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The Big Story

John Escott

Starter

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The Big Story

Starter

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MultiROM

- Interactive activities
- Audio recording of complete dramatized story text

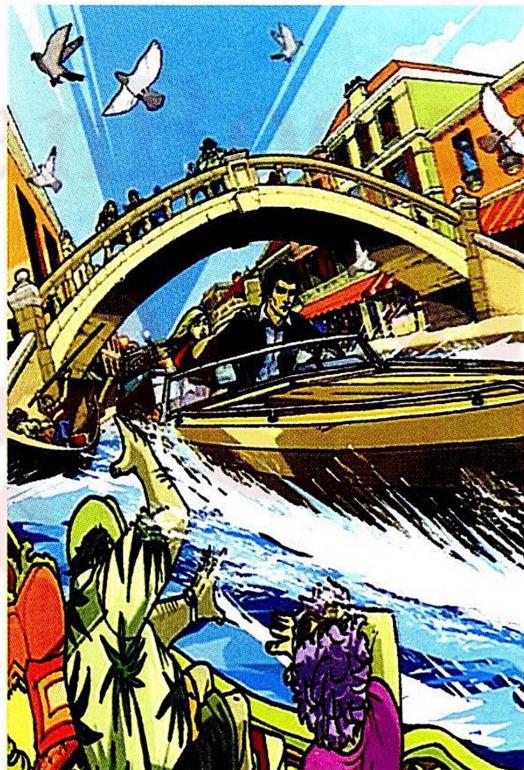
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The Big Story



STARTER LEVEL 250 HEADWORDS

DOMINOES

Series Editors: Bill Bowler and Sue Parminter

The Big Story

John Escott



Illustrated by Dylan Gibson

John Escott has written many books for readers of all ages, and particularly enjoys writing crime and mystery thrillers. He was born in the west of England, but now lives on the south coast. When he is not writing, he visits second-hand bookshops, watches videos of old Hollywood movies, and takes long walks along empty beaches. He has also written *The Wild West*, *A Pretty Face*, and *Kidnap!*, and retold *William Tell and Other Stories* for Dominoes.

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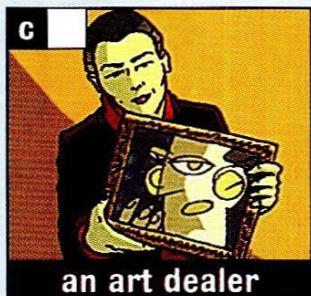
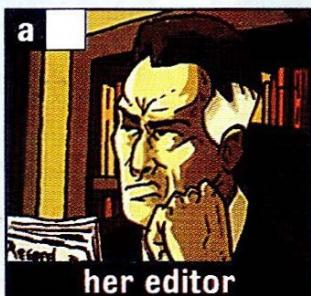
ACTIVITIES

BEFORE READING

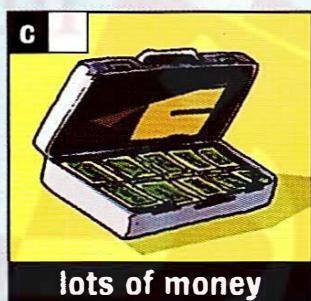
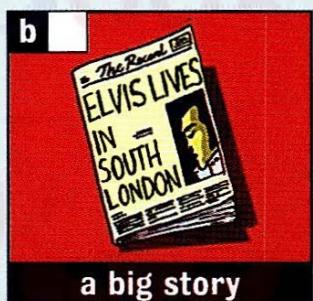
This is Rosie Doyle. She's a journalist and she lives in London. One day she goes to her office. What happens? Tick the boxes.



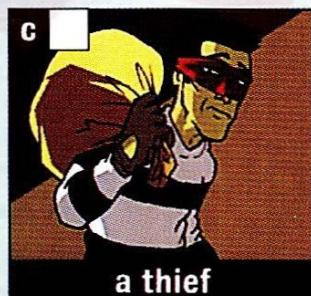
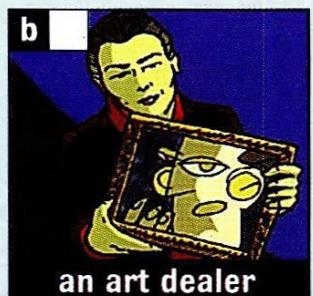
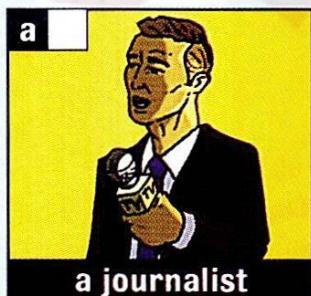
- a At the office Rosie meets ...



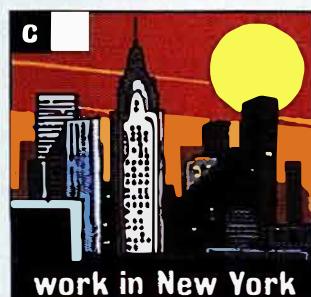
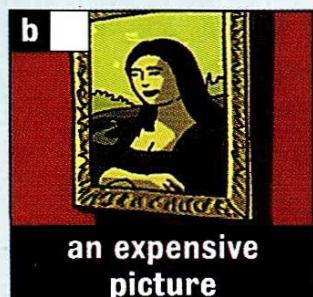
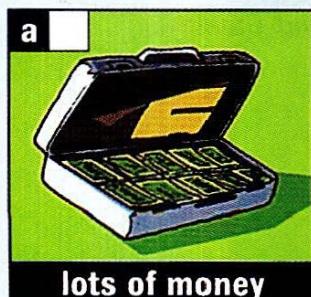
- b She must find ...



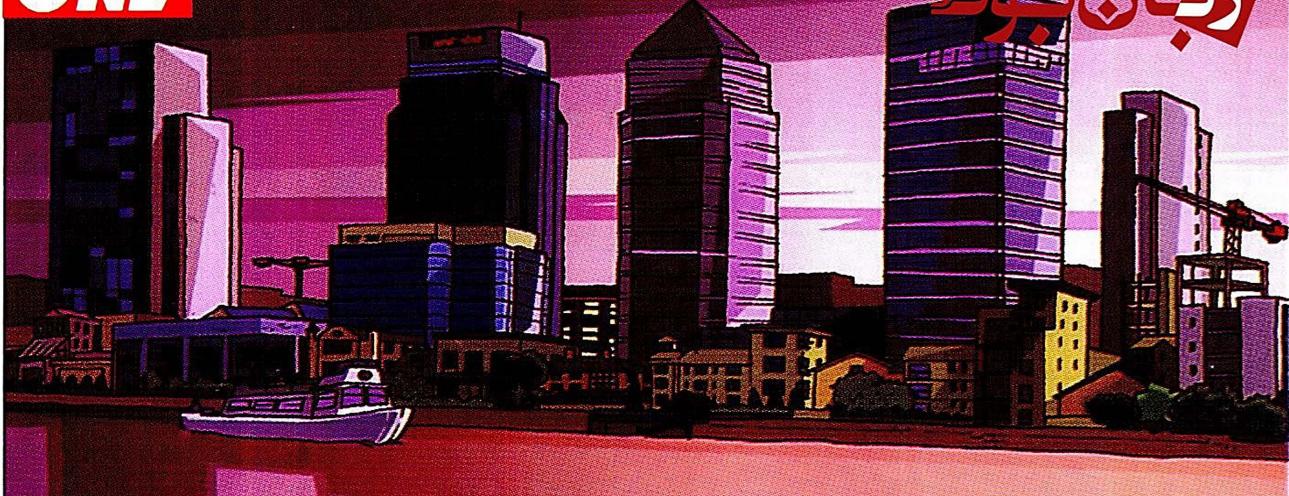
- c She hears two Americans. One is ...



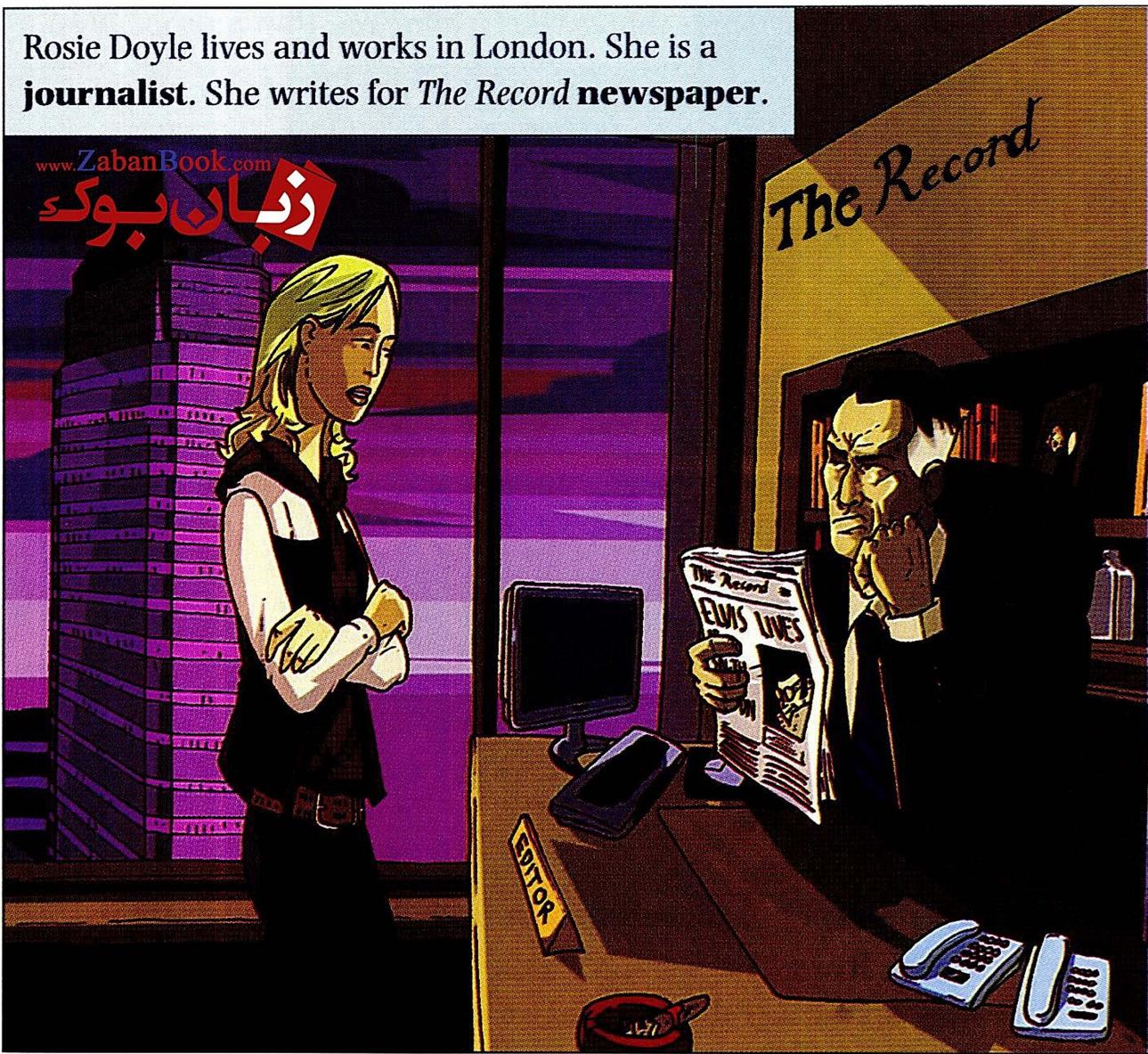
- d They talk about ...



CHAPTER **ONE**



Rosie Doyle lives and works in London. She is a **journalist**. She writes for *The Record* newspaper.



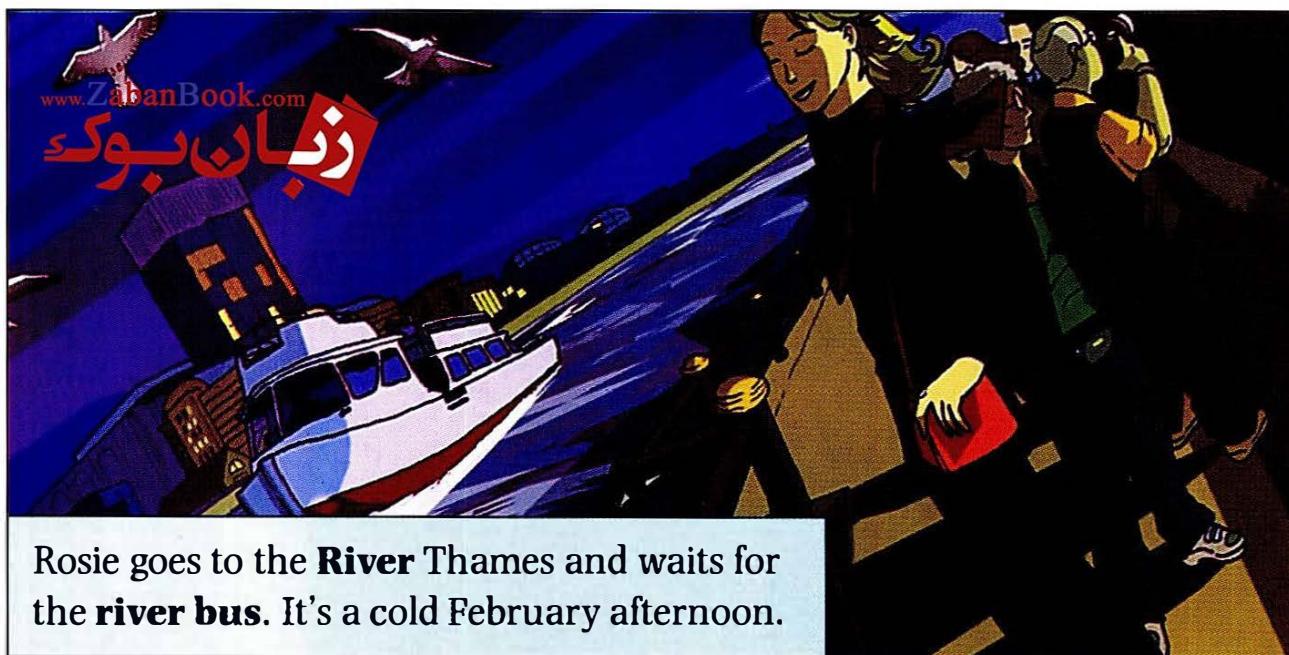
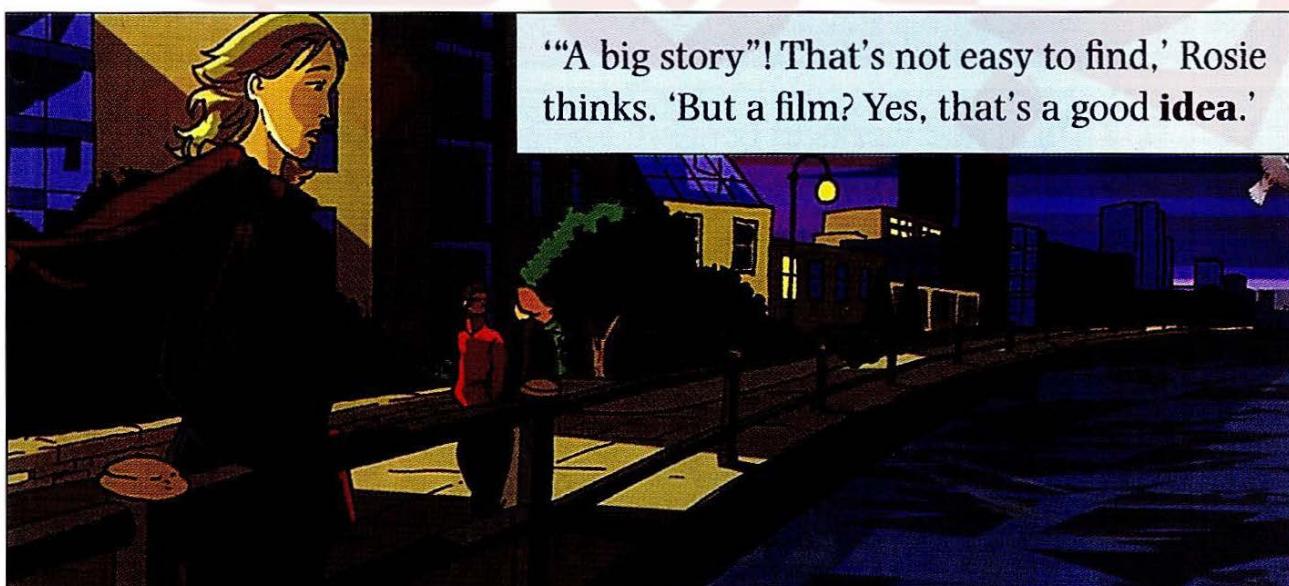
journalist a person who writes stories for a newspaper

newspaper people read about things that happen every day in this

'I can't use this story, Rosie,' says the **editor**. 'It's old **news**. Bring me something new and exciting. Bring me a **BIG** story!' He looks at her. 'You're tired, Rosie. Take the afternoon off. Go and see a **film**, or something.'



"A big story"! That's not easy to find,' Rosie thinks. 'But a film? Yes, that's a good **idea**.'



Rosie goes to the **River** Thames and waits for the **river bus**. It's a cold February afternoon.

editor the person who says which stories go in a newspaper

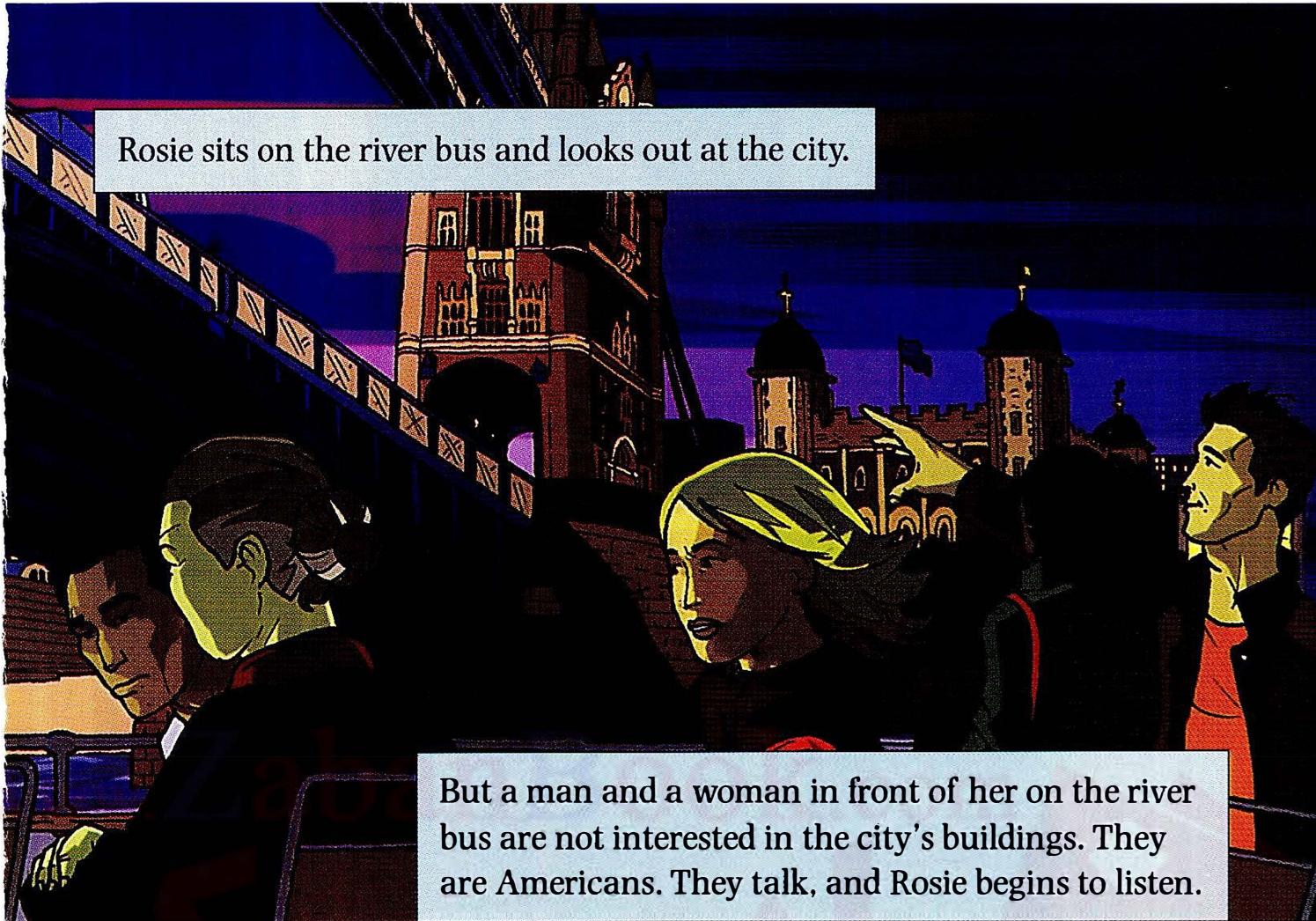
news when someone tells you something that is new

film moving pictures that tell a story

idea something that you think

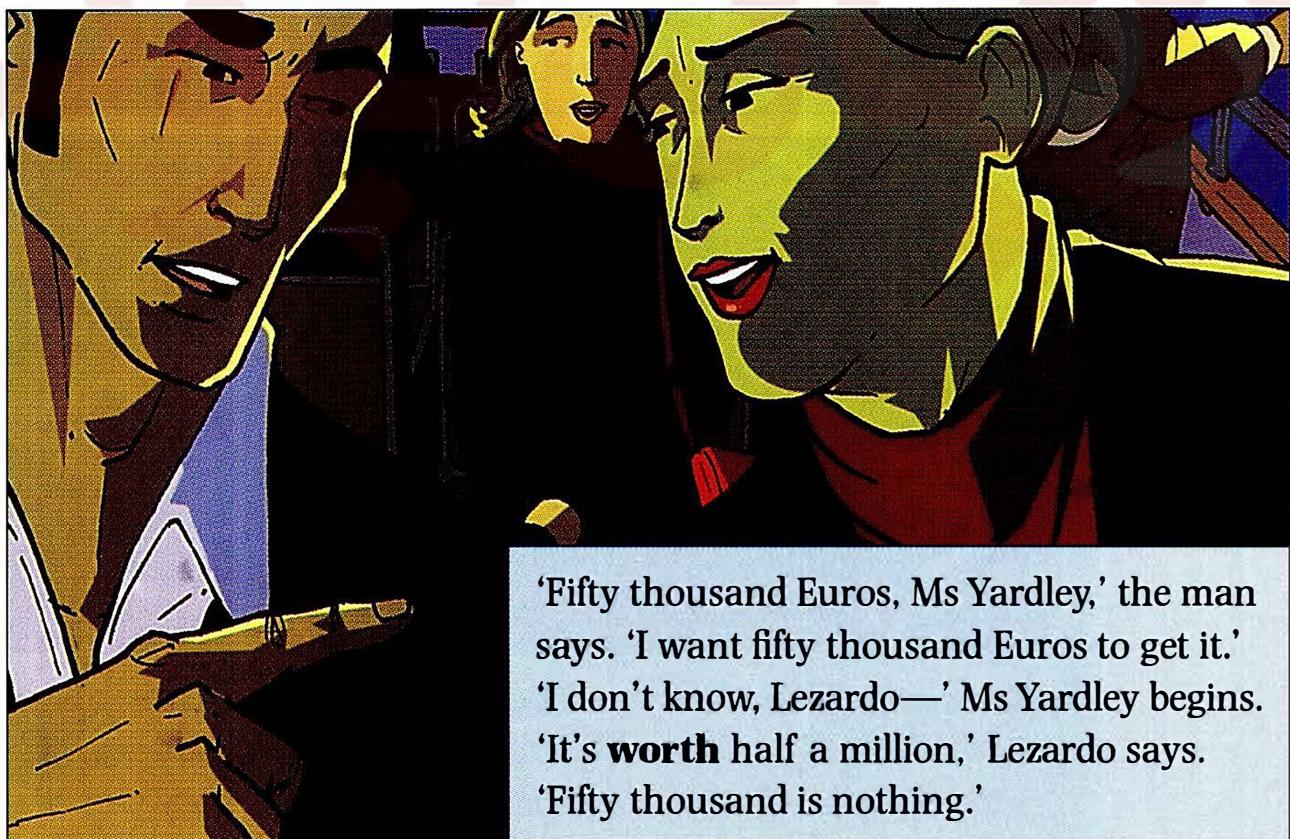
river water that moves through the country in a long line

river bus people go from one place to another on a river in this



Rosie sits on the river bus and looks out at the city.

But a man and a woman in front of her on the river bus are not interested in the city's buildings. They are Americans. They talk, and Rosie begins to listen.



'Fifty thousand Euros, Ms Yardley,' the man says. 'I want fifty thousand Euros to get it.' 'I don't know, Lezardo—' Ms Yardley begins. 'It's **worth** half a million,' Lezardo says. 'Fifty thousand is nothing.'

worth how expensive something is

Rosie forgets about the film. It isn't important now. She listens carefully to the man and woman. 'Pierre Valmy's chateau is in the mountains,' Lezardo says. 'The job isn't easy. And it's dangerous.'



'All right,' Ms Yardley says. 'Fifty thousand. Bring it to Venice on Thursday afternoon. Two o'clock at the Rialto Bridge.'



Rosie gets off the river bus. The man and the woman are in front of her. The man walks left and the woman walks right. 'Fifty thousand Euros?' Rosie thinks. 'Is there a story here?'

chateau /ʃeɪ'təʊ/ a big old house in France or Switzerland where a rich person lives

dangerous that can kill you

bridge people can go across a river on this



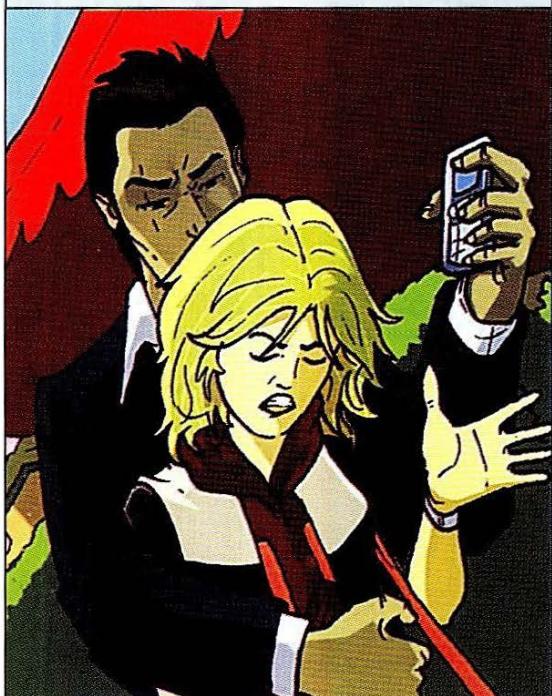
Hans quickly gets the snowmobile and goes after Lezardo. Lezardo skis down the mountain.

Lezardo sees Hans on the snowmobile behind him.

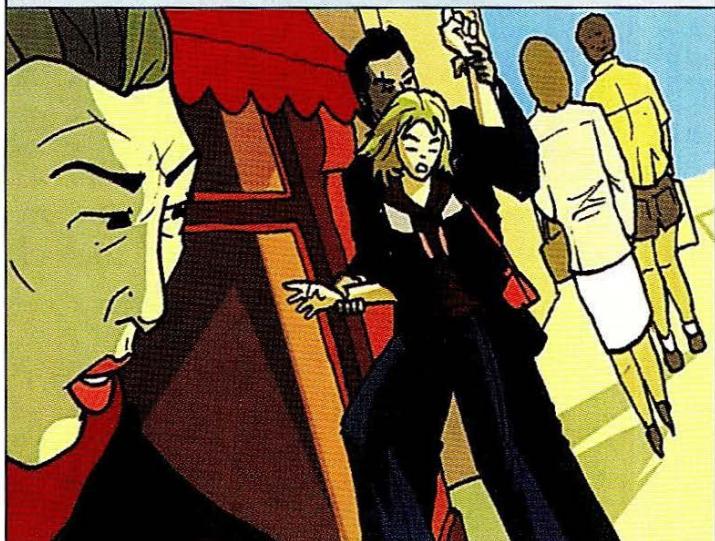


'That snowmobile is fast!' he says.

But Lezardo is behind Rosie now and he **grabs** her phone. 'No, you don't!' he says. 'What—?' Rosie begins.



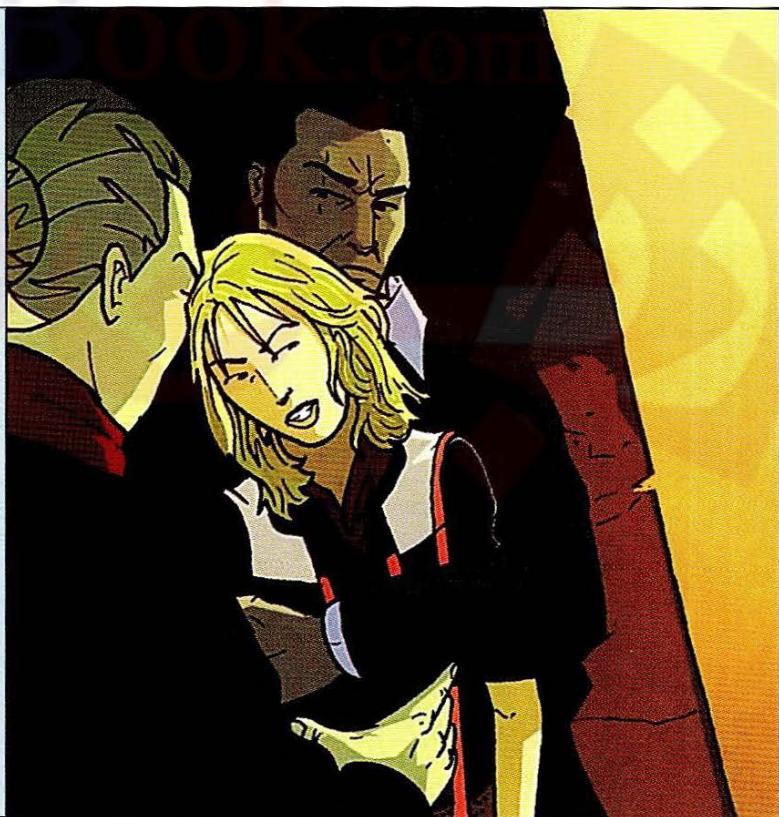
From the hotel, Julia Yardley sees Roger Lezardo with Rosie in the street. Lezardo has Rosie's arm in his hand and she can't escape. 'What's happening?' she thinks. 'Wait! I know that young woman's face?' She goes out of the hotel again.



Now Julia is with Lezardo and Rosie. Lezardo pushes Rosie into a dark **alley** opposite the hotel. Julia follows them.

'Do I know you?' Julia asks Rosie, and she looks into Rosie's face. 'Ah, yes. Now I remember! Outside my London office, on Monday! Who are you?'

'Aaagh! My arm! You're **hurting** me!' Rosie cries. 'OK, OK! My name's Rosie Doyle. I – I'm a journalist.'



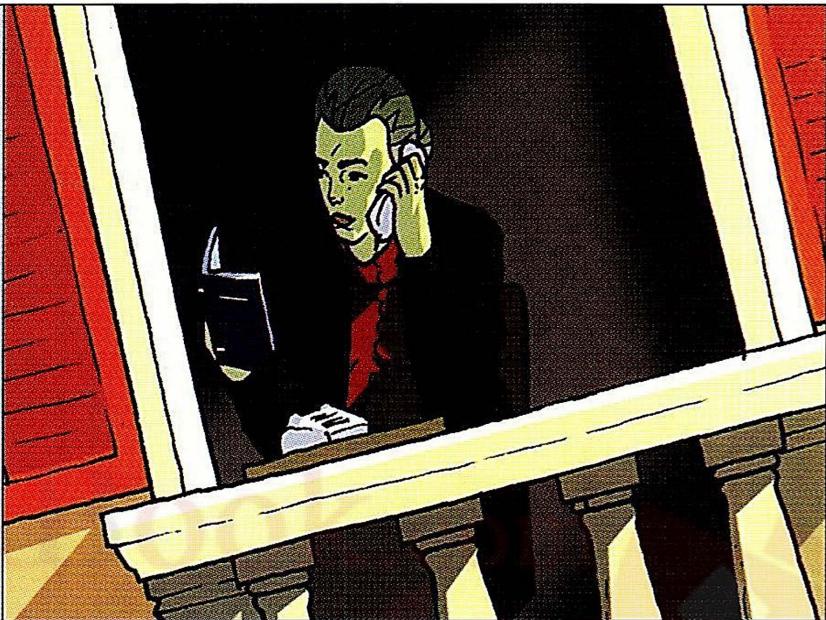
grab to take suddenly

alley a small street

hurt to do something bad to someone

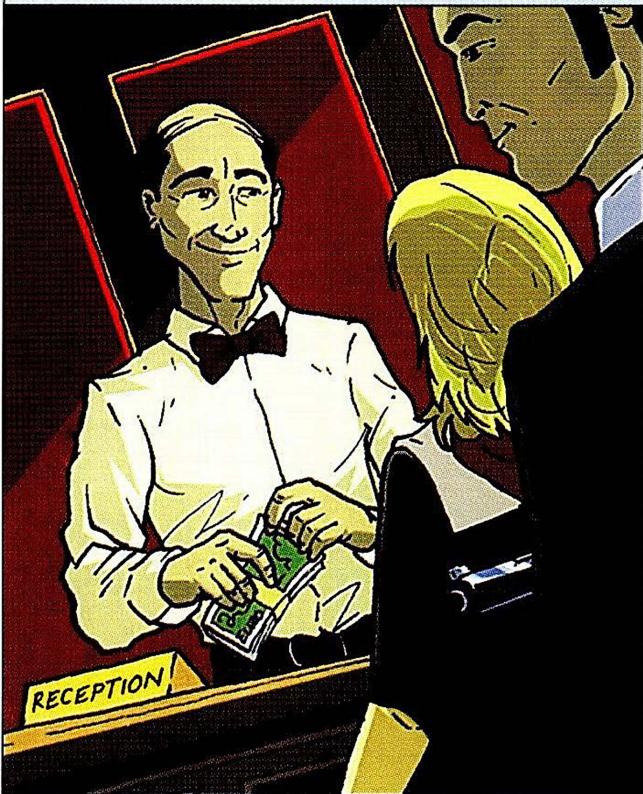
Five minutes later, Rosie sees Julia Yardley on a hotel **balcony**. Julia picks up a black book from the table and goes into her room.

'She's phoning. Now we go in,' Lezardo says. 'And don't run away! Remember the gun in my pocket!'



Lezardo gives some money to the man at the hotel desk.

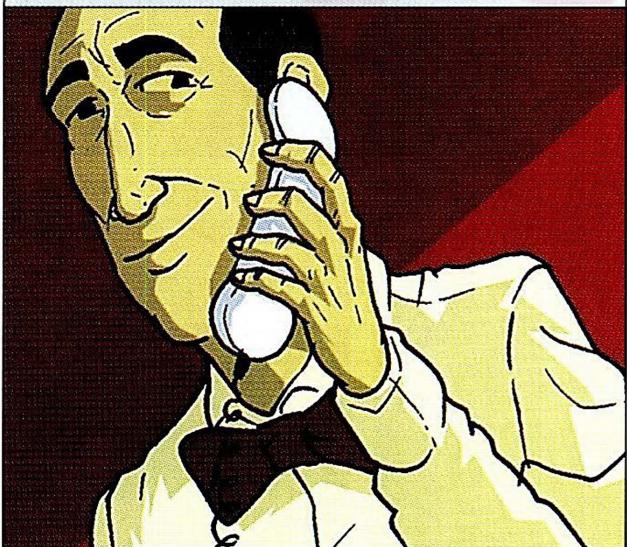
'Well, Salvatore?' he says. 'She is in her room,' the man at the desk tells him. 'And now she's making a phone call.'



'Right. Who's she phoning?'

Lezardo asks.

'Wait a minute,' Salvatore says, and he **picks up** the phone on his **desk** and listens.



'Giovanni Piano,' Salvatore says to Lezardo quietly.

Lezardo smiles. 'So she's selling to him – one of the most important collectors in Italy. I know him.'

balcony a place at the front of a building upstairs where you can stand and look out or sit in the sun

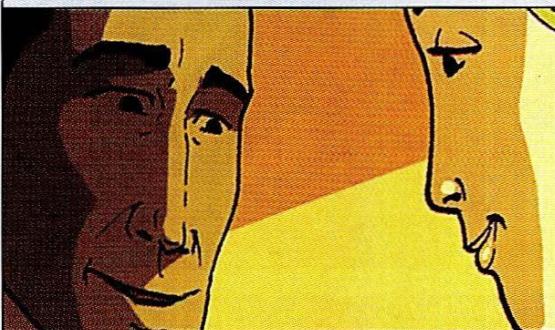
pick up to take in your hand

desk a table where you can pay for a room or ask hotel workers things

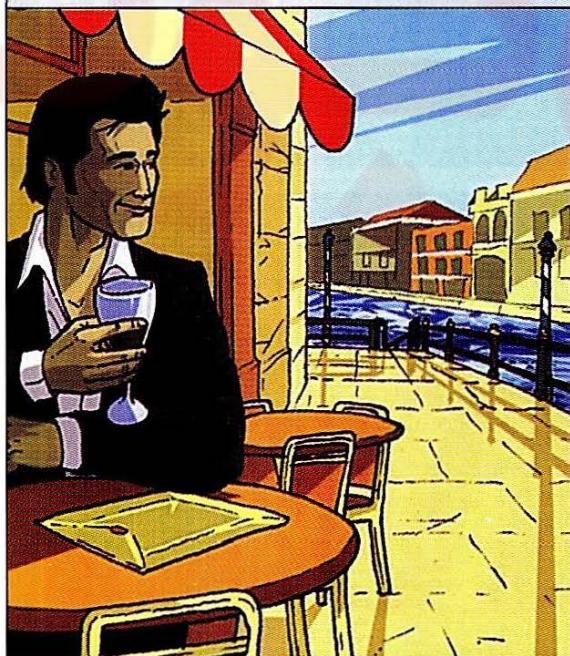
Then he speaks to Rosie, Julia and Bernardo. 'The police are going to the Café Antonella,' he says. 'But they want to ask **Signora** Yardley some questions, too.'



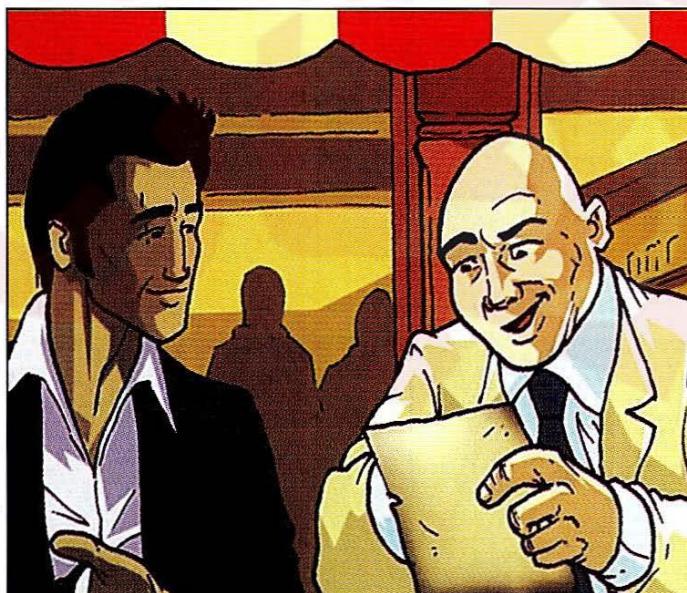
'I'm going to the Café Antonella,' Rosie says. She looks at her watch. 'But there isn't much time.'



At the Café Antonella, Lezardo waits for Giovanni Piano.



Giovanni Piano arrives some minutes later.

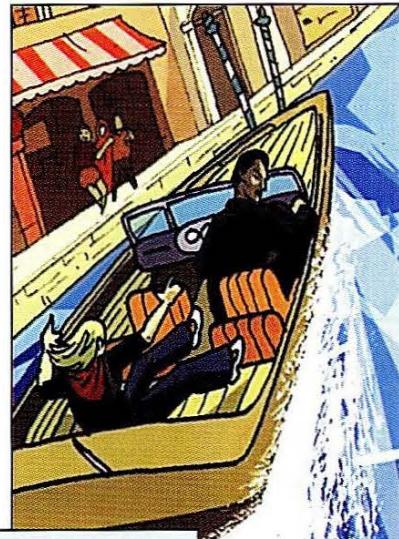


'Who are you?' he asks Lezardo.
'Where's Signora Yardley?'
'Forget Signora Yardley,' Lezardo tells him. 'Here's the drawing.'
'It's beautiful,' Piano says. 'I must have it!'

Signora /sɪn'jɔːrə/ Mrs, in Italian

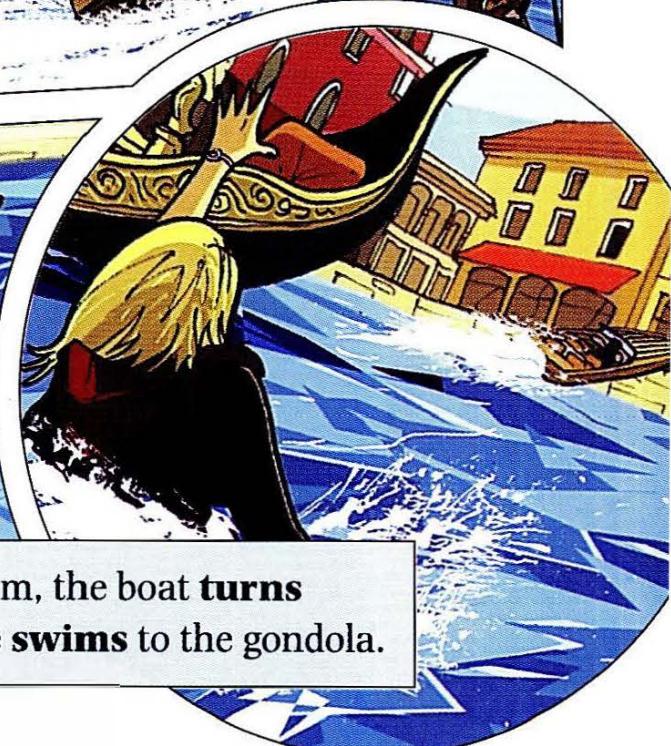
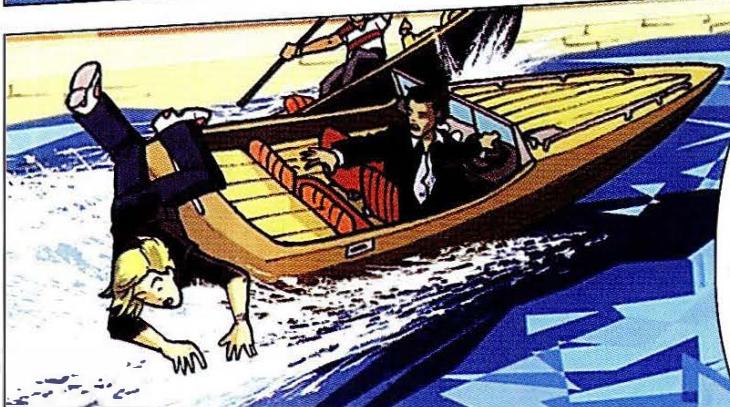
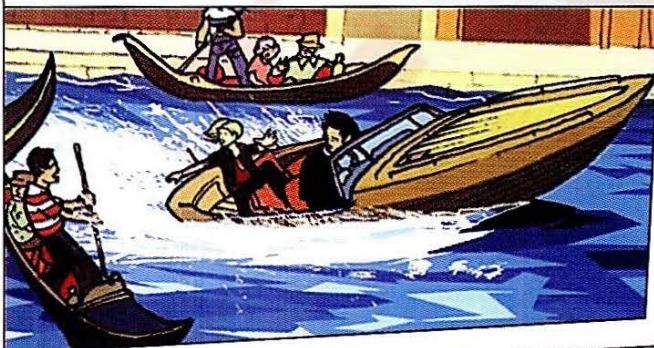
boat you go across water in this

Lezardo gets onto Bernardo's boat.
He knocks Bernardo into the canal.



Now Lezardo drives
the boat away – fast!

Lezardo tries to get away from the police. It is not
easy with gondolas and more boats on the canal.

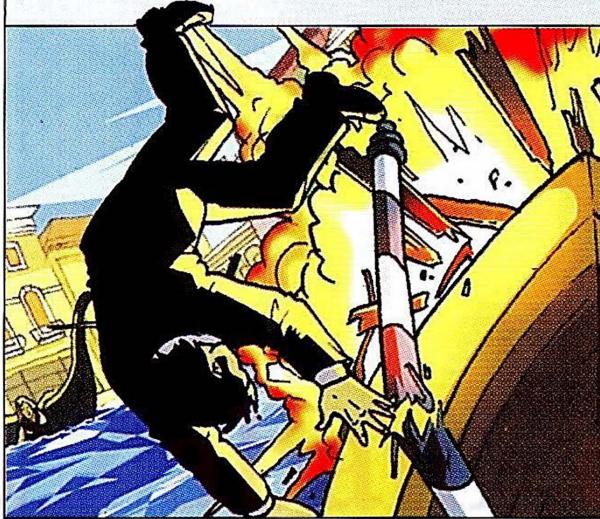


Suddenly, there's a gondola in front of them, the boat **turns**
quickly, and Rosie falls into the water! She **swims** to the gondola.

turn to go to the right or the left

swim to go through the water
moving your arms and legs

Now Rosie is in the water by the gondola. Bernardo's boat crashes into a bridge and starts to **sink**. Lezardo falls into the water.



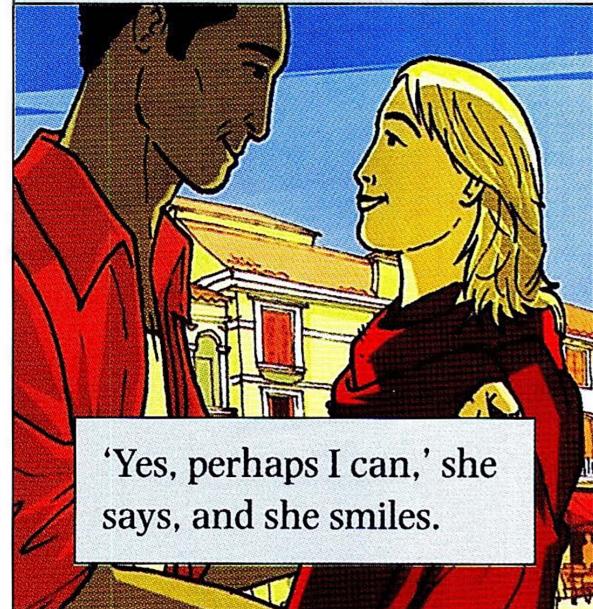
The police get Rosie out of the water first. Then they get Lezardo. 'Have you got the Picasso drawing?' Rosie asks a policeman.
'Yes, **thanks to** you,' he says.



The police take Rosie back to the hotel. Bernardo is waiting for her. 'Well, I've got my big story,' Rosie says. 'That's going to the editor of *The Record* tonight!' 'Are you a journalist?' Bernardo asks. 'Yes,' Rosie says.



'Er – can you stay in Venice for a day or two more, Rosie?' Bernardo asks. Rosie looks at him. 'He's nice,' she thinks. 'And I can send my story to the editor from here by **email**.'



sink to go down in water

thanks to because of

email words that you send from computer to computer

The Big Story

'Bring me something new and exciting. Bring me a BIG story!' says Rosie's editor at *The Record* newspaper.

And, when she leaves the office, Rosie does find a story. A story that is bigger than she expects. A story that takes her across Europe, into a dangerous world of art and art thieves.

Illustrated by Dylan Gibson

• This book is supported by a MultiROM, containing a complete dramatized audiorecording of the story plus interactive activities.

Series Editors: Bill Bowler and Sue Parminter

Word count 2,176

LEVEL	HEADWORDS
Three	1000
Two	700
One	400
Starter	250

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