

**CHAPTER LIST – THE HOTEL TRAVEL:
VOL. 1 - TAIPEI DAYS**
By Anthony Reynolds or Tony Akbar

Central Theme: To make this a novel, there has to be more involvement and progression with the central character. It is his emotional journey that needs to be related (often through random thoughts). The principal driver is that Sean thinks he wants to become a better man, although he doesn't really know what this is or how to achieve it. He sees travel as a means towards this. However the reality is that the hedonism and nihilism overtakes him. He feels ambivalent at the end. There is the small self knowledge that change has to come from within. Changing the external environment is largely meaningless.

Keep the writing simple! Simple words and short sentences. Keep in mind that Sean is not Tony.

Prologue [Melbourne]: Neat Green Lawns

Introduces Sean Dinan in a story set in the aftermath of a killing spree. Sean is one of the reporters asked to go on a death knock and interview the families of the murder victims.

New Scenes & Changes:

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| 1. Change Intro? |
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Time Elapsement & Major Events

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| 1. Pre Xmas 1991 |
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PART ONE: ANYWHERE – SHORT TRAVELS

Chapter One [Bombay]: The Howrah Mail

Dinan jumps onto the moving Howrah Mail just in time to be reunited with Siobhan in Calcutta at Christmas.

New Scenes & Changes:

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| 1. Weave history of Calcutta thru a conversation with a character (major) on the train! |
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DONE!!! DONE!!! DONE!!!

Chapter Two [Calcutta]: The Salvation Army Hostel

The end of their affair set amidst the traveller's precinct, Mother Teresa and the Sisters of Charity home for the dead and dying and the slum clinics of the City of Angels.

New Scenes & Changes: Put in 3 changes.

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| 1. Letter from Siobhan. |
| 2. More from the notebook from Jack Praeger interview. |
| 3. Rewrite Mother Teresa scene so it is more cynical. |

Inclusion: "Sean knew it was a little bit too pat. The atheist lapsed Catholic wanted to dislike her in one sense and admire her in another. The truth was she was impressive. Nobody least of all a lapsed Catholic could help but be impressed. Like everybody else, he wanted to believe in Saints and maybe she was a saint but that didn't mean that what she said wasn't a bunch of crap either. She wasn't ethereal like he'd

imagined either. She was dman practical. But she was too Mother Teresa. He felt more comfortable with flawed humans. Like Praeger. He was flawed and still getting by and doing damn good work. In that sense, Praeger gave Sean more hope than Mother Teresa.”
DONE!!! DONE!!! DONE!!!

Time Elapsement & Major Events

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| 1. Xmas 1991. Start of Ist Gulf War |
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Chapter Three [Darjeeling]: Shamrock Inn A quarter done.

While Siobhan finishes her work with the socialist slum doctor, Jack Praeger, Sean travels to the Indian side of the Himalayas and the colonial tea plantation centre of Darjeeling en route to Nepal. Winter has set in and it is snowing when he arrives. He finds a guest house called the Shamrock Inn. During the night, he has an unexpected visitor.

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| 1. Journey to Darjeeling. Interconnect with Jim and Winnie (and travellers cheques). |
| 2. Nature of place. |
| 3. Find the Shamrock. Meet the guests. |
| 4. Have a bath with a bucket and an element. |
| 5. Dinner at old colonial hotel. Conversation about mosquitoes. |
| 6. Return Shamrock. Go to bed. |
| 7. Jesus face in the window. |
| 8. Ruminaton. |

Changes and New Scenes: Vicious Monkey snatches car keys.

Interconnect: Sean passes by Jim and Winnie arguing about ripping off the travellers’ cheques from the Indian money changer in Katmandu.

Mosquito conversation with entymologist.

Chapter Four [Bangkok]: Chivas On The Rockwell

Sean travels to Thailand and takes a road trip down south by bicycle, truck and ferry. He arrives just in time to miss the full moon party in Phangan where a German tourist drowns. On his return to Bangkok and the traveller’s centre of Khaosan Road, he goes to a nearby blues bar where he meets a Thai corporate femme fatale who surprises with her account of the Royal Family.

Changes and New Scenes:

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| Tighten the introduction. |
| Mention names of Thai Royal family. King Bhumibol. |
| The watch seller who breaks down the door inn the Soi Cowboy discotheque to find the transvestite who has stolen his wallet? |

Chapter Five [Hong Kong]: Fish Soup

Sean hears the bizarre scheme to find a wife by Tom, the confused Croatian womaniser at Kowloon’s infamous Chung King mansions.

Changes and New Scenes:

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| Some history on Balkan conflict. Tom is from Sbronecia or Bosnia perhaps. |
| Do scene with Sean in Poste Restante. Combine above. |

DONE! DONE! DONE!

Time Elapsement & Major Events

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| 1. August 1991. Bombing of Dubrovnik |
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PART TWO: SOMEWHERE – TALES OF TAIPEI DAYS

Chapter Six [Taipei]: Taipei Hostel

On a hunch, Sean travels to the renegade province of Taiwan in the Republic of China. He ends up at Taipei Hostel recommended as “...*Pretty basic and crowded. Rundown from the day it was built. It hasn’t really changed for 20 years. Lots of strange characters but cheap and you will find work there. Check out the balcony upstairs whether you stay there or not*”.

Changes and New Scenes.

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| Edit the conversation on the rooftop. |
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| Rationalise characters. Turn Marty and Bill into one character! => Bill Manne or the Main Man! |
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Time Elapsement & Major Events

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| 1. ??????? 1991 |
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Chapter Seven [Taipei]: The Sauna

Hamish McTaggart breezed into the Hostel like a sampan carried along in a typhoon. Sean is introduced to the irrespressible Hamo and they end up sharing the small, sweat stained room on the top floor next to the balcony called the Sauna.

Time Elapsement & Major Events

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| 1. ??????? 1991 |
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Chapter Eight [Taipei]: Real, Real Gone! New Story

Despite the heat, congestion and smog of Taipei, Sean begins to appreciate some of its hidden charms. The laissez-faire approach at the Global Village bushiban, running through multiple red lights on his Vespa, outrageous drunken conversations on the balcony and...his private classes with Sophia. This financial manager at a local automotive parts company who smuggles gold to Shanghai in her Versace shoulder bag - is smart, seductive and seemingly unreachable as she lives with her father at the Taipei Institute for the Deaf and Dumb.

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| 1. Description of the bushiban. |
| 2. Meeting Sophia. The shwe jiao shops. Sean saying he wanted to sleep. Chinese stuff about chopsticks. Don’t point then at people => bad luck. Don’t stand them upright, Like incense at a funeral. Bad Luck. |
| 3. Sean’s 30 th Birthday party at DV8 => her departure. |
| 4. The Love Hotel. |
| 5. At Tien Mu Pool and playing number fist (ask Kirsten to investigate) fives afterwards. |
| 6. Her story about the two lovers. The creative guy with the drug habit – who protested at Nixon recognising China - and the professional guy. |
| 7. Photo session with Hamo at CKS memorial. |
| 8. S&M passage. Bandaid on her arse. Fucking at MTV. |

9. Real, real gone. She ends it.

Changes and New Scenes: Tien Mu pool. Eating pig's stomach at the seafoof restaurant and playing number fist. Sophia asking if I had ever eaten human heart. Describing how her father had eaten the hearts of the Japanese soldiers he had killed. Description of first time at the Love Hotel. Askign for shway jou at the dumpling shots and the confusing the waiter (I want to sleep). Sophia skating along the ceramic tiles on Shinsheng Lou on the way to the MTV and hoping to god that I wouldn't die for at least another two hours. In the end she broke up with Sean because they had no future.

Time Elapsement & Major Events

1. ?????? 1991

Chapter Nine [Taipei]: Tribes

Tribal attitudes are rife in the bamboo forest of concrete buildings that is Taipei including those between the British and the North Americans in Taipei which are told largely through Sean's friendship with the tough Liverpoolian Jim Dingle. During Ghost month when the sensible locals superstitiously stay indoors after nightfall and Westerners heedlessly continue their bar escapades, a rash of violent attacks and bizarre fights break out. The Triad boss, Shadow warns Sean two times not to become involved.

Changes and New Scenes:

Description where Carl Ragg describes his life at the institution. "In effect, I was a chemical prisoner on largactil or that's how I felt anyway. It worried me for a long time and I would take myself off the drugs and inevitably have a relapse. Then one day I was thinking about it all and I realised that we're all slaves in one sense or another. Beholden to a job, mortgage, money in some form, family...why worry about taking a couple of brown and orange capsules every day?"

DONE!!! DONE!!! DONE!!!

Time Elapsement & Major Events

1. ?????? 1991

Chapter Ten [Taipei]: Love Fubar

Sean seduces Cindy Wang, a general's daughter who runs a bar in downtown Taipei. The only problem is that Sean later becomes good friends with Cindy's aggressive Maori-Chinese boyfriend, Vin Gook. But it is far too late for post coital morals as Cindy and Vin's relationship crumble.

2 Issues: Maybe Sean or Hamo. Story Location in the book.

Paragraph on why Sean and Vin are mates. Share an interest in art.

Time Elapsement & Major Events

1. ?????? 1991

Chapter Eleven [Taipei]:The Global Village/Whirley Birds

1. Miranda and helicopter story.
2. Conversation with Raymond
3. Guy's acid trip/combat mode/delusions of St Francis and Jesus Christ/ Scenwe with fan and bath.
4. Miranda's outburst ⇔ father's gambling addiction.

Time Elapsement & Major Events

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| 1. ?????? 1991 |
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Chapter Twelve [Taipei]: Crashpad!

Chicago Bill introduces the Sunday stud poker night at the Fubar where one particular night Sean discovers Hamo cheating. Sean is angry but as Hamo says “we are all cheating, just in different ways”. In any event, neither of them can be too upset as they are floating in and out of each others lives and apartments including the time Sean crashed at Tsien Tien Village apartment which Hamo shared with his neurotic girlfriend, Cherry. A serious motorbike accident brings a belated sense of permanence.

Changes and New Scenes:

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| #Check for 1 st person narration. |
| #Sean writing Taipei Hostel story. Introduce journalist character! |
| Mention Miranda and trip to Thailand with Ted. |
| Change Matt/Matty to Eddie. |
| Rewrite motorbike accident scene to make it more direct. From Hamo’s perspective. |

Time Elapsement & Major Events

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| 1. ?????? 1991 |
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Chapter Thirteen [Koh Samui]: Sayonara Dude **Three quarter Done!**

Sean travels to Thailand with the shy son of a Taiwanese shipping magnate and Ted Smithers, the handsome, fashion conscious son of an American diplomat who incessantly complains about his seven years on the road. All is not what it at first seems as Ted procures his “little holiday pleasure” of white powder in Khaosan Road.

Changes and New Scenes:

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| Converation on the rooftop. |
| Sean loses his passport on the ferry from Surat Thani. |
| Expound on Ted’s reactions as he gets shot. |
| Finally opportunity to go away with ted for a full moon party. A lot of things go wrong. Ed loses his passport on the ferry. Demands that all the locals get searched. What are you going to do, throw them overboard. Sean falls off a motorbike while driving to the golden buddha. |

Time Elapsement & Major Events

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| 1. Lantern Festival 1991 or 92 |
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Chapter Fourteen [Taipei]: Tsien Tien Graveyard **New Story.**

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| 1. The day of the funeral ceremony. Miranda accompanies Sean. Description of graveyard. Miranda shivers because of the ghosts. |
| 2. Cherry ’ hysterics. |
| 3. Kicking the footy. |
| 4. The Chinese Irish Wake. |
| 5. ⇔ devise Taipei Hostel Letter campaign. |
| 6. Smoking crystal meth. |
| 7. Feel drunk and sad. Drive to the market and eat wahjen. |
| 8. Last scene: just write the two hostel letters with the dates of publication in the letters to the editor. |

Time Elapsement & Major Events

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| 1. ?????? 1992 |
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the apartment and devise a scheme to start a doctored debate on sean’s taipei hostel story + two letters to the editor. Should this be a short separate story. Yes!! After drinking all night. Sean goes to the market and eats an oyster omelette. Wahjen. Makes him feel better.

Intermezzo: Two Letters to the Editor

Chapter Fifteen [Seoul]: The Torments

Sean goes to Seoul on a visa run and catches up with his old sparring buddy Callum. Cal, a former road digger is now a drug dealer looking to fulfil his dream of making enough money to sail to Costa Rica. Unfortunately for the Northern Englishman, he makes one deal too many.

Time Elapsement & Major Events

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| 1. ?????? 1992. prepn for Olympic Games |
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Intermezzo: Article on Arrest of Gangster After Police Shooting

Chapter Sixteen [Kenting]: The Sea Dragon Palace *Half Done*.

Sean is caught in the deceit of concurrent affairs. One ends tragically in suicide. An opportunity to make a clean break occurs when his journalist friend, Andre Barbour is injured in a freak accident.

Cherry told Miranda about Sean’s affairs.

Sean however must reconcile his compulsion to travel onwards and Miranda’s devotion.

Changes and New Scenes:

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| 1. Narration par. |
| 2. Description of hotel. |
| 3. Paul’s accident. |
| 4. Guy or Miranda produces visacard. |
| 5. Miranda and Sean visit Paul at the hospital. |
| 6. Scene of Miranda conversation about previous lives. |
| 7. Talk about Empress Wu and Concubine. |
| 8. Cherry’s death. |
| 9. Last scene at the airport. Touching hands through the glass pane. |

Busdrivers refuse to sleep with Sean.

Andre offers Sean the chance to apply for his job as a business journalist in Jakarta.



Time Elapsement & Major Events

1. ?????? 1991

Epilogue [Ho Chi Minh City]: *The Saigon Hotel* **New Story**

Sean travels to Vietnam while he thinks about what to do next.

Present himself in Singapore. Too close to Australia. He didn't feel ready.

Time Elapsement & Major Events

1. ?????? 1992



It is very important that I manage to draw these threads and characters and plotlines together into a coherent whole. That doesn't mean that I want everything wrapped up in gift paper. There has to be some openness about what happens next but it also has to be coherent. Right! Thanks for this. When the movie gets made, I will make you an associate producer. Ha! Ha!