

The Girl with Green Eyes

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STARTER

OXFORD BOOKWORMS

STARTER

The Girl with Green Eyes



Greg is a porter at the Shepton Hotel in New York. After work, he always goes for a coffee across the street. A girl is sitting in the coffee shop, near the window.

‘It’s her again!’ thinks Greg. ‘She’s here every afternoon. I’m going to say hello.’

Greg goes into the coffee shop and gets a coffee. Then he goes across to the girl’s table.

‘Hi!’ he says. ‘I’m Greg. Can I sit with you?’



‘OK,’ she says. ‘I’m Cassie.’

‘I come here for a coffee every day after work,’ says Greg. ‘I’m a porter at the Shepton Hotel.’ He smiles. ‘You have beautiful green eyes.’

‘Have I?’ she says. She doesn’t smile.

‘Is something wrong, Cassie?’ he asks. ‘You don’t look very happy.’

‘It – it’s nothing,’ she says.

‘Tell me,’ says Greg. ‘Maybe I can help?’

‘Well . . .’ she begins.

‘Go on,’ says Greg.

‘My stepfather is staying at the Shepton Hotel,’ she says. ‘He has my sketch books. I’m an artist. When I ask him to give them to me he says, “No. I want you to come back home to Boston.” But I don’t want to go back to Boston. He’s not nice.’



‘How long is he going to be at the hotel?’ asks Greg.

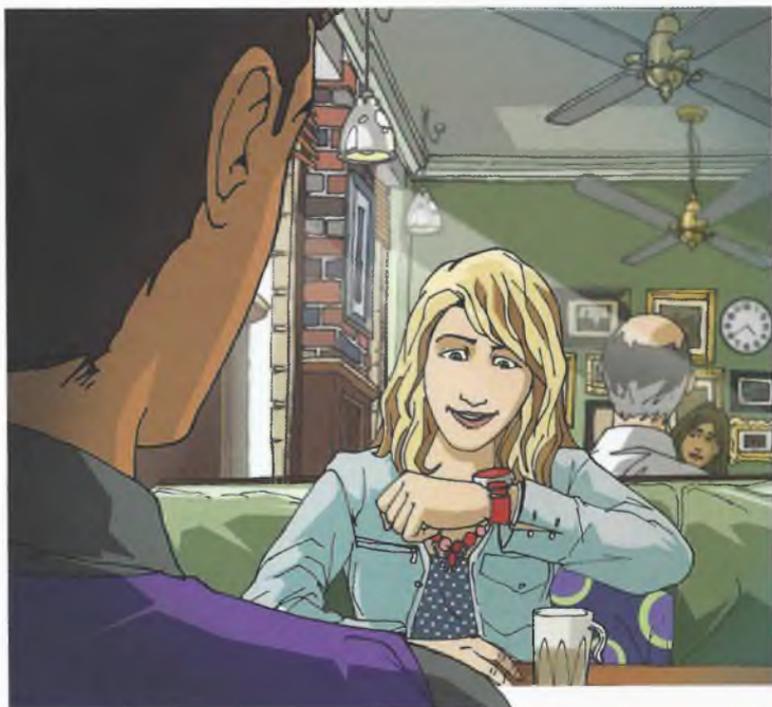
‘Two more days,’ says Cassie. ‘He’s in room 724.’

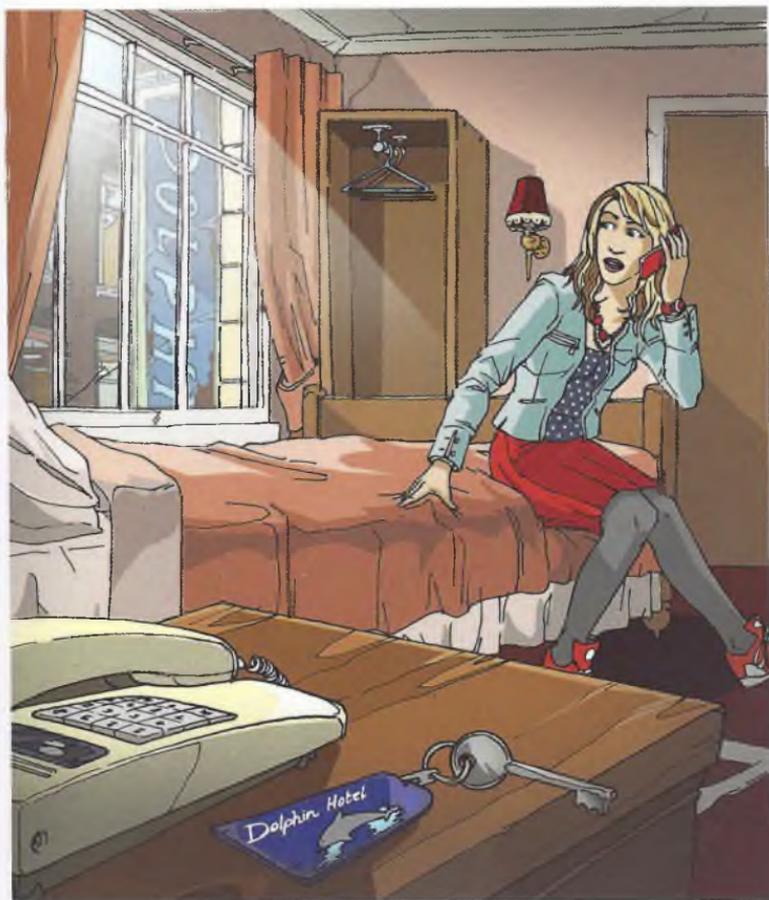
‘Maybe I can get the sketch books for you,’ says Greg.
‘Maybe I can get into his room.’

‘Can you?’ she says.

‘Meet me here tomorrow afternoon at 4.30,’ says
Greg.

‘OK, thank you!’ says Cassie. ‘Thank you very much.’
She looks at her watch. ‘I’ve got to go now. See you
tomorrow.’





When Cassie gets back to her hotel room, she makes a telephone call.

‘Hello,’ she says. ‘It’s me. It’s OK, the boy’s going to do it . . . Yes, I’m going to get them from him tomorrow afternoon . . . OK, I can meet you there the morning after, at 10am. Don’t forget to bring the money – two thousand dollars.’

Next morning, Greg arrives at work early. He goes to find room 724.

‘I have to wait for Cassie’s stepfather to go out,’ he thinks. ‘I don’t know his name, but it doesn’t matter.’

Greg watches the door of room 724. He sees the girl come to clean the rooms.

Some minutes later, a man comes out of room 724.

‘That must be Cassie’s stepfather!’ thinks Greg.





He waits for the man to leave, and for the cleaning girl to go into room 724.

‘I need to look in the room,’ he thinks.

Greg waits for the girl to leave the bedroom, then he goes into the room and begins to look for the sketch books.

‘I must be quick,’ he thinks. ‘Where are they?’

Suddenly, Greg sees the sketch books by the bed.

‘Got them!’ he thinks. He begins to look at the pictures. ‘Wow! Cassie is a great artist! These are good!’



Greg is leaving the room when he hears the cleaning girl call out to him.

‘Hey!’ she says. ‘What are you doing? Come back!’
Greg does not stop.





Greg finishes work that afternoon and leaves the hotel through a door in the next street. When he gets near the front of the hotel, he sees the man from room 724.

‘That’s him again!’ thinks Greg. ‘That’s Cassie’s stepfather.’

Greg waits for the man to go into the hotel, then he goes to the coffee shop.

Cassie is at the same table in the coffee shop.

Greg gets a coffee and goes to sit with her.

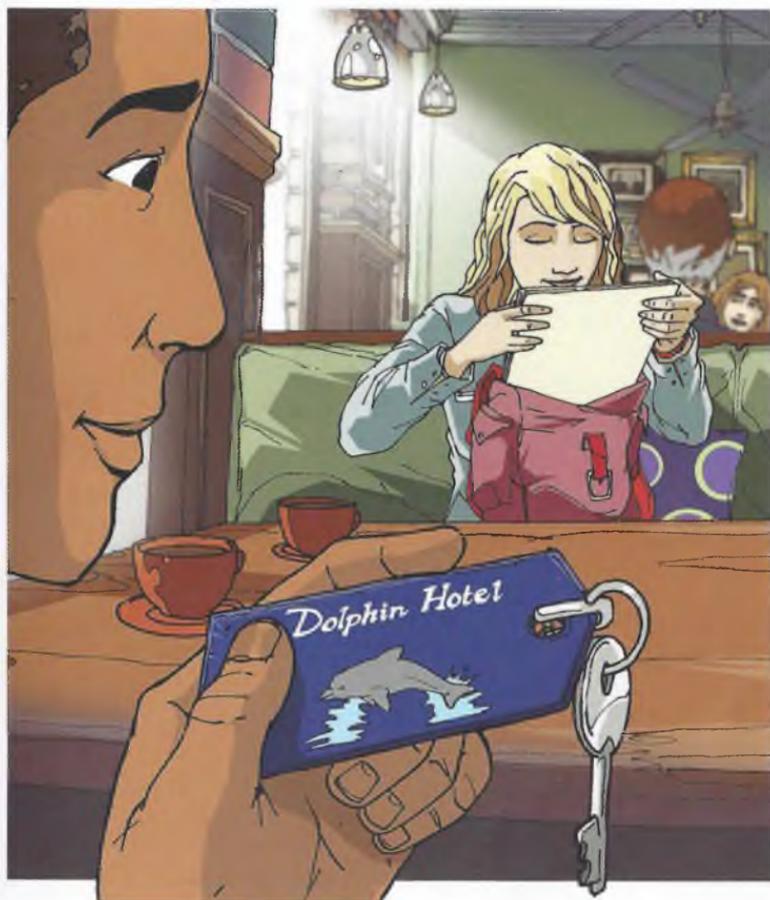
'I have them,' he says, and he puts the sketch books on the table.

'That's great!' says Cassie. 'How can I thank you, Greg?'

'You can meet me later,' he says. 'After I go home and change out of my porter's uniform.'

'I'm sorry, Greg,' says Cassie. 'I can't tonight. Maybe tomorrow night.'





‘OK,’ says Greg. ‘Tomorrow night. We can get something to eat, first.’

‘Yes, OK,’ says Cassie. ‘I have to go now, but meet me here tomorrow evening at six o’clock.’

Cassie gets up, ready to leave.

‘Don’t forget your key,’ says Greg.

‘Oh – er – thanks,’ says Cassie. She takes it from him quickly. ‘See you tomorrow.’



Greg is finishing his coffee when he sees his friend, Mike.

‘You’re in trouble, Greg,’ says Mike. ‘Jake Russo’s sketch books are not in his room – room 724. And there are CCTV pictures of you coming from that room.’

‘Wh – who is Jake Russo?’ asks Greg. Suddenly he’s not feeling very well.

‘An artist,’ says Mike. ‘His pictures sell for thousands of dollars. And his sketch books sell for thousands, too.’

'Do you have them?' asks Mike.

'No – er – a girl has them,' says Greg.

'What girl?' asks Mike.

'A girl with green eyes,' says Greg. And he tells Mike about Cassie and her stepfather.

'But it's not true!' says Mike, when Greg finishes speaking. 'Jake Russo doesn't have a wife or a stepdaughter. You have to find that girl and get the sketch books, Greg. And you have to do it before the police find you!'



Greg walks home to his one-room apartment.

‘How am I going to find her?’ he thinks. ‘She has Jake Russo’s sketch books now, so she’s not going to meet me again. Is she going to sell them for a lot of money?’

There is a police car in the street, next to Greg’s apartment.

‘Oh, no!’ he thinks. ‘They’re waiting for me. I can’t get into my apartment now.’





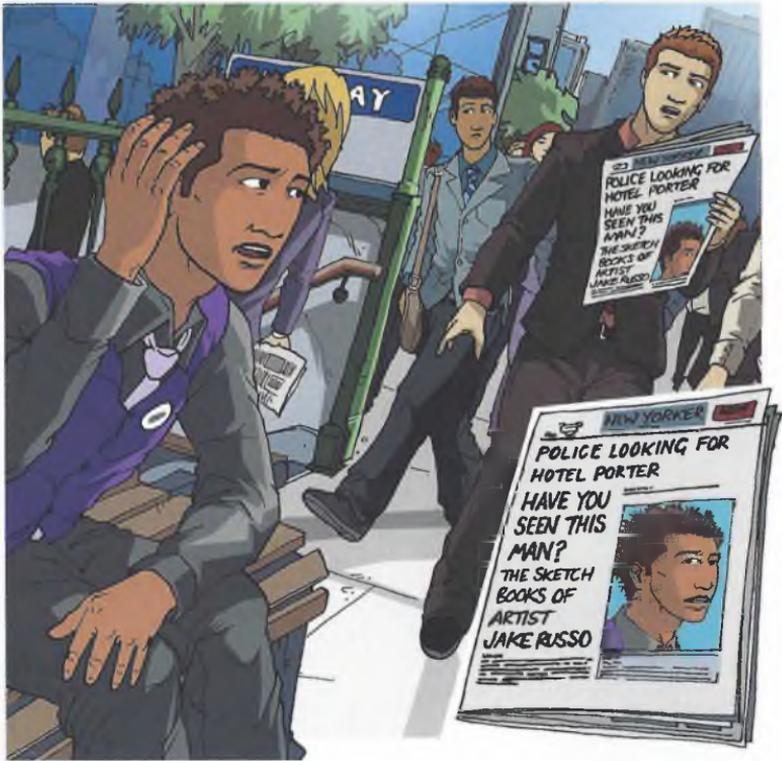
That night, Greg sleeps on a train in the subway. But early the next morning . . .

‘Hey, you!’ says a man. He’s the subway cleaner. ‘Get up! You can’t sleep here all day!’

‘Sorry,’ says Greg.

People are arriving to get their trains now. One of them stops and looks at a photograph in his newspaper – and then at Greg.

‘It’s him,’ thinks the man. ‘It’s the young man in the newspaper photograph. The police are looking for him.’



Suddenly, Greg sees the man looking at him. And he sees his picture on the front of the man’s newspaper.

‘I have to get out of here quickly!’ he thinks.



The man with the newspaper finds a policeman.

‘It’s him!’ he tells the policeman. ‘The hotel porter!’

‘Hey, you!’ the policeman calls to Greg.



Greg runs.

‘Stop!’ calls the policeman.

Greg doesn’t stop.

‘I have to get out of this uniform,’ thinks Greg. ‘People know I’m the porter. Maybe Mike can give me something different to wear.’



When he gets to Mike’s apartment, Mike opens the door. ‘I need something to wear,’ Greg tells him. ‘I can’t go back to my apartment. My picture’s in the newspaper, and —’

‘Yes, I know,’ says Mike. ‘It’s OK. Come in.’

‘Where’s the girl?’ asks Mike. ‘Do you know?’

‘No,’ says Greg.

‘What can you remember about her?’ says Mike.

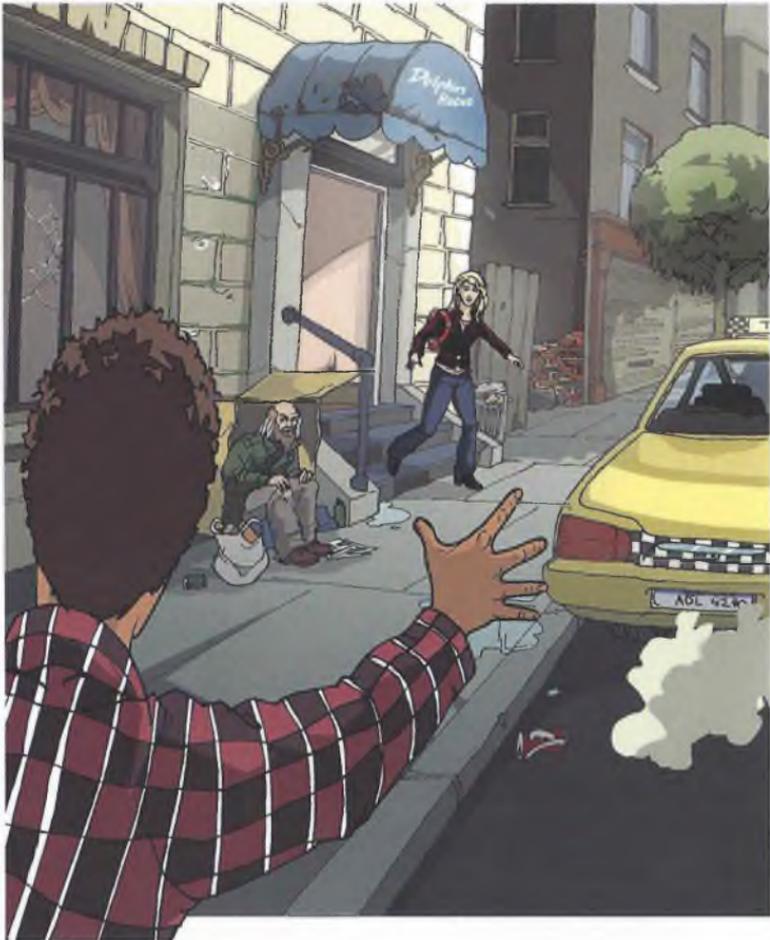
‘There must be something to help you find her.’

‘Yes!’ Greg says, suddenly. ‘Her key! A key to a room in the Dolphin Hotel! It’s a small, cheap hotel near 42nd Street. She must be staying there. What’s the time?’

‘Nearly nine o’clock,’ says Mike.

‘Maybe she’s there now,’ says Greg. ‘I have to go! Thanks, Mike.’





Twenty minutes later, Greg is near the Dolphin Hotel.

‘Am I too late?’ he thinks.

Suddenly, Greg sees Cassie come out of the hotel.

‘Cassie!’ he calls. ‘Wait! I have to talk to you!’

Cassie sees him, but she doesn’t stop. There is a car waiting for her. She says something to the driver and gets into it quickly.

The Girl with Green Eyes

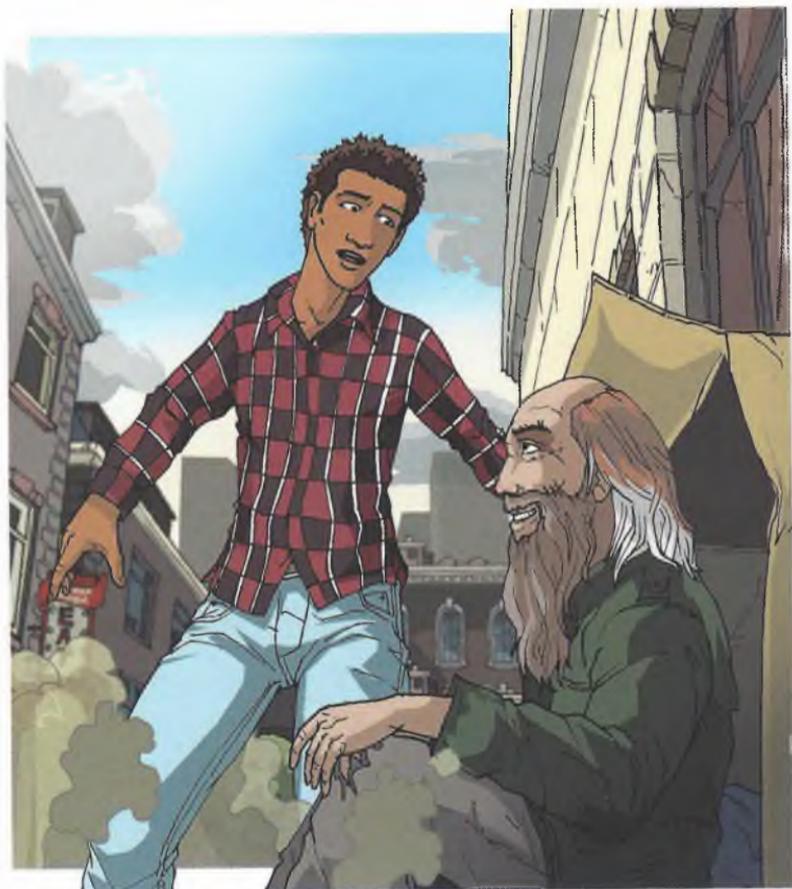
‘Oh, no!’ says Greg.

‘Pier 83,’ says an old man in the street.

Greg looks at him. ‘What?’

‘The girl is going to Pier 83, West 42nd Street, for the Circle Line boat,’ says the old man.

Greg smiles. ‘Thanks!’ he says. And he begins to run.





Greg runs all the way to Pier 83. People are getting on to the boat, and he gets a ticket.



On the boat, Greg looks for Cassie. But a woman with a newspaper is looking at him.

‘It’s the young man in the picture!’ she tells the man with her. ‘Call the police, Eddie.’

The man gets his phone and calls the police.

Some time later, Greg sees Cassie. She is talking to a man. But Greg does not see two policemen get on the boat.

They quickly find Greg. 'Where are Jake Russo's sketch books?' the first policeman asks him.

'I don't have them!' says Greg. 'You don't want me! You want her! She has the sketch books.'

'Hey, look! He's right,' says the second policeman.





The two policemen move quickly to Cassie and the man.

‘I don’t understand,’ says Cassie. ‘How . . . ?’

‘The two of you are coming with us,’ says one of the policemen. ‘You’re in trouble.’



Later, Greg and a policeman take the sketch books back to the hotel. Jake Russo is very happy to see them again.

‘I’m sorry, Mr Russo,’ says Greg, and tells him everything.

‘It’s OK,’ says the artist, smiling. ‘But stay away from girls with beautiful green eyes!’

GLOSSARY

- apartment** a room or group of rooms where you can live
- artist** someone who paints, draws, or makes pictures
- boat** a small ship
- clean** (*v*) make something free from dirt
- coffee** a hot drink
- dollars** money used in America (\$)
- hotel** a building where you can pay to stay in a room
- key** you use this to lock and unlock a door
- newspaper** where you can read about the things happening every day
- pier** a wall from the land into the sea where people get on and off boats
- police** the men and women who catch criminals
- porter** a man who carries your bags at a hotel
- sell** (*v*) give someone something and get money for it
- sketch** (*n*) a quick drawing of something
- stepfather** a man who is not your father but who marries your mother
- subway** American word for underground railway
- trouble** something which causes a problem
- uniform** special clothes for a job

The Girl with Green Eyes

ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITIES

Before Reading

1 Look at the front cover of the book and answer these questions.

1 Where do you think the story happens?

- a Japan
- b America
- c Spain
- d Brazil

2 What do you think the story is about?

- a children
- b old people
- c young people
- d animals

2 Read the back cover of the book and answer these questions.

1 Where does Greg work?

2 What does Cassie tell Greg?

3 Do you think Greg is good or bad? Why?

4 Do you think Cassie is good or bad? Why?

ACTIVITIES

While Reading

1 Read pages 1 – 4 and answer these questions.

- 1 What does Greg always do after work?
- 2 Who is sitting at a table near the window?
- 3 What does she want?
- 4 Who has got them?
- 5 Greg tells Cassie to meet him again. When?

2 Read pages 5 – 8 and answer these questions.

- 1 Cassie goes back to her hotel room. What does she do next?
- 2 How much money does she want?
- 3 Which room does Greg watch?
- 4 Who goes into the room before Greg?
- 5 What does Greg find in the room?

3 Read pages 9 – 12. Who says or thinks these words?

- 1 ‘That’s him again!’
- 2 ‘Meet me here tomorrow evening at six o’clock.’
- 3 ‘Don’t forget your key.’
- 4 ‘You’re in trouble, Greg.’
- 5 ‘Who is Jake Russo?’

4 Read pages 13 – 16. Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- | | T | F |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Greg gets a train home to his apartment. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 There is a police car in the street, next to Greg's apartment. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 Greg sleeps on a train. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 A man sees Greg's picture on the TV. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 Greg sees the man looking at him. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

5 Read pages 17 – 20 and answer these questions.

- 1 What does the man with the newspaper do?
- 2 Why does Greg go to Mike's apartment?
- 3 What does Greg remember about his meeting with Cassie?
- 4 Where is the Dolphin Hotel?
- 5 What is waiting for Cassie near the hotel?

6 Before you read pages 21 – 24, can you guess what happens?

- | | Yes | No |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Greg follows Cassie's car in a different car. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 Somebody tells Greg where Cassie is going. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 The police find Cassie before Greg finds her. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 Cassie sells the sketch books before Greg finds her. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 Greg gives the sketch books back to Jake Russo. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Now read pages 21 – 24 to find out the answers.

ACTIVITIES

After Reading

1 Put these sentences in the right order.

- a Cassie tells Greg about the sketch books.
- b Mike tells Greg, 'You're in trouble.'
- c Greg sleeps on a train in the subway.
- d Greg sees the girl in the coffee shop.
- e A woman on the boat sees Greg's picture in the newspaper.
- f Greg tells Jake Russo everything.
- g Greg watches the door of room 724.
- h Greg goes to Mike's apartment.
- i The man with the newspaper in the subway finds a policeman.
- j Greg runs all the way to Pier 83.
- k Greg waits for the cleaning girl to leave the bedroom.
- l Cassie gets back to her hotel room and makes a phone call.
- m Greg gives Cassie the sketch books.

2 Use these words to join the sentences together.

or through then to at

- 1 Greg is a porter. The Shepton Hotel in New York.
- 2 Greg leaves the hotel. A door in the next street.
- 3 Greg gets a cup of coffee. He goes to sit with Cassie.
- 4 Jake Russo doesn't have a wife. A stepdaughter.
- 5 Greg walks home. His one-room apartment.

3 Look at each picture and answer the questions.



Where are Greg and Cassie?
Why is Cassie unhappy?



What is Greg looking for?
Why? Does he find them?



Why can't Greg go back to his apartment? What does he do?



What is Cassie doing? Why?
What happens next?

The Girl with Green Eyes



Greg is a porter at the Shepton Hotel in New York. When a girl with beautiful green eyes asks him for help, Greg can't say no.

The girl's name is Cassie, and she says she is an artist. She tells Greg that her stepfather has her sketchbooks, and now she wants them back.

Cassie also says her stepfather is staying at Greg's hotel . . . so what could go wrong? (Word count 1,550)



- ← STAGE 6
- ← STAGE 5
- ← STAGE 4
- ← STAGE 3
- ← STAGE 2
- ← STAGE 1
- ← **STARTER**

? CRIME & MYSTERY

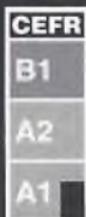
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