

Before Reading

TALKING ABOUT THE COVER

- What is this picture? (*A frame of photographic film with racehorses on it*)
- Why might a photograph be important in the story? (*It may show which horse won a race, or possibly a crime or cheating*)
- What kind of crimes can you think of that are connected to racehorses or racing?
- What sort of story will this be? A love story, a mystery story, a detective story . . . ?

BEFORE READING ACTIVITIES (PAGE 92)

ACTIVITY 1 BEFORE READING

1 F 2 T 3 T 4 F 5 T 6 F 7 F

ACTIVITY 2 BEFORE READING

Encourage students to speculate and to make guesses, but do not tell them the answers. They will find out as they read that the answers are 1a, 1c (but for the Injured Jockeys Fund, not himself), 2a, 2b, 2d.

While Reading

CHAPTERS 1 TO 5 WHILE READING

- 1 Because he didn't like cheating, and he knew that he had a very good chance of winning that day.
- 2 He drove off the road and into a tree, probably because he went to sleep while he was driving.
- 3 Because he was interested to find out why George had kept a box of his worst mistakes.
- 4 By giving him a lot of money.
- 5 Because it showed that they had met each other before O'Tree shot Yaxley's horses.
- 6 He was not a serious or responsible person.
- 7 Because nobody knew that he had them.
- 8 Dana knew him because she got drugs from him, and Ivor hit him because he wanted him to stay away from Dana.
- 9 Because he thought they could put Philip's life in danger.

BEFORE READING CHAPTER 6

Encourage students to speculate and to make guesses but do not tell them the answers. They will find out as they read that the answers are 1c and 2b.

CHAPTERS 6 TO 9 WHILE READING

- 1 *Why . . . ?* Because he didn't want to destroy Daylight's enthusiasm for racing.
- 2 *How . . . ?* His mother had left him to stay with Samantha several times when he was a child.
- 3 *Why . . . ?* Because George Millace was going to take photos of him, but he died, and the news photographers were all busy.
- 4 *How . . . ?* He was pleased because she liked his photos, but was also alarmed at the idea of his hobby becoming his work.
- 5 *What . . . ?* Her husband's friendship with Dana den Relgan.
- 6 *How . . . ?* Philip didn't win either race. He came in second on Daylight, and third on Chainmail.
- 7 *What . . . ?* He learnt that George had stopped at Lance Kinship's house for a drink on his way home.
- 8 *Why . . . ?* Because Yaxley was home from Hong Kong just three weeks after George's death.
- 9 *What . . . ?* It helped the wives and children of dead and injured jockeys.

BEFORE READING CHAPTER 10

Encourage students to speculate and to make guesses, but do not tell them the answer. They will find out as they read that the answer is number 2.

CHAPTERS 10 TO 13 WHILE READING

- 1 Lord White, to Philip, about the photographs that showed Dana and Ivor den Relgan as lovers.
- 2 Harold, to Philip, about Ivor den Relgan no longer being in the Jockey Club.
- 3 Elgin Yaxley, to Philip, about Philip asking him for more money for the Injured Jockeys Fund.
- 4 Mrs Jackson (Philip's neighbour), to Philip, about the man from the water company who came to check Philip's pipes.
- 5 Ivor den Relgan, to Philip, about burning George Millace's house.
- 6 Clare, to Philip, about his injuries, which she realized had been caused by a beating, not a fall from a horse.
- 7 Dana den Relgan, to Philip, about the list she had written on a packet of cigarettes for George Millace.
- 8 The police inspector, to Philip, about the hydrogen sulphide gas in Philip's water filter that nearly killed Jeremy.

BEFORE READING CHAPTER 14

Encourage students to speculate and to make guesses, but do not tell them the answers. They will find out as they read that the answers are 1c and 2b.

CHAPTERS 14 TO 16 WHILE READING

On the diazo film and paper Philip discovered a list of names, *dates*, and *drugs*, and a letter written by *George Millace* to *Lance Kinship*. Because of this letter, he knew that *Lance Kinship* had killed *George*. Philip's mother had died *from drugs*, so Philip planned to make *Lance Kinship* give him the names of *people* who *sold drugs*. He would then give these names to the *drugs police*.

Victor Briggs told Philip he would *stop asking* him to lose races. However, Philip decided to become a *photographer*, leave Lambourn, and marry Clare.

After Reading

ACTIVITY 1 AFTER READING

5+16 3+8 14+10 1+6+11+15 12+4+2 9+13+7
Three years ago, George Millace found out that Victor Briggs was making a lot of money *when* the horses he owned lost their races. You don't make money if your horse loses a race, so George knew that Briggs was cheating. A year later, Elgin Yaxley's five horses were shot dead, *and* Yaxley received a lot of money from the insurers. Yaxley had told the police he'd never met the man *who* shot his horses, *but* George knew that Yaxley was lying *because* he'd taken a photo of Yaxley talking to this man in a café in France. Then, last summer, George saw Ivor den Relgan with his daughter Dana in St Tropez, *where* he took secret photographs of them *which* proved that Dana was not Ivor's daughter. George kept all these people's secrets, *but* he wrote blackmail letters to them all, to make them pay money to the Injured Jockeys Fund.

ACTIVITY 2 AFTER READING

- 1 Lord White. Philip has just visited him and told him that Dana was Ivor's lover, not his daughter.
- 2 Elgin Yaxley. He has just given Philip a cheque for seven and a half thousand pounds for the Injured Jockeys Fund, and agreed to leave Britain again.
- 3 Philip. He has just become conscious again after Ivor's men had beaten and kicked him unconscious.
- 4 Victor Briggs. He has just talked to Philip about George's letter, and promised not to ask Philip to cheat for him again.
- 5 Lance Kinship. Ivor den Relgan has just hit him hard on the nose at the races, when Kinship tried to talk to Dana.
- 6 Dana den Relgan. She has just arrived at Philip's house and is ringing the door bell, desperate to find out if Ivor and his men have killed Philip and if she is going to be able to get her drugs list back.

ACTIVITY 3 AFTER READING

Students can complete this dialogue how they like.

Suggested answers:

VICTOR: Harold? Briggs here. I want to talk about Nore.

HAROLD: *I've already talked to him, and he says he's going to ride to win on Daylight today.*

VICTOR: Ride to win? Harold, I give the orders, not him. What's the matter with him? He's cheated before.

HAROLD: *Yes, I know he has, but he doesn't want to do it again. Look, Harold, Nore's a good jockey and he thinks Daylight's a good horse – fast and strong and brave.*

VICTOR: I know he's a good horse, Harold, and OK, Nore's a good jockey. So what?

HAROLD: *Nore thinks that if he goes on cheating, he'll destroy Daylight's enthusiasm for racing.*

VICTOR: He could be right, I suppose. What do you think?

HAROLD: *I agree with him, Victor. I think Daylight must be ridden carefully, and I think Nore should ride to win.*

VICTOR: Well, perhaps you're right, Harold. OK, you can tell him I've changed my mind. But he'd better win!

ACTIVITY 4 AFTER READING

George Millace kept a box of *photographic* 'rubbish', and after his death I discovered this was Millace's way of *hiding* secret *photographs* and letters. He was using these secrets to *blackmail* people. Among these things was a *list* of people who sold *drugs* at parties. One of these people was Lance Kinship, who I believe *killed* George Millace by *putting* something in his whisky, which caused Millace to *crash* his car. I have no *proof* of this, but I can *prove* that Kinship tried to kill me. My neighbour *recognized* him as the 'man from the water company' who put hydrogen sulphide in the water *filter* in my *darkroom*.

I plan to make Kinship give me the *names* of his contacts in the drugs world, which I will give to the *police*. If I suddenly *die* or disappear, please give them this letter at once.

ACTIVITY 5 AFTER READING

To Lance Kinship

1+6 If you don't want me to tell the police about you and the drugs you sell, you'll have to listen to another idea of mine.

To Ivor den Relgan

3+8 Unless you give a thousand pounds to the Injured Jockeys Fund, I'll tell Lord White that Dana is not your daughter.

To Victor Briggs

5+9 The Jockey Club will hear about the money you
made when your horses lost, if you don't give
some of it to the Injured Jockeys Fund.

To Dana den Relgan

7+2 If you write me a list of names, dates and
drugs, I won't show the photo of you and Ivor
to Lord White.

To Elgin Yaxley

10+4 Unless you leave Britain and go and live in
Hong Kong, this photo of you and your friend
in France will be in the hands of the police
tomorrow.

ACTIVITY 6 AFTER READING

Open answers.