would any book coming to you for review, and give me a page or two of impressions, it'd be helpful. (Feel free to jot comment in the margins as you go, too, if you like to work that way.) I need to know whether the story holds you; any points where it's not believable; any place where you'd like to know more (or less) about what's going on; and about the prose, any patches that strike you as either overblown or underwritten—I likely have some of both in here—and whether the voice of the book sounds okay to you.

Some of this draft has had recent rewriting, some of it I won't get to for a few weeks yet. Anyway, be frank about all of it.

As for the time you go through it for the dogwork, please underline the verbs in red and circle "it" in some other color. I hope this part of it doesn't drive you crazy.

See you, what, around the 23d?
Diane--

Here's a draft of the Sitka ms. I'm changing it day by day, but I think you can tell from this version whether I have the right feel of the Southeast coast--and whether there's anything I can add. Suggested details of any kind, weather, wildlife, mood, whatever, would be welcome.

And, of course, I'm interested to know whether you find the story readable and plausible. Be frank--better I know now how it strikes a reader than after it goes into print.

many thanks

p.s. Feel free to write comments on the ms margins.
Margaret and Pat—

This is a revised and expanded version of what you read for me before, plus the next major section of narrative—all in all, about twice the length of what you read, and totaling about half the book.

Please don't go to great analytical effort; I'd simply like your reaction as readers, as though someone had told you, "I heard of a book you might like to take a look at..." Just jot on the manuscript anything you disagree with, want to know more about, or think I've overdone. What I need to know above all is whether the story holds your attention all the way.

again, thanks.
Diane--

First, congratulations on your award and the Florida recognition of it. Both well deserved.

Next, and belatedly, would you be game to do me a critique of the first half of my "Sitka" novel? I could pay $100, and I'd need it by Monday, Oct. 19. It's 127 pp., and what I need to know is whether it has enough of the feel of Southeast, and if not, what details—seasonal, botanical, oceanic, whatever—I might add. I don't need anything elaborate: just a rundown on what sounds right about my version of the coastline and what sounds wrong or inadequate.

ivan

I'd enjoy very much looking over your manuscript, and can begin Monday Oct. 12.

Diane
Merlyn--

This is the continuation of what you've been typing for me. I'd like a double-double space, as marked, between the first paragraph of this batch and the last paragraph of the previous material.

I'll need this by early Friday afternoon, around 1-2 o'clock. Okay?

02.10.80

ivan

542-6658
Merlyn--

02.8, '80

I'll need this by Wed. afternoon, and will have another 15 or so pages then which will have to be done by Friday afternoon. Okay?

Type this the same as usual: double-spaced, roughly 25 lines per page except the opening page (begin it about a third of the way down the paper). Where I've marked for spacing between paragraphs with a #, double-double space.

Please go ahead and number the pages, at the center top of the page.

thanks

542-6658
Merlyn--

Please triple space this material, and where I've indicated a space mark---#---between paragraphs, leave a space of six lines. Please set your margins about as you have on the other material you've done for me, to average about ten words per sentence.

This is a very early draft, so the typing needn't be perfect; you can cross out mistakes with x's if need be.

I'd like to have this back by early Friday afternoon.

thanks.

[Signature]
and by a quarter to twelve I could see them approaching the house from all sides, at the tail of their goats, which they dared not leave behind. The heads of the children and of the goats swam through the bush and long grass of the forest like heads of frogs in a pond.

They left their flocks on the lawn and came in noiselessly on their bare feet; the bigger ones were about ten years and the youngest two years. They behaved very well, and kept up a sort of self-made ceremonial for their visits, which came to this: that they could move about freely in the house so long as they did not touch anything, nor sit down, nor speak unless spoken to. As the cuckoo rushed out on them, a great movement of ecstasy and suppressed laughter ran through the group. It also sometimes happened that a very small herdboy, who did not feel any responsibility about the goats, would come back in the early morning all by himself, stand for a long time in front of the clock, now shut up and silent, and address it in Kikuyu in a slow sing-song declaration of love, then gravely walk out again. My houseboys laughed at the herdboys, and confided to me that the children were so ignorant that they believed the cuckoo to be alive.

Now my houseboys came in themselves to watch the work of the typewriter. Kamante sometimes stood by the wall for an hour in the evening, his eyes ran to and fro like dark drops under the eyelashes, as if he meant to learn enough about the machine to take it to pieces and put it together again.

One night as I looked up I met these profound attentive eyes and after a moment he spoke. “Msabu,” he said, “do you believe yourself that you can write a book?”

I answered that I did not know.

To figure to oneself a conversation with Kamante one
"The Lutherans in Russian Alaska," Toivo Harjunpaa

in: Pac Hist'1 Rev, May '68

Vol. 38, #2

Theological Seminary, Berkeley

p. 127: passports to Sitka were issued to Finns (ftnt cites prov'l archives in Turku). Were they for Swedes?

-131: when Cygnaeus left Sitka in 1845, Lutheran mem'p 130.

(ftnt: H hasn't fnd Sitka ch records of the period)

--Cyg fnd "excessive drinking, endless gambling and immoral living". "Many Eur'ns had incurred such heavy gambling debts that they had no hope of returning home. Native wives and children complicated the situation."

132: "Britishers and Americans who visited Alaska on business at that time and attended these parties spoke of Sitka as 'the Paris of the Pacific. '"

134--Etholèn ordered that services rotate, one Sun in Finnish and the next in Swedish.

--E donated small pipe organ

136--small Lutheran cemetery dedctd in 1841 on hill(Near blockhouse replica, where Etholens' infant son buried).
138--Cyg's successor, 1845, was Gabriel Plathan: "good voice and cultivated an interest in music."

--P's diaries of part of Sitka stay survive: H cites P's granddaughter, Madame G. Couptchinsky of Helsinki, for their use.

139--P frequented officers club, gambled heavily: "This passion... worried him. From time to time he made prayerful resolutions to stay away from the club." (1847 diary entry about this.)

140--P spent most of his day "in social visiting....Among his own countrymen he had many personal friends. The company's doctor Frankenheuser and the pastor saw each other nearly every day. Many captains and officers were his guests when their ships were in port." Whaling ships with Finnish captains and crews began to call at Sitka.

"...in spite of his sociable nature, P does not seem to have enjoyed the support of his parishioners for very long...R e marks about very poor attendance in the church are frequent in his diary."

ftnt: "Some of the whaler's diaries are still kept at the Maritime Museum in Turku. Ludvig Palmqvist's diary describes a visit to Sitka..."

141--P evidently left Alaska in spring 1853 (application for return presented at St. P'bg June 19, 1852)
Oregon Weekly Times, 1853—microfilm from U. of Oregon

(I specifically need an article from the newspaper of Jan. 22, 1853, and need to see the issues of the next month or so after that.)

Madeleine - please order the microfilm for January, Feb., March 1853 request for Ivan Dorzy from U. of Oregon

Eugene, Oregon 97403
10. v. see, behold, observe, view, discern, perceive, descry, sight, have in sight, make out, spot [coll.], twig [coll.], discover, distinguish, recognize, spy, esp'y, ken [arch. and dial.], witness, notice, command a view of, get ~, have or catch sight of, get a load of [slang, U.S.], take in, cast the eyes on or upon, set or lay eyes on, clap eyes on [coll.], look on or upon etc. below, see with one's own eyes; hang an eye on, pipe, lamp, nail, peg [all slang]; glimpse, get or catch a glimpse of, glint; see at a glance, see with half an eye, pipe off [underworld slang, U.S.]; see the back or heels of.

11. v. look, look at, take a look at, take a gander at [slang, U.S.], have a looksee [slang, U.S.], look on or upon, gaze at or upon, turn or bend the eye to or on, turn or bend the looks upon, direct the eyes upon, cast the eyes on or upon etc. above, give the eye [coll.], watch, pipe [slang], view, survey, scan, regard, ken [arch.]; keep in sight or view, hold in view; look about or round, glance round; reconnoiter, case [underworld slang, U.S.], spy out, peep out, tout [slang]; get an eyeful [coll., U.S.]; lift up the eyes, open the eyes; take in the sights etc. (be a spectator) 444.3; keep watch etc. (be vigilant) 459.4; watch for etc. (expect) 507.4.

12. v. scrutinize, scrutinate; look closely at, eye, ogle, perlustrate, inspect, scan, examine, study, review, pass under review, view in all its phases, take stock of, contemplate, overhaul, give the once-over or double-O [slang, U.S.]; take one's measure [slang], size or size up [coll.]; look over or through, pore over, run over, run or pass the eye over or through.

13. v. gaze, fix ~, fasten or rivet the eyes upon, keep the eyes upon, look hard or intently at; eye, ogle; stare, look [coll.], gape, gawk [coll.], gaup or gaw [dial.], goggle; crane, crane the neck; rubber, rubberneck [both slang, U.S.]; peer, pry, peep, peek, take a peep or peek; play at bopeep or peekaboo; look full in the face, look straight in the eye, hold one's eye or gaze; glare, glower, gloat, gloat on or over, gaze with satisfaction, gaze with malignant or unhal lowed satisfaction; strain the eyes.

14. v. glance, glint, cast a glance, glance at or upon, take a glance at, take a slant or squint at [slang], give a quick or cursory look etc. n., take a cursory view of; examine cursorily, glance over, run or pass the eyes over, run over, skim, skip over or through, dip into.

15. v. look or gaze askance or askant, look obliquely, give a sidelong look etc. n., glime [dial.], cut one's eye [slang]; squint, squinch [dial.], squint the eye; look asquint; cock the eye; look down one's nose at [coll.].

16. v. leer, leer the eye, look leeringly, give a leering look.

17. v. look away, turn one's look away, turn away the eyes, look another way, avert the eyes, break one's eyes away, stop looking; turn away from, turn the attention from, turn the back upon; drop one's eyes or gaze, cast one's eyes down, avoid one's gaze, cut eyes [coll.]; not look etc. 442.5.
Lay a plan for polishing the ms after 2nd half is done: go thru it for verbs, rhythms, to see where file card phrasings can be applied, and once to see where left-over ideas or touches might fit.
These cards are "possibles" I didn't have time to resolve in Dec.; do so in Jan. review.
insert: K's realization that W suggested him as leader out of fear.
each night's shelter: have them use the canoe sail and mast--the mast a ridgepole, perhaps fit into a forked stick they also bring?

- Susan on healthful effects of sleeping on spence
Trim back some of the metaphorical speech.
have them take Aleut or Tlingit rainhats?
describe how M looked in death?
p. 109, K's face as figurehead: could salvage by saying it'd have been, except for M having swapped with him.
p. 121--check N Archangel-Astoria distance
check in B's "working slow," whether wallets were in use, or whether it shd be purses.
shags of tobacco

- have they run out of tobacco?
watch for using "hear me" too much.
Have more rain in ms?
powder horn?
Why doesn't K use axe on Haida canoe instead of B using a boulder?

- Insert earlier ref'ce of Kobosh breaking canoes?
add to Kaigani crossing, perhaps on p. 93: danger of canoe being shoved east into Hecate.
--the accumulating sweat and smell of the men.
from Carol: the shoreline has a moment of silence--which woke her at Tolovana--as the tide changes.
add more fog to coastal weather?
change Clyoquot paddles to Haida paddles; describe, from Starship and Canoe and UBC museum.

- sented, May 22, '81: do more c ut.
p. 103--check whether image of B fingering paddle like plucking music was already used.
check ShiShi—shd "triple windrows of surf" have an earlier reference besides the one it does?
Vic Scheffer for help on seal details.
check maps and ms: the island is spelled Hecata, the strait Hecate.
A Journey to Alaska in the year 1868: being a diary of the late Emil Teichmann, ed. Oskar Teichmann (Argosy-Antiquarian Ltd, NY 1963)

173--Ind village along w shore from palisade "for about on e English mile"
--officers club and other bldgs painted yellow

185-6: 30-40 workmen per barracks.
--"Every day at noon the workmen could be seen drawn up, in quite the old Muscovite fashion, in a long row in front of the foreman who was distributing their ration of spirits taken from a big copper cask."
187--nightly uproar of drunkenness

193--"double palisade fully 18 ft high"; "Going through a low sally-port and passing the American sentry one came into the open on the shore and found immediately in front the Indian dwellings which lay along the bank". 80-100 Ind houses, some 20 feet long, facing water.

194--Ind houses so close to shore that high tide narrows the space to a path.
a close glyf fog, Melander could have told them.

--Vega, 256

263-4, distortions by glyf fog
--add branches (bare and stark) atop oysterbed markers.
have B ask what a seal tastes like.

"Pork," said W.
On charts since, Kaigani has become Dixon...
The great clement current, Kuroshio, must have been sending warmth from the Orient this day.
The ocean became a part of the day, like walls to a dweller
rust color of dead ferns
skunk cabbage: the golden flame of leaf, and smelling like 00 melting
rank
turn of the season: sometime it invisibly happened, the way wind begins, one first atom of air in push against another...
Clouds broke off the peaks of the mountains and weighted them to flatness.
sound of an owl

--have K see snowy owl at Willapa.
Atop the dun cliffs of the island, green gently moved, fir trees flowing in the updraft.
salt water
my old
drine: rocks, as it preserved by ocean urine.
The rain-blind land

Two days, the coast was blinded by rain.
   stayed rain-blind.

   rain blinded the coast.
as if the line of islands were marching into the ocean to meet them
surf sound constant all night—solid it has corners...
clement current (Kuroshiwa)
crone mountains above the green coast
their war canoe were a kind of sea cavalry...
Dinner Spit, dawn 28 Aug 50

Moon reminded him of an egg, if he wished he hadn't left up...
D'ness Spit, dawn 28 aug 50

Moonshine on waves, a soft claggle that was gone even as it showed itself
Dinner Spit, dawn, 28 Aug 80

cloud-nets Silka’s ebb/law but fat islands that stood on a horizon half a day at a time.
D'nez Spit, dawn, 26 Aug 50

...birds of shore seemed to have caught motion of surf, always bobbing, skittering, moving off. Slow-riding waves of NA'angle were not in it with these...
surprising
Add: This bullion of light and warmth lifted their spirits...
the damp sea-smoke
Runners

Have men see a bear fishing (describe briefly, rapidly, in a sequence of things seen & expected.)
The mountains lift directly out of the water here
shoulder to shoulder mountains
Dinero Spit, dawn, 26 Aug 80

It took 00 days to become accustomed to noise of waves falling on beaches.
forest on mtnsides thick as sheep's fleece which tucks in on itself; all touching, never a separation of substance. Each thread, so to speak, in contact with all others by being in touch with those on all sides of it.

It seemed possible that every tree of this coast was in touch with every other, limb to limb to limb, a continent-long tagline...
The forest seemed to be the shape of time itself...
insert material about williwaw in N. Pac. description?
Coast Pilot #8, p. 188--

White coastal rocks s. of Cape Edgecumbe 50 mi., Biorka I, to C. Ommaney; numerous inlets for very small craft the last 20 mi.

same p. has descptn of shoreline.
watch for overuse of "wink" with the gate
--Braaf, I'll braid your guts!-- (W when B kicks out the campfire.)
Make 'em more black? - or just dark?
(check with Bill Horn.)
check Pt. Townsend customs records at Sand Point for outbound lumber ships, March 1853, for the Swedes to see from Alava I. (see Tom Cox's lumber history for ref citations)
Glacier Bay: either in overview of coast or in memory of one of the men, describe its glaciers calving into the bay.

- use a turn of season? - river break-up, etc.
ms p. 7--check Ozheraskoi distance, and whether steamship could get there.
Imagination is the mind's run in the opposite direction from memory: if they were reversed...
potatoes mentioned in Pierce's piece on Rosenberg.
Have them take dried salmon; eat it on the move in the canoe?
insert: Rosenberg's wariness of Kokosch kept steamboat in Sitha Sound.
Charles E. Hanson, Jr.
Editor, Museum of the Fur Trade Q'ly
Chadron, NEB

p. 52--pelts baled with fur side in?
--Russians use a screw press?
Change B: "fingers from either hand"
W in his tumbril way would get to it...

... that eventually...

... or than there'd be hell's fever.
long piece of work

Reasoning with was always a...
Make it plain why, after so much care about not attracting Indians with smoke, K lights a signal fire.

(some evidence white habitation is likely at Shoalwater)

- oyster boxes bricked?
check OED for provenance of "torque": is it too recent a word to use?

- 1st mention, 1884
word-spenders

not much of a word-spender, is he?
Change to: B would have given fingers from one hand
They came ashore each night like
old women stiff in the knees
insert tree-chopping chant into K and M and B canoe-eyeing scene.
coastal tribes: vibrant people

vibrant society
almanac of complaints

W as usual had an almanac of complaints.
As yet, it had not happened...I which only convinced me that it was overdue. me in escape.
find material about how Vancouver I. tribes spent their winters.
K framed as a man - even silent from others called them. standing stones.
final scene, writing man: 1st sentence, is final "sat to it" definite ref'ce enough?
also: New England used twice, should 2nd refce be Vt or Mass'tts?


retrifaction

Change made
12-14-81
make it Vancouver's Island?
Each to each
add to K's viewpoint on Alaska: that the work was okay, but he'd come to feel like one slat in a waterwheel, always a minor portion of something bigger.
change Pt. Townsend customs collector to Indian agent or storekeeper.

Unless Customs House records show deputy collector stationed there in 1853.
Capt. Vancouver journals for V'even J. descriptions?
K's nod westward at Cape Scott: should it be actual physical nod at end-of-map scene?
cut the pastor's reference to W's wife, have him say they had a dispute.
use K interior monologue to carry the V'cver I portion?
Vancouver I.--add description of what's going on in Indian villages?
insert: blankets for bedding

--B stealing "
map scene: show M has penciled in translations of Rn
p. 108
The halves of his (W's) mind stood and fought like crabs: the one...the other...
K said as little as M did much.
bafflement of K's father and family: 0 centuries of landholding running out...
Wickwire: a boat ride is a cold ride.
mother wit
the seam of time ran somewhere along the coast betw. Russia + Amur. Amurs - o. natives
for the breath of what, ocean? No, I, food? Or some mankind...
Their faith in maps — have K show them #4?

—emphasize this in M scene with maps: that M is keeper of the magic...
add to importance of maps: W and B both in king of awe about them
Make M careful to pull one map at a time from case, when showing to K.

--have them trade off helm position in canoe?

--also, have K the one to steer them out of Sitka Sound? And in the discussion deciding that, make it plain why W and B are in middle of canoe.
K is able to read Russian names on the map because M penciled them in—
"Vancouver I." "Cape Scott"—as an aid to himself.
check: Gibson refers to "Koloshes"
They came
come to terms with days
pared — they were like pared outlines of their Sitka selves, even to a smaller frame of his muscles self...
in that slim space

(o. c. a. n. u. e.)
have some humor in second ½ of ms.
They nerved themselves, and pushed off into the surf.
Unexpected as winter thunder
Wherever this was
check reference to Baranov's Castle: it wasn't the same one he built
memory in its bone house
Kelp and seaweed tangled around them, a skim of the water's deep secret layers of life.
a feather fluffed into five hens, this incident. (made)
p. 34—Bilibin, add "better to go to the army..."

He had ended up in Rn Amca and shouldering a musket as well.
Putty weather, gray and changeable.
In the long windstorm of history it would not make a speck's difference.

Yet it might.
The canoe was a tool, a keen blade for the clearance of a route...
that Sourbelly
black-green, royal colors of the coast

The colors of the coast were the same royal black-green...
at Kuiu, have M swear just: "Jehu"?

"Damn."

check OED
Somewhere in the crannies of time

I kept them to outer coast
For 0 days there had been no sunrise, no sunset, only grayings lighter and darker.
paintpot of gray (ocean)
K: mention he has fox-nose?
soft rattle of wings as cloud of terns takes off from Dungeness beach
Just to show how a feather can be made into five hens:
2nd \( \frac{1}{2} \), p. 30—food, refer to whatever of deer is left?

--K needs to shoot a second deer, sometime before Vcyr I.
only ever  
now he's
he had one thimble of sense, and sneezed into it.
have minister say W is of God-fearing family; but then, you know how Swedes are hard customers even for God.
Your little finger's between your leg.
was tasked with...
There is this and that to be said for courage, but the fact is...
All the budget of fuss tended to by M had to be shared out...
possibly have a scene of K and B doing something in the processing furs; use it to add info about fur trade, and for interplay between K and B. B begins a conversation by asking: "Why're you?" (meaning why is K in the escape)
Bancroft--History of Alaska (v. 33)

p. 1--"It was but natural, I say, in the gigantic robbery of half a world, that Russia should have a share; and had she been quicker about it, the belt might as well have been continued to Greenland and Iceland."

written in constellation's place?
a Joseph's coat of a journey
(or of a crew)

Joseph's coat was not more various than...
sideburns seen at Prince Rupert seaport: very thick & broad—
3 or so"—with edging as along cheek as if plume of a helmet.
Growth of hair & whisker extended behind ear, so. ears are set
inside; mass.

—Give this picture to Lutheran pastor?

Wannberg

BO did not trust a man whose ears he could see.

B: "I don't trust anyone whose ears I can't see."
The angle at which the world entered his eye...
Humankind is hard ore. We do not change composition in short fires. brief

we after my death?
It is told that when the first ships arrived to Australia, the aborigines simply looked calmly at them, thinking them not real, something out of the dreaming. (see Moorhead)
Pinched onto its site as it was, New Archangel preened grand as Stockholmd in...

(pretensions of)
Hanson, 61--don't make a fuss: don't make a song about it.

a melody of it
M: Oh, yes. I God send wise changes. (figo)
the sea-reach
Melander at this tiny capital of Russian America had become absent, then, from three homes. His birthland. The sea. And his chosen livelihood. Which had anyone within the Russian-American Company officialdom at New Archangel taken the trouble to tot up the situation made the lanky and capable Swede a man pinned in place by triple tines of exile. A most restless position.
after p. 6--develop scene of M striding across the fort; include
bgnd on 7-year man, Okhotka; use some dialogue.
Long memories on these people of the Frog: (killing of other tribe in Berkeley notes)
Of what happened next, only this much is sure:
Khlebnikov, p. 77: "One distinguished visitor to the colony remarked wittily that work here involves making axes to cut trees to make charcoal, which is used to make axes."
Sithra

forest around Sithra shows such detail – every branch distinct, almost every bristle – that it seems lacework
As if fireflies mischievously took positions in Ursa Major, the Bear, and transformed it to, say, a camel or a beetle.

Could you have held a certain from

to view.
Make the point that Russians, like other colonists, followed customs of home more strictly than those in the home country did.
Now
And again they were afraid and brave and back and forth between the two.
From us, start their being afraid
as early as from, it started that
p. 34—cut M's "Free ride..."; too many of his sayings in too short a space. Instead, strengthen the verb, something instead of "explained".
...with the lever to work that gate open for us.
pp. 57-9

work on canoe chase scene
Memory is a protective sheathing, a cushioning needed to stand existence. Imagine what we would face if all of memory already was in place in the mind when we were born. We would watch its contents happen, mark them off---most of all, it would provide the one answer we all fear: the instant of death, looked upon, seen ahead. What we actually have in memory is more ruthless than that---the unreeling in the opposite direction, unseen before it happens. And the question of death's date unanswered always. The at-oDDS moments, the unexpected clarities, may be our small rewards for all that.
If all of memory was in the mind when we were born—could watch it happen, mark it off—and it would provide the one answer we all ponder: the instant of death
Tow Hill: change "veils of spray" to "manes of spray"?
p. 86, descptn of coastal tribes: add "people of Pacific" descptn?
A man in over his head.

He was one of those for whom life is a bit too deep, he is perpetually in over his head.
twin paths of tears streaked B's face
M to W, in Kaigani throwing-up scene: "There, you're empty and scraped..."
Point up comparison of Alaska and Sweden—amt of sunlight, for ex--from pp. 8-9, Evnīl Atlas of Alaska.
Bering story: have M tell at Tow Hill?
subjacent  (use in descptn of Indian village below M on stockade walkway)
p. 9--K: change "yelps" to "yips about it."
leaky as a basket
in the island-by-island descent of the coast, Dixon Entrance and the span of water beyond it, Hecate Strait, were sudden looming interruptions: as if a traveler, going from one castle to castle across moats, now found himself looking from Brittany to Britain...
cumbered
pouched as they were in a canoe
memory at war with itself, lobes of the same past

W's mind
Portray Astoria, or at least its place in coastal history and life, then conclude with something like: This night, the four men in the Kolosh canoe were 000 miles from Astoria.
After winter weather, a few lks 7 amo left them sozzled with sun
How came it so?
Braaf was the best of them at reading the weather. (Others have other skills)
possible add: ms p. 49, beginning of escape, point out that M's route back to the barracks reverses his plunge to the catwalk, where idea of escape came to him.
K going out to look at canoe: change from him taking a leak, to something like-- one of his qualities was that K always seemed in place at what he was doing...

(Perhaps have him scour a shovel in shore gravel)
Challenge of this sort was not what Wennberg had been expecting, and he retorted hotly.
add to realization that they had never truly seen the Alaskan forest: so thick you could go hand over hand from water up thru trees...
Kolosh avoid Russians on Xmas because they're drunk and boisterous.
of a sudden
Swedish for hangover: hont i haret, pain in the roots of the hair

- It would have honted
add to x island south of Kuiu:

the kind that sailors say could be put thru an xhourglass in half a day...
add Rosenberg:

He had already looked at the list. Melander: remarkable, that big sailor...Karlsson and Wennberg, names he could put vague faces to. Braaf, he could not remember ever having heard of at all. Rosenberg read off the four to the pastor...
ms p. 60: break intro sentence about pastor into 2 sentences?

No
from Howard Cutler on Alpha Helix cruise: the economics of indenturement: loss of four 7½-year men would have been thought considerable by the Russians. (insert in Rosenberg-pastor scene?)
Add to Rosenberg scene:

He knew the saying that paper is the schoolman's forest, and Rosenberg had been to school. On quite a number of matters been to school, as a further saying had it.
neck or nothing (take all risks)
(HT Collins, p. 167)
undoes his wool britches and urinates. As he stands spraddled...
When W asks why gate guard isn't just killed, show K's disapproval?
W ran with his elbows cocked out and his head held low, as though...
pilgrims

...in wilderness & water.
Ironic that amid such a coastline of brawn, this single little callous (Castle Hill) was the strategic point... add to pp. 18-19.
Scandinavian joke: that while the Danes are dancing and laughing, the Norwegians trying to start a fight, the Finns passing a bottle, the Swedes are standing along the wall waiting to be introduced.

M was the exception to this joke... K was there among the wall-props.
Astoria: mention Shoalwater settlers to the north...
haida canoe scene: possibly add a 2nd "No. No." colloquy, M asking if they can hole up and hide.
add to Astoria description: a few dozen tall Yankee houses, T-shaped wharf...
Astoria had been tapped onto the Columbia like a cup to gather the sugar of a giant maple.
When Rosenberg was bathing his bottom...
Icelander knew what poets and prime ministers know, that the cave of the mouth is where men's spirits shelter. His gift for talk had stood him in stead with crews...now he worked words on W and B and K as if they were the ranks of clipper ship...
mooncurser: South-of-England name for a wrecker, who enticed vessels ashore by tying a lantern to a horse's bridle and hobbling one leg, so that the animal's stumbling simulated the motion of a vessel--a practice known as "jibber-the-kibber." Not feasible on moonlit nights.
Rather than Aristazabal, use an acronym made up of possible islands where the actual Swede was killed?

(what does this do to p. 1 line, "On modern charts..."?)
Benu
13 Feb '81 - possible acronym for Ireland.

Dall
Long
Dundas
Parker
Bandes
Campman
Gill
Pitt
Prior
Horsfield
Donilla
Kennedy
Hargy

Easten
Aristyhabal
Anderson
Athlone

Kahedlal

Khan

Arsankhana

Arisankhana

Emerging 1st 2-3 votes
Hanson, 73—expert thief: he'd steal the milk out of your tea
Karllson (or whichever is the narrator): somewhere along the shore stands beneath big firs, looks up and sees waterdrops come slowly down at him, as they do at Lake Qnl—slowly enough, from such a height, that he can step aside from them. He makes a brief game of this, then is embarrassed.
Hawks and eagles rode the air above the bluffs, making their half-mile watchful glides before letting the air carry them high again.
pick the bones out of that, why don't you?

or: W always looked as if her were trying to pick the bones out of what M had said.
at Karlsson's decision that they must travel by night:

Braaf chewed at the corner of his mouth. Wennberg argues until K asks him if he'd rather meet a flotilla of Makah whalers.
K felt a dry stone arrive and lodge at the top of his throat as he watched the long canoes, the triple paddles which cut the water so quickly open on each side of the surging craft, the two men, harpooner forward and steersman aft, who watched the ocean like fish hawks. Braaf was openly afraid. Wennberg tried to look scornful, but K saw him swallow on his stone of fear as well...
bullion

...this wan sunlight was bullion to them, the absence of storm a wealth of
distance able to be achieved; prosperity of the most gratifying sort. For
ey they had dared, O God and Jesu Maria and all the holy beards within the walls
of Jerusalem, how they had dared...
The darkness had a weight to it, a cling, as if it were a pelt.
The ocean would go from ghastly to enticing. And probably back again.
their clothes became their second skin: a dank layer they lived within
their route resembled the continuous peeling of an apple, the peel spiraling in greater and greater likelihood of breaking...
By now even Braaf looked thin.

They knew that without better food, they soon would be husks of themselves.
It was never quite quiet in the coastal forest, upper air moving through boughs, the devil knew what moving behind salmonberry and 00...
clouds looked m.m., so that they seemed strange platforms (butter) of forest which dissolved from sight angled up 4 suddenly
Wanted:

00 dreaded getting up, the start of day... he would stumble to the canoe still more unusually asleep than not...

—were a recent\'n at "Tumble up"?
sheer runs of forest from shoreline: ravens & crows flew in front, disappearing as if gulped, emerging as if conjured.
W suggested that B had about as much weight in the world as the fart of a fly, and B recommended that W shove his head up the nearest cow's behind to see whether it held any more like him. M slowed the slanging, without managing ever to quite stop it...
Hawks and eagles rode the air above the ridgelines, making their half-mile watchful glides before letting the air carry them high again.
Baleful crows circled them
Colcord, 105:

horse market: tide rips, where the meeting tides or currents toss up short, choppy waves.

(M: "Let's stay out of that horse market.")
Their new whiskers itched.
"It would be pretty to think so, but..."
Hanson, 104—Keep cool: keep your hair on
Worse & more of it.
(Cole, 52)
Colcord, 72:

every hair a rope-yarn and every drop of his blood Stockholm tar: thorough seaman
(possible beginning of next section after skulls story:)

That story first had been told to the Englishman Meares and his men in 1788(?), when...and like all good horrors, it had a core of truth.
00 - 00, not enough word for the... Mard 24, mg 7, 27 Aug '80 (Duynvoet)
if there is an axis in every man's life, Dad's was...
she said dangerously
said in his procedural way
final prism, final line of book:....these converge, and hold one another upright
A: not heavy, but with unusual width for his heft, like a playing card, or a cut of very broad plank.
milk teeth
M in his know-all way

fashion

und, 28 Aug
p. 34
For I am twice the watcher here: the one who asks only the receipt of the past, counts through its moments only because they somehow add into my life, and the other who has been curious (wakeful?) even as time has carried him.

use c Kolosh chief?
There was something unexpected, opposite, about him, as when a wood duck's eyelid closes from the bottom up.
hinged (refer to person)
(Walter Badgett? Chas Trapel?)
rectoned
stanzas of argument were not her style. She hit fast, went icy and silent on to next he took a pt
Once the wondering starts, there is no cure.
"the sea will eat them."
00, let us say,
the torque of the idea of Alaska had been tremendous. The Swedes talked
to each other of the wealth, the daring life...
Rain could simply appear in the Sitka air (with no change of clouds), dew in drops on your clothes before you were quite aware of it.
Silka

Frequent clouds of light appeared on forest slopes, warmed fallen my chunks b. overcast.
Topknots of snow on all the mountains
(from The Russians in America)

p. 59—"Like Napoleon, Baranof was a little great man..."

As said, I B that, like N, he...
Melander was of singularly few words three evenings later—June's last evening, another of New Archangel's summer twilights which dawdled on in dusk until near midnight—when he fell into step with Braaf and Karlsson on their way to the barracks.
Siberians who were pushed on thru Okhotsk
Be it said, the Okhotsk vagabonds were not encouraged onward
to Alaska for pushing ducks into the water. Thugs, thieves...
puddles

But others were debtors, escaped serfs...Bilibin was somewhere amid these,
not criminal but having bruised his nose against one law or another.
darkest place is under canddlestick. (Person most concerned has least info) (VH Collins, 76)
Another picture now is needed in the mind, large as you can manage to make it.

Larger yet, for it is the Pacific...

the picture must be of the a third of the Pacific Ocean,

the cold northern third...
"Rye-cakes," W said aloud one night.
The others burst into laughter.
"Laugh yourselves crooked, you bastards, but you'd give as much for a rye-cake right now as I would..."
The constant push of the northern Pacific has worn its way into them, up their arms, down to the smalls of their backs. Across backs of their necks.
The native tribes had learned to find luxury at this overlap of worlds, feasting from the sea, shaping houses and canoes and magical columns from the shoreline's willing wood, cedar. All four had seen the native art which passed as trade thru Sitka, but only Melander had paused over it, sensed the order and grasp which went into the array of pattern, and even he did not know enough of the tribal life to realize its connections....It took time to know these secrets of the North Pacific shore, and time the sea runners did not have.
Their faces become barbed with beard—except the youngest, Braaf, who has downy fuzz: "angel whiskers," Wennberg calls it derisively.
M blanched when B told him the readiest source of muskets (gun room in the officers club)....
Murkyg & sink holes of a forest so thick it seemed thatched
began just outside fort.
--in B's obit scene, have Indian use Chinook jargon phrase for boy? See Museum of Fur Tradq Q'ly piece on Chinook. "Swan, NWC-413 - Tole, chinook for boy"
"Ring of Words — Music school
my rewriting, from p. 179

"roots of heart tree/
pull & beat
for sorrow has roots/
black as Pearl.
insert in M-K 1st scene:

Where, except up to the sweet blue meadows of heaven, was there to go?
K, about W when the canoe is seen at Ar'bal: "It has to be him."

(meaning W has to go shatter the canoe, being the only one strong enough to do so.)
twirled witches' knots in the current
palisade
the Swedes as pale oxen
nap -- sage nap on the land
convoking (as a noun)
Wennberg had an anger pure and fast as fire.
Wennberg makes fun of Braaf's downy whiskers: spread cream on them, and a kitten would lick them off.
M's death details: his centered face, or height, missed as the others look back
(for Indians); possibly intro a detail of him never spelled out before.

—the abrupt alertness atop the man, like light on lighthouse.
a stutter in the mind, no fear
correct this in Jan.
p. 185--Pt Hardy HBC post?
p. 28: insert into M's monologue more of sensations of steam bath?