How to read Infinite Jest chronologically. (v1.3)

Methodology. What follows is a reshuffling of all the scenes in Infinite Jest as they occur chronologically. Not every scene in the book is labeled with a definitive date, or has events or characters that can be cross-referenced to deduce a definitive date. Some of the scene placements are judgment calls on my part. Oftentimes they are placed where they are taking into account the need for the chronological reader to have the same fairly early introduction to settings and characters that Wallace and his editors (and really all decent novelists) provide. A few examples of this would be the undated scenes that generally describe Enfield Tennis Academy (Pages 63-64), Lyle (Pages 127-128) and Ennet House (Pages 137-138, 548). Other times, similar undateable scenes are grouped together to establish a short thematic sequence of scenes. An example of that would be the introductory scenes to Ken Erdedy, "yrstruly" and Kate Gompert.

After a brief synopsis of the scene/pages in question, my reasons for placing the scene where it is will be in parentheses, along with any instructions for the reader that may be needed, such as "begin at X line" or "stop reading at Y line."

There are a couple instances where I've separated a certain scene from within an originally unbroken section. This happens mostly in the sections when Gately is in the hospital having flashbacks to his youth. Separating these flashbacks out isn't too complicated. There's very little jumping back and forth from past to present from sentence to sentence. Wallace relegates the time jumps to separate paragraphs/chunks. So there's only three or four times when the reader has a mid-scene paragraph to read.

There are also a few footnotes that have been separated into their own scenes: Numbers 90, 110, 135, 234, 304, 321, 324, 332. Make a note of these numbers so you'll know not to read them when they occur within the main text.

A couple quick acknowledgments. This project was fun but also quite maddening. It would've taken three times as long if not for two sources that aided me. The basic layout of IJ's scenes I used as a template is here: http://faculty.sunydutchess.edu/oneill/Infinite.htm. And Stephen Burn's Reader's Guide to Infinite Jest was helpful, too. However both sources ultimately are incomplete and sometimes erroneous in their dating. That being said, they still both helped tremendously.

Some final advice before you embark. If this is your first time reading Infinite Jest – stop. Read it the way Wallace intended first. Hell, you should probably read it at least twice as it is before opting for this route. Wallace had very good reasons for ordering the book the way he did. The book's sequencing is just as big a part of its artistic/philosophical statement as any sentence or character. (Also, this guide has spoilers.) If you have read it already and you are looking to experience the book in a new way, I think you'll find this approach enlightening. Seeing when scenes play out in relation to the other things that are going on sheds a lot of light on the characters as well as some scenes you may have found more cryptic in your other go-arounds. Gaudeamus Igitur!

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P.S.: I'm happy to hear from people who may have found information I couldn't. Noneoftheabove82@gmail.com.

| Page # | Date | Synopsis / (Instruction and reasoning for chronological placement) |
|---------|-------------------------------|---|
| 157-168 | 1960 | Hal's grandfather, James Incandenza's father, narrates, addressing 10-year-old Jim. Discusses Marlon Brando, tennis, and his own father's reaction when he blew out his knee at a match. |
| 491-503 | 1963 | Jim Incandenza helps his father fix a mattress |
| 38-39 | Likely mid-late 1980s | The tale of Bruce Green and Mildred Bonk. (Mildred Bonk's hair was "teased and gelled" starting in 10 th grade, which suggests mid-to-late 1980s. But I can't find anything definite to place Green's age.) |
| 312-317 | 1991, May | Mario's surprise birth, and a description of some of his deformities. (Mario is 18 in May of YDAU on Page 54.) |
| 10-11 | March or April, 1997 or 98 | Hal eating the mold. (Hal says it is March or April and he is "around 5," so he's either 4-1/2 in 97, or 5-1/2 in 98) |
| 902-906 | 1990-1998 | Gately's childhood and history of his substance abuse. (Page 277 states Gately is 28 in YDAU, therefore 9-year-old Gately smokes his first duBois in 1990, and 17-year-old Gately quits football and drops out in 1998. In Wallace's original ordering, these passages of Gately's childhood are placed within his hospital stay. However, the childhood passages I've chosen to place here make no reference to Gately in the hospital, so it's not necessarily him flashing back from his hospital bed, even though that was almost undoubtedly Wallace's intent on placing it where he did.) |
| 63-64 | 1999 | Brief description and history of ETA and its founder, James O. Incandenza (IJ lists this "As of YDAU," however, I'm placing it in the year of ETA's founding, 1999, to serve as an introduction to the novel's setting in this chronological format.) |
| 407-410 | 2000-01 | The story of Eric Clipperton and his Glock 17 semiautomatic. (Technically this is not a separate scene. As written by DFW, this flashback is evoked by Mario's Interdependence Day film, but the narrative splits off pretty cleanly. There's no jumping back to the movie once Clipperton's story starts. Begin with "In the very last couple years of solar, Unsubsidized Time" near the bottom of page 407.) |
| 430-434 | 2001-YEAR OF THE WHOPPER | Eric Clipperton's death. (Clipperton kills himself after the USTA becomes ONANTA in the Year of the Whopper and he is listed No. 1.) |

| 283-299 | 2001-YEAR OF TUCKS MEDICATED PAD | The story of Orin and Joelle van Dyne, the Prettiest Girl Of All Time. His switch from tennis to football in college. (Introducing Orin and Joelle. Page: 283: Orin "got out of competitive tennis when Hal was 9 and Mario nearly 11." Also his first game against Syracuse was "its last season representing an American University," Page 294.) |
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| 911-916 | 1999-2001 December, "just after Xmas" | More of Gately's history working for Whitey Sorkin with Gene Fackelmann. Gately watches Orin, "The B.U. punter," on TV "just after Xmas (Page 915) then has a breakdown over his wasted athletic talent. (Save for the half a sentence on Page 915 starting with "Gately lay in the Trauma Ward," this snippet of Gately's history doesn't jump back and forth with him in the hospital. Placed here because the Gately's first link to the Incandenza family is clearer if the chronological reader has been introduced to Orin already.) |
| 127-128 | | Nameless ETA kid talks about Lyle. (Same introductive reasoning as above. Plus, the chronological reader must know who Lyle is before reading about the next few entries. This anonymous kid, unlike the future unnamed "nearly 12"-year-old, is definitely not Hal, as James Incandenza is referred to as "Dr. Incandenza," and not "Himself.") |
| 379 | YEAR OF THE WHOPPER | James Incandenza and Lyle in the weight room. |
| 375-376 | YEAR OF THE WHOPPER, January or February | James Incandenza's Found Drama came out of a late-night session with Lyle in the "first brutal winter night early in the ONANite temporosubsidized era." |
| 967-971 | Sometime between 2000-YTMP | Backstory of ETA Head Trainer Barry Loach. (Start reading at "The consensus among E.T.A.s is that Head Trainer Barry Loach resembles a wingless fly" On Page 967, the story of Loach's family begins with "the eldest Loach boy had gotten demapped early on in the Brazilian ONAN/UN joint action of YTMP. However, this section ends on Page 971 with Mario meeting Loach while on a mission for more subway tokens to be used in Himself's movie Pre-Nuptial Agreement of Heaven and Hell. In the filmography, this film is dated only as Before Subsidization, but it's fairly close in its placement to The Man Who Began to Suspect He Was Made of Glass, which is dated Year of the Whopper, and the Found Drama entries, which we know from the preceding section began in the Year of the Whopper. This suggests the meeting with Mario takes place around 2000-01. So, with these two seemingly contradictory pieces of info, definitive dating is unclear. Placing the scene here approximates when the scene might occur and establishes a thematic grouping introducing the chronological reader to some of the characters inhabiting ETA – Lyle and Loach.) |
| 137-138 | YEAR OF THE WHOPPER | Introduction to the Ennet House rehab facility, founded in YW. (Ordered by the year it was founded for same introductive reasoning as ETA, Lyle, etc.) |

| 548 | | No door at Ennet House (Continuing the introduction.) |
|---------------------|--|---|
| 240-242 | | Geographical description of Enfield, MA (More introduction, stage-setting.) |
| 223 | | Chronology of Subsidized Time (More introduction. The beginning of subsidized time is a good place for this.) |
| 367 | | The Statue of Liberty's product is changed every Jan 1. (Goes well with the above.) |
| 144 | | Alphabetic list of anti-ONAN groups. (Introduces existence of resistance groups, anti-ONAN sentiment.) |
| 916-918, 924-933 | YEAR OF THE WHOPPER, sometime between January and March | More on Gene Fackelmann, Gately's ex-girlfriend Pamela Hoffman-Jeep. (This occurs while Gately is out on bail for assaulting the bouncers two days after Christmas. He finally goes to jail in March, three months after the end-of-December assault. Read around the section on Gately in the hospital. Stop after " didn't make him more nervous." on page 918, then start again on 924, "Gately, for several months before") |
| 934-938 | YW | Gately and Gene tackle Mt. Dilaudid. (Skip the one paragraph on 937 that begins "Gately nodded out into a dream") |
| 974-981 | YW | After the drug binge, Bobby C arrives to punish Gene Fackelman. (Start with paragraph "Somebody overhead asked somebody else") |
| 27-31 | YEAR OF THE TUCKS MEDICATED PAD, April 1 | 10-year-old Hal goes to see a therapist; it turns out to be his father in disguise. James Incandenza tells Hal that his tennis racket contains identical materials as the entertainment cartridge implanted in his head. (We learn Hal was born June 1992.) |
| 93 | YEAR OF THE TUCKS MEDICATED PAD | Description of a herd of feral hamsters in the Great Concavity. (The hamsters were freed "at the beginning of the experialist migration in the subsidized Year of the Whopper." It could be any time after that, but I'm placing soon after YW to serve as an introduction to the changed map/environment for the chronological narrative.) |
| 37-38 | YEAR OF THE TRIAL-SIZED DOVE BAR | Clenette narrates, tells a tale about her friend Wardine's abusive family |
| 60-63 | YEAR OF THE TRIAL-SIZED DOVE BAR, late spring | "almost 12"-year-old's nightmare at ETA. (This is likely Hal, which would place this in the YT-SDB, pre-June. Hal's nightmares are a recurring subject in the book. The vocabulary of the kid's thoughts is pretty advanced for 11. And OCD Avril is the type that would put a nametag on a flashlight for her kid.) |

| 140-142 | YEAR OF THE PERDUE WONDER- CHICKEN | Hal's seventh-grade essay comparing Hawaii-Five-O's Steve McGarrett with Hill Street Blues' Frank Furillo. (Interesting that Hal's theory on the next kind of hero is "the hero of non-action, the catatonic hero, the one beyond calm, divorced from all stimulus" This description fits both of IJ's heroes, Hal and Gately, by the end of the book. Gately cut off from communicating and moving by his injuries, Hal cut off and unable to control his movements by his mysterious affliction.) |
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| 1006-1007 Footnote 110 | YEAR OF THE WHISPER- QUIET MAYTAG DISHMASTER, June 20 | Avril writes to Orin in Arizona, but receives a form letter in reply. (These letters are wedged in the middle of Footnote 110. Read only the letters.) |
| 172-176 | YEAR OF THE YUSHITYU 2007 | Hal's narration of Tennis and the Feral Prodigy, a film by Mario Incandenza. |
| 138-140 | YEAR OF DAIRY PRODUCTS FROM THE AMERICAN HEARTLAND, June 26 | Excerpt from a letter to State Farm detailing a bricklayer's bizarre accident. |
| 55- 60 | YEAR OF DAIRY PRODUCTS FROM THE AMERICAN HEARTLAND, Autumn | Don Gately's criminal career comes to an end after accidentally murdering a Canadian VIP during a robbery. This VIP has ties to various anti-O.N.A.N. groups. |
| 144-151 | | Why video phones didn't work. (We're finally entering the Year of the Depend Adult Undergarment, the year in which most of the action takes place. This seems a good spot to introduce the modern technologies that will loom so large from here on out. Also, an introduction to the teleputer, which is the next segment, is relevant at this point because the ensuing sections consist of the medical attaché being enslaved to it visavis the samizdat.) |
| 60 | | Description of a state-of-the-art teleputer |
| 33-37 | YEAR OF THE DEPEND ADULT UNDERGARMENT, April 1, 1927h | The medical attaché comes home to relax and watch some TP. |
| 42 | 2010h | Medical attaché is still watching (Just one sentence.) |
| 78-79 | YDAU, April 2, 0145h | The medical attaché's wife returns home |

| 87 | Mid-afternoon | People come to the medical attaché's house to look for him |
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| 87-92 | YDAU, April 30, evening | Tuscon, AZ. Marathe and special agent Hugh/Helen Steeply meet on a hillside to discuss the appearance, earlier that month, of a special form of Entertainment |
| 93-95 | | Marathe and Steeply continued |
| 97 | Sunset | Marathe and Steeply continued. |
| 105-108 | | Marathe and Steeply continued. Talk of love |
| 126-127 | | Marathe and Steeply continued. |
| 127 | | Marathe and Steeply continued. (One line.) |
| 317-321 | Circa midnight | Marathe and Steeply continued. |
| 375 | | Marathe and Steeply continued. |
| 418-430 | | Marathe and Steeply continued. |
| 470-475 | May 1, pre-dawn | Marathe and Steeply continued. Discussion of BS gov't experiments on human subjects |
| 490-491 | | Marathe and Steeply continued. |
| 507-508 | | Marathe and Steeply continued. |
| 528-530 | | Marathe and Steeply continued. |
| 638-648 | | Marathe and Steeply continued. Steeply's father's addiction to M*A*S*H. |
| 32-33 | YDAU, May 9 | Hal, now 16, gets phone call from Orin, Mario wakes up. |
| 142-144 | YDAU, Aug. 10 | Helen Steeply's Moment article about a woman who carried her artificial heart in her purse and was mugged. Poor Tony Krause was the purse snatcher. |
| 227 | No date | Helen Steeply's (Putative) Curriculum Vitae (Following Steeply's article is good spot for this.) |
| 42- 49 | YDAU, October | Orin wakes up in Arizona, last night's "Subject" is gone. |

| 121-126 | YDAU, Mid-October | Mario Incandenza's First and Only Even Remotely Romantic Experience Thus Far with the "USS" Millicent Kent. (How lovely that chronologically this comes right next to Orin's own sexual conquest.) |
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| 151-156 | YDAU, Oct. 15, | Urine tests at ETA, Pemulis sells clean samples |
| 181-193 | YDAU, Late October | At WYYY, 60+- with Madame Psychosis, is about to air. The late shift engineer goes to the roof to drink a Millennial Fizzy and listen to the show. Mario listens to the show at HmH with Hal, who is now 17. |
| 449-450 | YDAU, Very Late October | Hal's bad dream. |
| 65-66 | YDAU, Nov. 1 | Orin flying into the football stadium on game day. (Working out the day of the week based on Nov. 8 being a Sunday, Nov. 1 is also a Sunday, the traditional day on which NFL games are played. Working out the day of the week based on the Port Washington meet being a Tuesday, Nov. 1 would be a Thursday. This is more evidence that Pemulis saying Port Washington is a Tuesday on Page 212 is an error. Though, perhaps Wallace could predict the future and knew the NFL Network would eventually form and start airing a Thursday night game and chose to have Orin's Cardinals play in it.) |
| 128-135 | | "yrstruly" narrates a story involving C, Poor Tony, and Dr. Wo in Chinatown. C overdoses. (This could be Clenette. There's the same poor use of language as Pages 37-38 and yrstruly knows the same people, e.g. Roy Tony. It also would make sense for this to be Clenette because by the end of the story yrstruly is looking to detox and Pat Montesian is expecting two women for entry interviews two sections from now. It could also be Didi N., the "new black girl," on pages 207-208. It makes sense chronologically to group together the tales of future Ennet residents just before the house is introduced as a major setting in the novel.) |
| 17-26 | | Ken Erdedy, preparing for a marijuana binge, waits for a woman to deliver the goods. |
| 68-78 | | Kate Gompert explains the extent of her addiction to marijuana to a young doctor |
| 270-281 | YDAU, Early November, morning | Gately, substance-free for 421 days, is now staff at Ennet House. Geoffrey Day, Charlotte Treat, Randy Lenz all introduced. Pat Montesian has entry interviews at 0900h with two women and one man. (Three sections from now, Tiny Ewell and Kate Gompert are new residents, so I assume they're two of Montesian interviewers. Not sure who the other woman is though. Clenette maybe? It's also possible Montesian denied the second woman and we never meet her.) |

| 05.07 | G: 00001 | |
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| 85-87 | Circa 0900h | Tiny Ewell and a "big black" rehab staffer are transported to the Ennet House. |
| 193-198 | | Description of Units 1-7 of the Enfield Marine Public Health Hospital complex where Ennet House is located. (Introduction of the setting.) |
| 200-210 | YDAU, Early November | More detailed introduction to Ennet House and its residents. "New resident" Tiny Ewell's obsession with tattoos. Kate Gompert now a resident, too. (Keeping with the theory that yrstruly above is Clenette, she would be a resident now also. But Didi N. is also described as "new," so perhaps the second female interviewer and yrstruly is Didi. I lean toward Clenette, though, because of the Roy Tony connection.) |
| 461-469 | | Don Gately's responsibilities at Ennet House. His boss, Pat Montesian. (More introduction. Getting to know the new sober Gately.) |
| 434-436 | | Gately's other job, cleaning bathrooms. (More introduction. Getting to know the new Gately.) |
| 442-449 | | Gately's relationship with the crocodiles. He remembers the death of his mother. (More introduction. Getting to know the new Gately.) |
| 548-549 | YDAU, Early November | Rodney Tine measures his dick. (Makes a nice transition, as this is a sort of addiction for Tine.) |
| 49-54 | YDAU, Nov. 2 | Hal getting high in the basement of Enfield Tennis Academy. (Now Hal's addiction serves as a transition to ETA. This and the next two are grouped together as a little introduction to Hal as he is in YDAU. Possibly he gets high, then heads off to bed and chats with Mario on pages 39-42. The date is my attribution, given this grouping of ETA scenes and Mario's thoughts of the steel pole raised to twice its height the next day with Schtitt.) |
| 67-68 | | Hal remembers the first time he got high and relates a tennis dream |
| 39-42 | Nighttime | Hal and Mario in their room at night. They discuss Himself's funeral and the Moms. Mario says the Moms seems happier, Hal disagrees and tells him to picture a flagpole raised to twice its height. |
| 60-61 | YDAU, Nov. 3, 0700h-ish | Troeltsch sick in bed at ETA. |
| 79-85 | | Gerhardt Schtitt and Mario talk game theory on the way to get ice cream. (The day after his talk with Hal about the Moms' sadness, Mario "thinks of a steel pole raised to double its designed height" on Page 84.) |
| 701 | | Coach Schtitt with Mario in his BMW getting ice cream. |

| 95-97 | 1640h | Locker room banter at ETA. Troeltsch, Pemulis, Wayne, Stice, Struck, Freer and Hal are present. |
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| 97-105 | | More banter in the locker room. Complaints about Schtitt's expectations of them. |
| 66-67 | YDAU, pre-dinner | Michael Pemulis, as "Big Buddy," talks about drugs to his little buddies. (Page 66: "This is supposed to be a pre-dinner 'Big Buddy' powwow") |
| 109-121 | | Hal with his "little buddies" Kent Blott, Idris Arslanian, Ingersol. He convinces them that their resentment of Schtitt is engineered by Schtitt and his staff. Switches to John Wayne, Pemulis, Schacht, Troeltsch, Struck, and Stice, each with his group of younger students. (Troeltsch still sick. Pemulis has switched from drug talk to bilking his buddies in a game of three-card monty on pages 116-117. Good job, Peemster.) |
| 1026, Footnote 145 | YDAU, Nov. 3 | Transcript of Steeply's soft profile on Orin. (This is dated Nov. 3, the same day Orin calls Hal to ask about Canadian Separatism (see section 135-137). Orin calls because the interview has put him on his toes, so it's logical to have the chronological reader read the interview before coming to the phone call, which presumably takes place in the evening after the long day at ETA.) |
| 1038, Footnote 234 | | More of Steeply's soft profile on Orin. |
| 701 | | Avril attempting to call Steeply/Moment Magazine in Arizona. (Placing this scene here highlights whom Avril's trying to call and illustrates her strained relationship with Orin. Orin calls Hal in the next scene, but for Avril to find anything out about Orin, she has to call her son's interviewer for information.) |
| 135-137 | YDAU, Nov. 3, just before dinner | Hal receives a phone call from Orin who asks him about Canadian Separatism. (Presumably heading back to his room after his predinner Buddies meeting, Hal hears the call for dinner at the end of the phone call.) |
| 700 | YDAU, Nov. 3, evening | Troeltsch puts in a pro-wrestling cartridge. (Putting this here because Troeltsch is still depicted as ill, e.g. the vaporizer and the tissues. Nov. 3 opens with Troeltsch feeling ill as well, and the astute reader will catch him palpating his glands during the locker room scene. Apparently Troeltsch was a trooper on Nov. 3 and made it outside for afternoon drills. And he's sick during his Buddies meeting too. There's no real reason for this to be on any other day.) |
| 169-171 | YDAU, Nov. 4 | Pemulis scores some DMZ from the Antitoi brothers. |

| 211-219 | YDAU, Nov. 4, lunchtime, 1430h-ish, through YDAU , Nov. 5 | Michael Pemulis explains that he has scored some DMZ from the Antitois. He stores it in his sneaker in the ceiling of subdorm B. (Page 211: "Pemulis' roommates Schacht and Troelstch down at lunch" Page 214: "It's close to 1430h." Page 216: "Pemulis and Hal stand there on a raw 11/5 p.m.") |
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| 700 | Nov. 4, late night / Nov. 5, early morning | Pemulis adjusts a ceiling tile in Subdorm B. (Page 216: "Over the course of the next academic day" Michael Pemulis, nobody's fool at all, would likely wait till the wee hours of the morning when no one's around to stash the DMZ.) |
| 176-181 | YDAU, Nov. 5, 1300- 1500h | Selected transcripts from Pat Montesian's Log at Ennet House. Voices of recovering drug and alcohol abusers. |
| 242-258 | YDAU, Nov. 5 | Hal and Orin on the telephone. Orin wants to discuss Himself's suicide. Meanwhile, Hal is clipping his toenails and making miraculous shots into the wastepaper basket. |
| 258-270 | YDAU, Nov. 6 | Tennis meet at Port Washington Tennis Academy, Long Island, N.Y. Descriptions of Hal and John No Relation Wayne playing their respective matches. Pemulis vomits. (On Page 212 Pemulis says the meet is a Tuesday: "at the meet with Port Washington Tuesday" but Page 216 says the "raw 11/5" is a Thursday, and Eschaton is definitely on a Sunday, Nov. 8. Calling this Tuesday is an error perhaps?) |
| 281-283 | Late night, circa midnight | ETA returns from Long Island triumphant. (Seems to be a whole day thing. They have to travel to Port Washington by bus, then play all the matches, then there's a post-meet mixer. They don't arrive back in Enfield till "like 0030h" on Page 283 when they go to Denny's.) |
| 306-312 | YDAU, Nov. 7 | Description of ETA's academic classes. Schacht taking an exam on psychopathological double-binds. Troeltsch broadcasts the results of the Port Washington meet on ETA's intercom. Hal is in Theirry Poutrincourt's class on Canadian political history. Some details of anti-ONAN activity, e.g. large mirrors across highways. (Some more possibly conflicting day-of-the-week information here. The Port Washington meet is definitely listed in the text as on Nov. 6. Eschaton is listed as Sunday, Nov. 8. This section is dated Nov. 7 and the first sentence describes classes as "usually a once-a-week Saturday thing," and page 310 describes impatient instructors waiting for Troeltsch's announcements to conclude "every Tues./Sat." More evidence that Pemulis saying Port Washington is on Tuesday is an error.) |
| 1004-1005, 1005-1022, Footnote 110 | Nov. 7, 1600h-ish | "here later in the same day, 11/7" Near 1600h EST (Page 1009: "What is it out there, 1600h?"), 1400h in Arizona. Orin and Hal talk on the phone about Steeply, ONAN politics, the samizdat. (Read around the letters from and to the Moms. Orin is still considering Helen Steeply the "Subject," not Luria. Steeply has yet to be dropped off at the airport.) |

| 219-223 | YDAU, Nov. 7 | Joelle goes to Molly Notkin's thesis party. |
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| 223-226 | YDAU | Joelle thinks about Orin and his father, the "world's best hailer of Boston cabs." |
| 227-240 | YDAU | Joelle attempts to overdose in the bathroom at a party of cinema graduate students |
| 565-567 | YDAU, Nov. 7, evening | Orin and Luria P in a hotel room. (Must be Nov. 7 evening because Orin has just dropped off Steeply at the airport, and Steeply is at ETA to watch Eschaton on Nov. 8.) |
| 596-601 | | At the hotel door, Orin answers the man in the wheelchair's "survey." (Man in the wheelchair is Fortier himself. On Page 972 after Orin is captured he sees the face of the "shy and handicapped fan who O.'d realized had shared the Subject's Swiss accent." Then later on the same page: "Luria P inclined her head and rolled her eyes at the AFR leader") |
| 574-575 | | Orin thinks about the man in a wheelchair at the hotel door as he's driving away from his hook-up with Luria. |
| 663-665 | YDAU, November | Epistolary exchange between Steeply and Marlon Bain, friend of Orin's during adolescence. (Serves as a nice transition from Orin back to ETA in the next scene.) |
| 321-342 | YDAU, Nov. 8 | Eschaton! Interdependence Day. Gaudeamus Igitur. (Listed as Sunday on Page 325. Steeply watches from a green Ford sedan with a Nunhagen ad on it. This is confirmed as Steeply's car on Page 655.) |
| 380-386 | Nov. 8, dinner time | Mario Incandenza's film interpretation of the formation of ONAN. |
| 386-394 | | Lyle in the weight room with sweaty ETA students, including Anton "Booger" Doucette. Return to Mario's film, which is now covering major political events with a montage of newspaper headlines. History of ONAN. (Page 386: "Lyle, down in the dark Interdependence Day weight room") |
| 395-398 | | Hal watching Mario's film. Description of Himself's The Medusa vs. the Odalisque and The Joke. |
| 398-410 | | Continuation of Mario's film, with more headlines and a puppet show of Gentle and Rodney Tine, Chief, US Office of Unspecified Services. |
| 410-418 | | Hal watching Mario's film. History of Interlace, proliferation of advertising, and garbage in space. |

| 436-442 | | Mario's film continued. Headlines and puppets, origin of subsidized time. |
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| 394-395 | | Lyle tells Ortho "The Darkness" Stice, "Do not underestimate objects." Stice's bed has been moving at night. (I wonder if the wraith of Himself is responsible for the moving objects. There's proof the wraith can manipulate material objects when it flits from Gately's hospital room to Ennet House and comes back with a picture from Gately's room, then flits to China and comes back and places a can of Chinese Coke on Gately's forehead. Wallace seems intent on making sure the reader knows this actually happens and isn't just a dream or imagined by Gately by describing on Page 836: "The can of foreign Coke has left a ring on his forehead that's colder than the feverish skin around it." Also in a book with so many Hamlet references, it makes sense that the one character who dresses in all black (just like Hamlet) would be visited by a ghost.) |
| 198-200 | YDAU, Nov. 6, 1610h a mistake? Nov. 8 instead? | Freer and Kornspan work out while Rader consults with Lyle. Pemulis eavesdrops. (Brace yourselves folks, I'm convinced Wallace or his editors fucked up here. This scene should be dated Nov. 8. The book dates this Nov. 6, 1610h. However, we know ETA doesn't return from Port Washington until late night Nov. 6, circa 0030h (Page 283), and even assuming they leave RIGHT AFTER this scene at 1610h on the 6th, there's definitely not enough time to drive to Long Island, play the entire meet, have post-meet mixer, and arrive back by midnight. The pretty airtight case for this scene being Nov. 8 is as follows: Other ETA'ers are consulting with Lyle Nov. 8, and Pemulis is in the weight room at that time because upon exiting he runs into Idris Arslanian and references Anton "Booger" Doucette's crisis. It's after the initial Lyle-in-weight-room scene because on page 390 Lyle instructs Doucette "to come on back with Mario Incandenza the minute the IDay gala lets out." And on page 569, Pemulis tells Arslanian that Doucette's "in there clutching his skull with Lyle and Mario.") |
| 567-574 | | Idris Arslanian, in a blindfold, runs into first Ted Schacht, then Mike Pemulis. |
| 343-367 | YDAU, Nov. 8 | Boston AA meeting. Description of several speakers, and the "crocodiles." Gately is curious about "brand-new girl" Joelle (Page 361). (Joelle's first night in Ennet.) |
| 367-375 | | Boston AA meeting. A young girl describes her foster father sexually abusing her paraplegic stepsister |
| 376-379 | | Boston AA meeting. Story of baby's death. |
| 958-960 | | Mikey, a "sick fuck," tells his story at an AA meeting. (No date given, but the addict speaking in front of his AA group fits well here with the scenes of other addicts talking.) |

| 503-507 | Nov. 8, nighttime | At an NA meeting, Ken Erdedy gets a hug. ("The night after the joint Interdependence Day picnic") |
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| 538-547 | | Randy Lenz discovers his penchant for killing animals. (No date given, but after all the meetings, it's a good time to jump to Lenz walking home from his meetings hunting for animals to kill.) |
| 450-461 | YDAU, Nov. 9, morning | Morning drills at ETA. |
| 475-489 | YDAU, Nov. 9, 1800h | Gately out in Pat M.'s car picking up special food for Joelle. The Anitois' store. Arrival of and interrogation by Fortier and the AFR. (On Page 475 Joelle is described as new but not "new-today" as Amy J. is. Joelle arrived for nighttime meetings on Nov. 8, and now Gately has to get her food because it's her first full day at Ennet, making this Nov. 9.) |
| 719 | | The plan of the AFR. (Placed here because it explains that they'll be pursuing Orin. The next scenes will be the beginning of the AFR executing this plan with Orin.) |
| 723 | Nov. 9, evening | Fortier enjoys the USA's condescension toward the wheelchaired. |
| 721-723 | Nov. 9 evening | Fortier talks about the search for the samizdat at the Antitois'. It isn't found immediately. Page 722: "Quickly on the first day" So it's not found on Nov. 9. Fortier then instructs them to continue the search and explains on page 723 that he has to leave for Arizona to aid the Orin abduction. |
| 550-553 | YDAU, Nov. 9, "Late p.m." | Pemulis interrupts John Wayne and Avril Incandenza in a game of sexual football/cheerleader. (I wonder if Avril is role playing with Wayne as Orin and Joelle here. It's hinted at once in the text that Avril might have had sex with Orin when he was younger. This possible incest makes one wonder if that's the cause of Orin and Avril's strained relationship as well as Orin's romantic dysfunction.) |
| 508-527 | YDAU, Nov. 10, afternoon | Hal anticipates an official scolding from Charles Tavis for the Eschaton game. He waits in "Lateral" Alice Moore's office, overhears Avril counseling the pre-teen female ETAs. (Has to be near lunch given Hal's exchange with the Moms about her apple.) |
| 531-538 | YDAU, Nov. 11, 0450h | Discussion between Gately and Joelle. The latter explains her membership in UHID. |
| 560 | YDAU, Nov. 11, afternoon | Hal in bed after lunch. John Wayne stops by. (Can't be Nov. 10, because Hal misses lunch that day in C.T.'s office. Could be Nov. 12, but placed here it shows the anhedonia invading Hal's psyche that throws off his game when playing Stice later in the afternoon.) |
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| 651-662 | 1625h | The match between Stice and Hal. Narrative shifts to Gately sleeping, Poor Tony in the library stall, Pemulis and Struck in the medical library, Steeply talking with Schtitt, CT, and Orin with Luria in "a different tall hotel (from before)." Steeply chats with Aubrey deLint as they watch the first set of the match. (Time is given on Page 666, as the little buddies explore the tunnels at the same time as the match. Steeply is "accompanied by Aubrey deLint for the first set before Thierry Poutrincourt stole his spot …") |
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| 666-673 | 1625h | Sub-14 male Eschatonites in ETA's tunnels on clean-up detail. There are rumors of feral hamsters, but instead they find a refrigerator full of rotting food. |
| 673-682 | Third set | Steeply speaks, in French, to female prorector/AFR spy Thierry Poutrincourt. |
| 627-638 | 1810h | Suppertime at ETA. Conspiracy theory that the milk is powdered. |
| 686-689 | | After supper, Hal decides to watch some of Himself's films. Description of Wave Bye-Bye to the Bureaucrat. |
| 701-711 | | Hal watches Blood Sister: One Tough Nun. The plot of this film in detail. Hal thinks about another of his father's films, Low-Temperature Civics. Switch to Joelle at a Cocaine Anon meeting, listening to a speaker describe his lowest moment (walking out on his wife and child.) |
| 711-714 | | The end of Blood Sister: One Tough Nun. |
| 755-769 | 2100h | Mario filming for his documentary. Interviews Felicity Zweig, LaMont Chu, and then the Moms. He asks her, "How can I tell if somebody's sad?" |
| 971-972 | YDAU, Nov. 11, night | Orin in a huge inverted glass, interrogation by Luria P and Fortier. (It is 11/11 nighttime because Orin embraced Luria during Hal and Stice's match. Also because Fortier, leaving Enfield on the night of 11/10 or first thing 11/11 morning "to help facilitate Southwest ops" Page 723, would have arrived by then. Interesting that Orin sleeps with Luria twice. Perhaps the player became the played and Luria was able to make Orin fall for her.) |
| 1055 Footnote 304 | 2030h | Struck's report on Canadian insurgency. Wayne's link to the AFR revealed. |
| 553-559 | Late night | Randy Lenz and Bruce Green walking back from meetings at night not long before curfew. Curfew is 2330h. |
| 560-562 | | Randy Lenz and Bruce Green walking continued. |

| 1000, Footnote 90 | Up to 2329h | Selected snippets of Gately's interactions with Ennet House residents. |
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| 563-565 | Up to 2329h | Selected snippets of Gately's interactions with Ennet House residents. (I put the footnote first and this second because this scene ends with a snippet on Lenz's general scumminess, which we'll see firsthand in the next scene.) |
| 575-589 | Late night | Bruce Green and Randy Lenz. Green remembers the death of his mother. Lenz separates, kills a dog tied up in yard of a house having a Hawaiian party. |
| 593-596 | | More of Gately's responsibilities at Ennet House. |
| 601-619 | Circa midnight | Gately's showdown with the Canadians. Gately seriously wounded. (Near midnight given the cars all switching to avoid parking tickets.) |
| 589-593 | Circa midnight | Mario, who can't sleep, walks around past Ennet House during/after Gately's showdown with the Canadians. (Page 590 describes that Mario "hadn't told the Moms he was going to walk around after he left her office after their interface" Mario hears calls for help around the beginning of Gately's showdown with the Canadians near the "street that's crammed with cares everybody has to move at 0000h." |
| 769-774 | YDAU, Nov. 12, 0000h-0100h | Mario and Hal talk in their room. Hal describes how Pemulis talked his way out of the urine test. (Has to be after the showdown because Mario walks by it as it's happening. Also makes sense for it to be at the end of Nov. 11 and/or early morning Nov. 12 given that Mario asks Hal about being sad and he's been thinking about Hal being sad all day.) |
| 782-785 | 0000h-0100h | Mario tells Hal that he seems sad. Hal confesses he uses high-resin Bob Hope to Mario. |
| 1063-1066, Footnote 321 | YDAU, Nov. 12, 1930h | Hal and Pemulis talk drugs, addiction. |
| 809-827 | YDAU, Nov. 12, afternoon into evening | Gately wakes up in the hospital. Interactions with Tiny Ewell, Pat M., Calvin Thrust, and possibly Joelle. (Must be afternoon/evening because Page 827, near the end: "The sun was starting to go down When it starts to get dark out is when the ceiling breathes." |
| 736-747 | 2200h-2300h | Joelle cleaning her room. How Joelle and Himself became close. Descriptions of Prenuptial Agreement of Heaven and Hell, and The Medusa v. The Odalisque. Thanksgiving dinner at the Incandenza house. (Page 736: "noise of all the post-meeting nighttime residents and visitors down there" No visitors are allowed in Ennet after 2300h.) |

| 751-752 | 2200h-2300h | Joelle cleaning. Finishes her Incandenza Thanksgiving story. |
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| 787-795 | | Results of Rodney Tine Jr.'s interrogation of Molly Notkin. Description of Thanksgiving dinner at Joelle's parents house in YTMP. (No real clues as to when this is save that this interrogation of Notkin regarding Joelle logically would take place before Steeply apprehends Joelle on Nov. 17. Placing it here gives a nice synchronicity with Joelle's Thanksgiving stories.) |
| 827-845 | 2200h-0000h | Gately in the hospital. James Incandenza as the wraith. (Page 829: "in the couple of hours before midnight's parking-switch symphony" Page 837: Wraith tells Gately that Ferocious Francis will visit shortly.) |
| 846-851 | 2200h-0000h | Gately in the hospital. His vision of Joelle as Death. (Occurs before the next section because Page 854 says "it was also creepy that, when the face's effulgence becomes the boiled white of the Trauma Wing ceiling as he comes up with a start up for air, the apparently real nondream Joelle van D. is leaning over the bed's crib-railing.") |
| 854-864 | 2200h-0000h | Gately in the hospital. Joelle visits him. |
| 883-896 | 2200h-0000h | Gately in the hospital. Ferocious Francis visits. Gately crushes his doctor's testicles. (Page 883: "In the wake of Joelle's visit") |
| 648-651 | YDAU, Nov. 13, 0245h | Kate Gompert, Geoffrey Day, and Bruce Green in a late-night rap session. Day describes the "large, dark, billowing, black shape" he's felt twice in his life. |
| 918-924 | 1600h-ish | Gately in hospital. Gets an enema. (Start reading at "The R.N. that'd flushed his colon" Has to be the 13th because Page 922 says Joelle has already visited and Page 922 says it "Had to be pretty near 1600h") |
| 700 | | Lyle hovers with his eyes rolled up white. (This is one of the odder, puzzling snippets in IJ. The weight room is "unlit" but that just means the lights aren't on, not necessarily nighttime. The weight room is in the basement so therefore no/limited windows. The time of day isn't mentioned. There are no clues to time or date, but pairing it with the next scene lends some sense and insight to it. Perhaps Lyle the guru is astral-projecting into wraith form.) |
| 933-934 | | Gately dreams about riding in "a bus the same color as its own exhaust" aka the Paragon bus gray line of the next scene. Lyle in wraith form licks Gately's forehead. Gately has a prescient dream of Hal and Joelle in a graveyard digging up James Incandenza's head. (Start reading at "Little entr'actes of feverish dreams") |

| 937 | | Gately in hospital. Heart arrhythmia. Gately on Paragon bus gray line. (One paragraph. Start at "Gately nodded out into a dream" stop at " down the hall.") |
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| 972-974 | | Gately in hospital. Hospital staff responds to Gately's crisis. (Stop reading at "He saw the A.D.A. with his head bowed and his hat against his chest.") |
| 620-626 | Nov. 14 | Student engineer for WYYY is kidnapped by the AFR. Steeply is conferencing with Rod the God Tine on Page 622. Occurs "On the day of Fortier's return" (Page 726) from Arizona. Same day the AFR goes around to various rehab facilities (Page 726: "Today, Fortier himself, and Marathe were making the rounds all substance difficulty rehabilitation facilities" which must be Nov. 14, given that Matty Pemulis sees Poor Tony trailing Gompert on Nov. 14, and Marathe chats with the bruised Gompert in the bar after his visit to ETA.) |
| 299-306 | YDAU, Nov. 14, evening | Poor Tony goes through withdrawal in the bathroom stall of a Boston public library. Leaves for the Antitois'. (Page 303: "Toward the end of the day") |
| 724-728 | YDAU, Nov. 14 | The Wheelchair Assassins discover the samizdat. (Page 726 says Fortier's back from Arizona today, same day as Marathe goes to Ennet House and then meets a bruised Gompert in a bar.) |
| 729-735 | | Marathe at Ennet House. (Must be Nov. 14 because afterward Marathe drinks in the bar and meets the bruised Kate Gompert, and on Page 682 we're told it's Nov. 14 when Matty Pemulis witnesses Poor Tony about to rob Kate and Ruth.) |
| 747-751 | | Marathe's entry interview with Pat M. at Ennet House. |
| 752-755 | | Marathe's entry interview with Pat M. at Ennet House continued. |
| 716-719 | | Lenz, high on coke, plans to rob the Asian woman. (After the robbery, Lenz hears the crash of a barrel thrown by Poor Tony at Ruth on Page 728. This occurs on Nov. 14 because Matty Pemulis sees Poor Tony trailing Kate Gompert and Ruth Van Cleve.) |
| 682-686 | YDAU, Nov. 14 | Matty Pemulis, male prostitute, eats in a diner. Memories of sexual abuse from his father. Sees Poor Tony trailing Kate Gompert and Ruth Van Cleve in Inman Square. |
| 689-691 | | Poor Tony contemplates a purse snatching before he heads to the Antitois'. Thinks about Matty Pemulis, who unbeknownst to Tony, is watching him through the diner window. |

| 692-698 | | On Kate Gompert's depression and depression in general. Himself's The American Century as Seen Through a Brick described. |
|---------|-------------------------|---|
| 698-700 | | Kate Gompert and Ruth van Cleve on the street, followed by Poor Tony. |
| 714-716 | | Kate Gompert right after Poor Tony snatched her purse. |
| 719-721 | | Poor Tony running from Ruth van Cleve. |
| 728-729 | | Lenz in a back alley after robbing the Asian woman. Lenz hears the crash of a barrel thrown by Poor Tony at Ruth on Page 728. |
| 692 | YDAU, Nov. 14 | Geoffrey Day misses Lenz "brandishing the Hog" in the 3-man room. (Must be a few days after Lenz is booted on Nov. 12 after Gately's showdown because Day "found himself, after a couple long nights, almost missing Lenz." Fits well here after Lenz's appearance.) |
| 723-724 | YDAU, Nov. 14, night | Joelle worries about her teeth and dreams of Gately as residents try to sleep. Kate Gompert's bunk is empty. |
| 775-782 | YDAU | Marathe and a bruised Kate Gompert meet in a bar. Gompert had come in to throw up after the accident. |
| 934 | YDAU, Nov. 15 | Joelle is apprehended by Steeply after visiting Gately. (Can't find dates on this and the next few scenes. Must be after Nov. 14 because after visiting that night, Joelle goes home, worries about her teeth and sees Gompert's bunk empty. Could possibly be the 16 th but it makes sense that this would be the 15 th because the AFR start going out in public to various rehab centers looking for Joelle on the 14th. This is why Steeply's Office of Unspecified Services perceive Joelle as in grave danger, and they likely wouldn't wait another day before establishing contact with her. Though the date is uncertain, strong reasons exist to place the scenes with Joelle and Steeply as the day after the AFR hits the streets.) |
| 938-941 | | Joelle interviewed by Helen Steeply. |
| 958 | | Joelle returns to Ennett House, sees a county sheriff's car stationed outside, which presumably transported the ADA to Ennet. |
| 960-964 | | The ADA talks with Pat M. about the Ninth Step. He needs to Gately to forgive him. |
| 785-787 | YDAU, Nov. 17, 0830h | Johnette lets Hal into Ennet House. |

| 1066, Footnote 324 | YDAU, Nov. 17 | Pemulis tells a distraught Todd Possalthwaite that he can trust math. John Wayne "is insanely holding forth innermost thoughts for public ears." |
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| 1073, Footnote 332 | YDAU, Nov. 17 | Pemulis booted from ETA after the Wayne incident. |
| 795-808 | YDAU, Nov. 17, 1730h | Hal at what he thinks is a meeting for Narcotics Anonymous. Turns out the meeting focuses on the Inner Infant, and one of the speakers is Kevin Bain, Orin's friend and the brother of ETA student Marlon. (Page 795 says the meeting is at 1730h. The text says it's a Tuesday, which fits with Nov. 8 being a Sunday.) |
| 916 | | Pemulis finds several drop-ceiling panels on the floor of Subdormitory B. He's looking for the DMZ in an old sneaker behind the relevant panel. (Makes sense that Pemulis would go to gather his stash from its hiding spot after he was kicked out. As for who took it – that's one of the big questions of IJ. A popular theory for Hal's strange illness at the end of the book is that he was dosed with the DMZ. So who would swipe the DMZ and dose Hal? The wraith trying to bring Hal out of his shell perhaps? The AFR spy John Wayne? Avril? An infiltrating AFR agent arriving in advance of the rest of the group in the tennis bus?) |
| 845-846 | YDAU, Nov. 19 | The AFR's plan to replace the Quebecois tennis players en route to ETA |
| 851-854 | YDAU, Nov. 20, "before 0500h" | Gaudeamus Igitur. Hal narrates. He wakes up after a bad dream. (Food for thought: Why does Wallace use Gaudeamus Igitur again? It was used to signal Interdependence Day before. Does this day, the beginning of Hal's affliction signal the beginning of real interdependence for him?) |
| 864-876 | | Hal brushes his teeth, finds the window open in the boys bathroom. (Did the DMZ doser infiltrate ETA via the window? Hal does see someone outside ETA on page 867: "A figure was out there, not under the shelter on the pavilion but sitting in the bleachers behind the east Show Courts, leaning back with his elbows on one level and bottom on the next and feet stretched out below, not moving, wearing what seemed to be puffy and bright enough to be a coat, but getting buried by snow." Also the toothbrush is mentioned a lot in this scene and Hal even mentions "only the worst kind of naïf leaves his toothbrush unattended around ETA") Wallace makes a point of having Hal notice an incorrect date on the ceiling's digital intercom 11-18-EST0456 (As for the significance of the erroneous date, I don't know.) Hal comes across Stice with his forehead stuck to a window in the dorm's hallway. Hal asks Troeltsch to watch his toothbrush and goes to get help. Hal's uncontrolled ticks start to manifest themselves. Hal talks to the ETA janitorial staff, the ticks continue. (Many believe Hal's toothbrush was the likely conveyance for the DMZ dose.) |

| 896-902 | | Whatever ends up seriously afflicting Hal (likely the DMZ) starts to really kick in. Page 896: "I was moving down the damp hall when it hit." In his room, Hal lies down and doesn't feel like getting up. |
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| 906-911 | | Hal talks with Pemulis, who's concerned that the DMZ is gone, then watches part of his father's film Good-Looking Men in Small Clever Rooms That Utilize Every Centimeter of Available Space with Mind-Boggling Efficiency. |
| 941-958 | | Mario and Kyle Dempy Coyle are also watching one of Himself's films. Explanation of what happened to Stice. Description of Accomplice! |
| 876-883 | YDAU, Nov. 20 | "Weather-delayed meeting" between Rodney Tine, Sr. (and staff) with Glad regarding Year of Glad and Fully Functional Phil, the prancing ass. |
| 964-967 | YDAU, Nov. 20, Prefundraiser | "Immediately Pre-Fundraiser Exhibition Fête." Narrated by an unnamed ETA student. Hal acting strangely. (Stop reading at "Wagenknecht apparently really did fart.") |
| 3-10 | YEAR OF GLAD fall | Hal's interview with University of Arizona deans. Questions regarding Hal's rather stellar record. (It's fall, given that Hal is now 18 and he was born in June. And that Hal refers to "this year's Whataburger" tourney on pages 16-17, which we know happens annually in November.) |
| 11-13 | YG | Hal attempts to explain his record to the deans, but is unable because of his affliction. (Food for thought: As opposed to the anhedonic Hal we know for much of the book, Hal's thoughts here are those of a fully, self-engaged and aware person. " it transcends mechanics. I'm not a machine. I feel and believe. I have opinions. Some of them are interesting I'm not just a creatus, manufactured, conditioned, bred for a function Please don't think I don't care.") |
| 13-15 | YG | Hal restrained in a U of AZ men's room. |
| 15-17 | YG | Hal is taken away in an ambulance. Hal remembers himself, Gately and John Wayne at his father's grave in Quebec. Evidently after the AFR arrive at ETA some folks are kidnapped and at an unspecified time brought up to Quebec to try to find the samizdat master. Gately evidently had recovered by then since he's digging. Last lines: "So yo then man, what's <i>your</i> story?" (We just heard it. The end.) |