And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire...

--Revelation 15
S. was a UW philosophy major, brought to communism by his prof Gundlach (ultimately one of the 3 fired UW profs after the Canwell Committee). He's on the outs w/ his father, a maritime lawyer (executive?) who was conservative, involved in scrap iron biz w/ Japan. The mother had died, the father had been having an affair w/ his secretary—S. and the other kids mostly looked to people named Krause as "family."

S. goes to the Spanish Civil War, not with the Abraham Lincoln Brigade but an earlier Canadian brigade. He impresses within the movement (he's a golden boy even in looks) and rises in the Americans' command there—to the point where he dies in the same battle as Robert Merriman, the Robert Jordan figure in For Whom the Bell...

His death was in '38. 10 years later, leftists in Seattle hold a rally to raise funds for Spanish orphans and war victims etc., citing among others the story of S. S's father—who had disowned S for the leftism—is enraged, and names the UW profs for seducing his son to communism and sending him off to Spain to die.

The plot twist in all this: Gundlach's academic career is destroyed along w/ the others, and indeed he seems to have been key in the regional CPUSA: but in all likelihood he not only hadn't sent S. to Spain, he never wanted him to go—the Party had a quota of party members permitted to go to the fighting, which Joan says was horrific, the American brigades used as shock troops in the retreat from Barcelona to Madrid. The Party wanted to preserve its young intelligentsia such as S.—so Gundlach paid w/ his professional life for something he couldn't, didn't dare, refute.
title: Army of Rainbows
Brigade of "
--can't use "Rainbows" if Cuban Missile Crisis novel is "The Rainbow Rope"
Subplot: some variant of the Delbert Glasser—Shirley Shearer story, in which he, unable to tell her he had an undesirable discharge, left it where she'd find it in the first days after their wedding—perhaps it was even on their honeymoon—and she had the wedding annulled.

Make him a Wobbly, with Little Red Songbook? Or leftist who fought in Spain?
The Valier-Gros Ventre-Conrad militia went to Butte during the miners' strike before WWI. Someone—a Swede who later moves to Plentywood area—says in a GV bar that they're on the wrong side unless they're joining the strikers.