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Before Reading



1 The story, *Red Water*, takes place in England and the Ivory Coast. Listen to the information about the Ivory Coast and answer the questions.



- 1 The Ivory Coast is in Africa.
 - a) East
 - b) West
 - c) North
- 2 Which of the following countries doesn't border with the Ivory Coast?
 - a) The Gambia
 - b) Guinea
 - c) Ghana
- 3 The climate is hot and wet from
 - a) November to March
 - b) March to May
 - c) June to October
- 4 Mont Nimba is a in the Ivory Coast.
 - a) lake
 - b) mountain
 - c) forest
- 5 The population of the Ivory Coast is
 - a) 17.6 million
 - b) 70.6 million
 - c) 16.7 million
- 6 People in the Ivory Coast live until around the age of
 - a) 59
 - b) 69
 - c) 49
- 7 Yamoussoukro is the of the Ivory Coast.
 - a) largest city
 - b) capital city
 - c) former capital city
- 8 Which of the following can the Ivory Coast not export?
 - a) diamonds
 - b) cocoa
 - c) rubber



2 With a partner write a quiz about your country. Then give the quiz to another pair to do.

Before Reading

1 Read these quotes from the story and answer the questions.

- a) ... he just smashed his way into the apartment. He didn't say his name, but his purpose was clear. What he wanted was silence. And that was what he got. He bought silence with fear.
- b) "That is extremely serious," agreed the inspector. "We've got every available police officer looking for your sister. But I'm afraid it's a question of whether we can find her in time."

1) What kind of story is it? Tick.

- Thriller Adventure Horror Romance

2) What do you think takes place in the story? Tick two items.

- a murder a hijack a kidnap a robbery



2 Look at the pictures below. Describe the people.

What do they look like?

What kind of personalities do you think they have got?

What do you think their professions are?



a) Daniel




b) Mr Johnson



c) Tricia

3 Who do you think is the villain of the story? Give reasons.



 On Thursday 12th May two apparently unrelated things happened within the same two minutes in two very different parts of the world.

“What’s extraordinary ...” says Tricia, looking back at that moment. She stops.

“Yes?” prompts her mother.

“What’s so incredible,” Tricia continues, “is that they happened on the same day, at the same time. Don’t you think?”

“I *don’t* think,” says her mother. “I try not to think. I just try to move on.”

“I keep thinking, what if?” says Tricia. “What if one of those things hadn’t happened? What if I ...? I know, Mum,” she says. “You can’t go through life saying, ‘what if?’ – but just imagine ... *what if?*”

The first event took place on a dusty red earth road that led to a small village in the heart of equatorial Africa. It was an event witnessed only by its perpetrators and two grey parrots that rose screaming from the forest canopy in a blur of red tail-feathers. There was the sound of a gun firing. Three times. And then the muffled thud of a man’s body being thrown into a clump of thorn bushes. To the men with the guns he wasn’t a man; he was a job, a task. They never thought of him as a man. Nor did the men who had sent them. That was their mistake.

Glossary

- **blur:** unclear vision
- **canopy:** thick covering
- **clump:** group
- **muffled:** when a sound is hidden
- **perpetrators:** people who do an action (usually bad)
- **prompts:** suggests what she should say
- **thud:** dull heavy sound
- **witnessed:** seen

Every human has a name; every human has a story. This man, the man who had died, was called Winston. Winston worked for a large multinational company that had just sacked• him; and Winston was scared. That was why he'd left the city and was trying to escape to his village at the other end of the dusty red road. He'd been born in that village, but had moved to the capital city to study, and then, later, after he had acquired• certificates and a degree, he had stayed on to work there. In the city he had a wife and two children, and they were worried about him. His wife knew that something bad was going on, but for the sake of• the children she said nothing.

Winston's wife was a kind woman who loved her husband and her children. When the man came to her home, she knew something bad was going to happen. This man didn't say very much. He was a man of few words. He was called the Sweeper•, and he was one of the two men who, on that Thursday morning, were carrying guns and climbing back into the Land Rover on a dusty red earth road in Africa. The Sweeper didn't knock on the door of Winston's home – he just smashed his way into the apartment. He didn't say his name, but his purpose• was clear. What he wanted was silence. And that was what he got. He bought silence with fear.

The Sweeper was a man who traded in• fear. He was a man who swept up problems. Winston was a problem, and the Sweeper got rid of• him. And now he was in Winston's home, and his message to Winston's wife was clear; he knew where she and the children lived.

Glossary

- **acquired:** got
- **for the sake of:** for the good of
- **got rid of:** removed
- **purpose:** objective; what he wanted
- **sacked:** when you lose your job
- **Sweeper:** someone who cleans with a brush
- **traded in:** used for his work

Winston's wife understood. She bought her children's lives with silence, but she knew she couldn't buy her husband's life. It was already too late. That was why Winston's wife had wept even before the news of Winston's death reached her. Winston was dead before he left the city, before he walked down the dusty red earth road.

Winston's wife loved her husband, but she did not speak out. Not then, or ever. She had to think about her children. The Sweeper relied on this. He, and the men who paid him, the company men.

SILENCE

Winston's wife decides not to speak out against the Sweeper.
Can you think of a time when you chose not to speak?
Or when it would be best to say nothing?

The company knew that people would notice Winston's disappearance; they knew people would ask questions. Winston was popular; he had many friends. But the Sweeper made a mistake. He thought that no one would find Winston's body. He thought the ants would arrive first, and the rains. He thought Winston's wife would be silent and no one would know. He thought the job was done. But the Sweeper didn't know Winston's wife.

- **relied:** depended
- **speak out:** protest

- **wept:** cried

Winston's wife was intelligent and she loved her children, but she cared about her husband, too. So, while she did not talk about the Sweeper, she did act. The day after the men visited her apartment, she went to the market as she always did, but this time she spoke quietly to a man selling fish. He was a man who was married to a woman whose sister was married to a man from Winston's village. That was how the information was passed back. Quietly. Invisibly. Within a day the people of that village left their homes and walked along the dusty red road, where they found Winston's body.

The company told a different story. They said that Winston was depressed[•]. Then they issued[•] a statement saying he was sacked because there were figures that did not add up[•]. They implied[•] that Winston was a thief, though no one actually accused him of this. The company said that Winston had disappeared. The company thought it was rather inconvenient that his body was found so soon. Bad luck. The villagers said the goats were feeding near the thorn bushes. A goat boy found the body. It was the goats. It was bad luck. The company did not think that Winston's wife could have asked someone to send goats along the path. She and her children were safe. The company thought it was bad luck. The Sweeper thought it was bad luck. He thought Winston's wife was too afraid to speak. He didn't think she had the courage to do anything. It was the goats, it was bad luck.

Glossary

- **depressed:** sad; low in spirits
- **figures that did not add up:** the accounts of the company were not correct
- **implied:** made people believe something without saying it
- **issued:** made an official report



So the company changed its story. The new story was that Winston had killed himself. That was the story. But it was a strange story. A man walked along the road and then shot himself and jumped into a thorn bush. And there was no gun. The villagers mentioned• these details very quietly, because they had children. They understood men with guns; they knew about the Sweeper and men like him. Even quiet stories are heard. There are people who ask questions and listen and talk.

Now it is Thursday 12th May, and the Sweeper is in the forest on the dusty red road. He gets back inside his Land Rover and makes a telephone call. He speaks to a man in an office, who simply says, “Good,” and puts down the phone. Then the man in the office makes a call. He calls a number in England, and another man listens and he says: “Good. This did *not* happen. Make sure no one ever discovers the true story. You understand?”

“I understand,” says the man in the office in Africa, the man in a city called Abidjan in a small country called the Ivory Coast.


“If the real story got out, it could destroy the company,” says the man in England.

“No one will ever know the real story,” says the man in Abidjan, looking out across the plateau•, over the fringe• of high-rise• buildings towards the lagoon•. “I’ve made sure of that.”

Glossary

- **fringe:** something that is along the edge
- **high-rise:** high; with lots of floors
- **lagoon:** lake
- **mentioned:** said casually
- **plateau:** flat plain in the mountains

“Good,” says the man in England again. “There’ll be a bonus at the end of the year, I imagine.” And he puts down the phone. He is not a man to use unnecessary words or continue to talk after he’s said what he wants to say. He is a man who uses few words. But when he

 speaks, other men act.

SECRETS


Have you ever had a secret?

Has anyone ever told you a secret?

When is it good to keep something secret?

When is it bad?



 And what about the second thing that happened on Thursday 12th May? That took place in a school in Cambridge, in England. It was the last class before lunch, and Tricia Johnson was presenting a project to her geography class:

“First, here are some facts:

1. Food in the UK now travels 50% further than it did 15 years ago.
2. Transportation of food is responsible for 33% of the increase in road freight[•] over the last 15 years.
3. Here in the UK, road transport is the only source of a greenhouse gas (carbon dioxide) that’s still increasing.

“I thought we could produce a leaflet,” she continued “It’ll tell people about the number of miles that their food travels to get to the supermarkets. We could give them these facts, and facts about the air miles that their food uses.”

“Does that mean that cabbages get free flights to Spain?” asked Pete, the class joker[•].

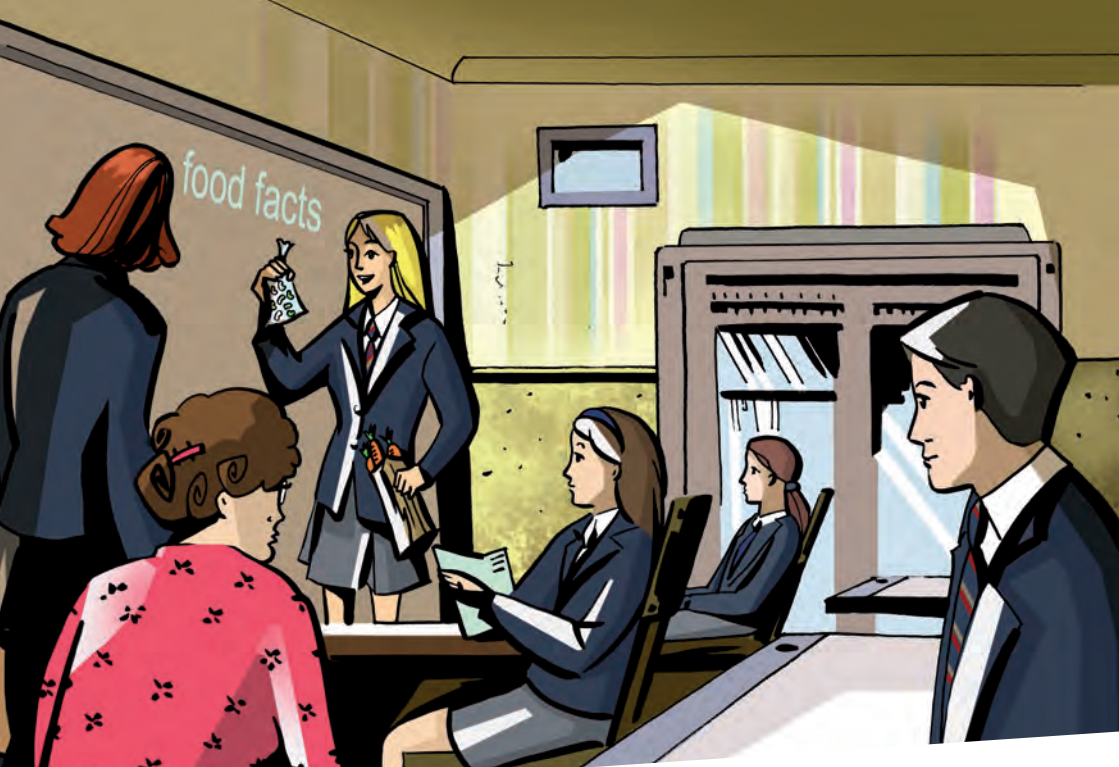
No one answered him, though his gang of friends laughed.

“Let’s compare two vegetables,” said Tricia. “The first is in the supermarket down the road, and it’s a packet of beans. It comes from Kenya and has travelled 4,333 miles to get here. The beans were picked five days ago and were sprayed with chemicals to stop them going brown on the journey. They’ve been packed in plastic and have travelled by road and air and road.”

“They need a holiday in Spain,” said Pete.

Glossary

- **freight:** when goods are transported
- **joker:** person who makes jokes



“The second vegetable is in the farmers’ market which is on Midsummer Common• on Sundays. Here you have a paper bag with organic carrots in it that have travelled six miles from the farm where they were picked the day before the market. They have been cleaned by being washed in the field, and they have never been sprayed with any chemicals.”

Tricia sat down after she’d finished her presentation. She knew it was good and she’d worked very hard to get all the information. Mrs Ashley, the geography teacher, was pleased. The class were impressed too and they agreed to raise the money to produce a leaflet, which they would hand out• outside the supermarket.

• **Common:** piece of land that belongs to everyone in a town or village

• **hand out:** distribute by hand

Then it happened. Just before lunch, after the bell. Tricia was putting all her books into her bag when Daniel Marsh came up to her. Daniel Marsh walked across the room to speak to Tricia Johnson. Daniel Marsh, who was widely acknowledged• to be the coolest boy in the school. Daniel Marsh, who had almost-black hair and green eyes, and who played the guitar like Jimi Hendrix. The same Daniel Marsh who never talked to any of the girls in the class, although many of them dreamt of him at night.

This was an unprecedented• moment. Tricia Johnson is not one of the prettier girls in the class. She's not as unattractive• as she thinks she is, but her hair is ordinary and she's not as slim• as she wants to be. But Daniel Marsh, who was eighteen, and six months older than her, was talking to her. Daniel Marsh was talking about her project.

"That was so cool, Tricia," he said. "It's really important we put pressure on the supermarkets."

Tricia smiled and nodded. She couldn't say anything.

"There's something else I'd like to talk to you about," he said.

"Yeah?" said Tricia.

"Are you free to come over to my place later?"

Tricia nodded. Unless she was physically restrained• or in hospital, she was going to be free to go over to Daniel Marsh's place. No one in her class had ever been invited back to Daniel's. Not since they'd all been children. Daniel Marsh had asked Tricia over. This was an event. And it was the second event of 12th May – and the event that started it all.



Glossary

- **restrained:** forcibly stopped
- **slim:** thin
- **unattractive:** not pretty or nice to look at
- **unprecedented:** that had not happened before
- **widely acknowledged:** that everyone agreed

After Reading

Language

Practise the Expressions

1 Match the following expressions with their meanings.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| a) The thought crossed my mind. | 1 | What are you talking about? |
| b) She'd go crazy. | 2 | It's a dishonest way of getting money. |
| c) That rings alarm bells. | 3 | They can connect things to me. |
| d) It's a scam. | 4 | I thought about that. |
| e) They can trace stuff back to me. | 5 | She would be very angry. |
| f) What are you on about? | 6 | That worries me. |

Practise the Present and Past Passive

2 Complete the questions with the passive form of the verbs then answer the questions.

- a) What / cobalt / use for?
.....?
.....
- b) When / the Kyoto Protocol / sign?
.....?
.....
- e) How many / countries / it / sign by?
.....?
.....
- c) What / some eucalyptus trees / burn for?
.....?
.....
- d) Who / Afcob / own by?
.....?
.....

Practise Reported Speech

3 Read the sentences in the bubbles and report what the characters said.



Practise the Past Perfect

4 Complete the sentences with a phrase from below and the past perfect.

- write an email to Carban
- go out to get some bread and things for lunch
- give a talk in the geography class
- learn he was behind the scam

- a) Daniel invited Tricia to his house after she
- b) Before he died, Winston
- c) Before the explosion, Daniel
- d) Tricia searched her father's computer after she

Practise the Conditional

5 Complete the sentences.

- a) "If your father didn't work so hard, the family, " Tricia's mum said.
- b) If a company processed the stuff in a tailings dam, it
- c) If the minerals from the tailings dam got into the Sassandra River,
- d) If Tricia told the police about her father's company, he
- e) If Tricia lied to Daniel, she