

Ear-rings from Frankfurt

REG WRIGHT

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Ear-rings from Frankfurt



Richard Walton is in trouble again. He has lost his job, and he has borrowed money from his sister, Jennifer – again. And now he has disappeared. Jennifer is looking for him, and so are the police. They both have some questions that they want to ask him.

How did he lose his job? Why did he fly to Frankfurt? Who gave his girlfriend those very expensive gold ear-rings?

Only Richard can answer these questions. But nobody can find Richard. [Word count 6,422]



- ◀ STAGE 6
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- ◀ STAGE 4
- ◀ STAGE 3
- ◀ **STAGE 2**
- ◀ STAGE 1
- ◀ STARTER



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REG WRIGHT

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EAR-RINGS FROM FRANKFURT

Do you have any brothers or sisters? They can sometimes make your life very difficult. If they are younger than you, then they are always getting into trouble and needing your help.

And if you know something bad about a person, it is difficult to forget it. 'Once a thief, always a thief,' people say. But is that true? Does one mistake make a person bad for ever? Can't people change?

Jennifer Walton is a nurse. She is quiet and careful and sensible, but she has a young brother, Richard. Richard is not careful or sensible. He is always borrowing money, he never keeps a job for long, he's been in trouble with the police. Jennifer worries about him a lot. And when one day the police come asking questions about him, Jennifer fears the worst.

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Chapter 1

A night out at Maxim's

Jennifer looked at the clock on the waiting-room wall. Nearly half-past eight. The light was still on in Doctor Gibson's room. I'm going to be late, she said to herself, why doesn't he hurry up? The evening surgery was always busy on Thursdays but tonight was worse than usual.

She quickly put the newspapers in a cupboard. Then she took off her white coat and locked it in the cupboard too. She was turning off the lights when someone rang the front doorbell. Oh no, not another patient, not at this hour. She ran to the door and opened it. Outside it was dark but she could see a man, his hands deep in his pockets. He moved his head and the light fell on his face.



'Richard!' she cried in surprise.

'Richard!' she cried in surprise. 'What are you doing here?'

'Can I come in for a minute?'

He did not wait for an answer but pushed past her and went inside. Jennifer turned to him. She was usually pleased when Richard called, but this was the wrong time. 'I'm sorry, but you can't stay. I must hurry. I'm meeting my friend Claire for dinner and . . .' She stopped. It was Richard's eyes – they looked tired and worried.

'What's the matter?' she asked.

Just then Dr Gibson called from his room. 'Did I hear the doorbell, Nurse? Was it another patient?'

'No, it's only my brother Richard,' she called back.

She turned back to Richard. 'Is something wrong?' she asked again.

He shook his head. 'I'm fine,' he said. 'It's just . . . well, I had some trouble at work.'

'Trouble?'

'It was nothing, really. I said something to my boss and he didn't like it. He got angry with me and . . . and in the end he told me to go. So I've lost my job.'

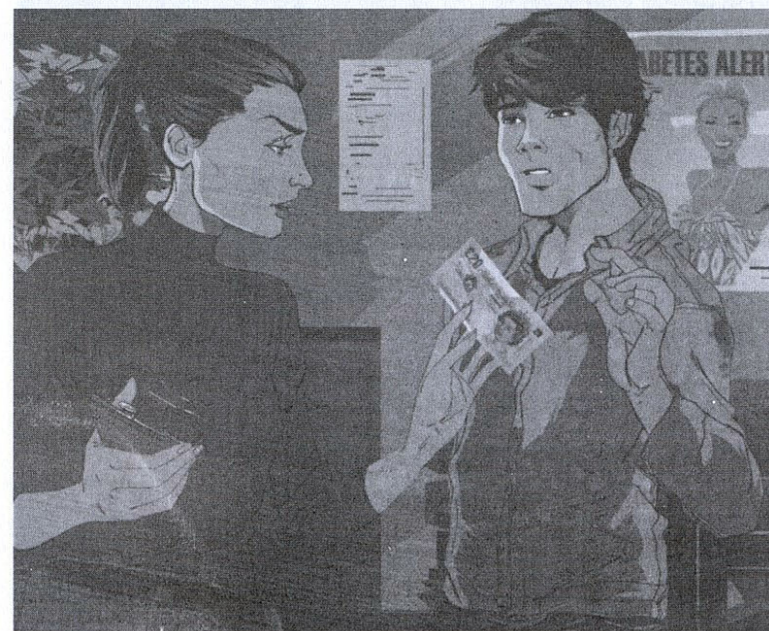
'Oh Richard, not again! Why do you do these things?' Jennifer was beginning to feel cross with him. 'And now you have no money, is that it?'

'Take it easy, Jenny. I don't need very much. Only twenty pounds. I'll pay you back next week – really I will.' He put his hand on her arm. 'You can do that for me, can't you? Just twenty pounds. It's for a present.'

'Yes, I know, I know. A present for a very special girl – like the last one. And the one before.' Jennifer knew her young brother well and she was often angry with him, but she could never say no to him. She opened her bag, took out some money and gave it to him. 'But remember, I want it back next week.'

Richard smiled and put his arm around his sister. 'Thanks, Jenny. This is different. Really! She's very, very special. But you're in a hurry so I'll go now.'

'Don't forget,' she called after him. 'Next week. Twenty pounds.'



Jennifer opened her bag, took out some money and gave it to him.



Everyone began to sing 'Happy birthday to you'.

Maxim's restaurant was busy – young men and women from offices, several older people, a group of students, and a few theatre people. Jennifer looked around for her friend. Claire usually sat near the window but tonight she was not there. Somebody was having a party and all the tables on that side were full. Then Jennifer heard Claire's voice behind her. 'Did you get lost? I've been here for hours.'

'I know I'm late,' Jennifer said, 'and I *am* sorry. Today has been really busy. The last patient didn't leave until eight-thirty. And then I had a visit from Richard. He wanted to borrow some money. He always wants to borrow money.'

They went to an empty table. A waiter came up to them and took their orders. At that moment there was a cheer from the party beside the window. An older man in a light grey suit was standing up. He spoke for a few minutes and then held up his glass. All the others stood up, and looked at a young girl with large gold ear-rings, who was sitting in the chair next to him. Everyone was laughing, and then they began to sing 'Happy birthday to you'. They were all looking at the girl, but she herself just sat there without a smile on her face. The song came to an end, and there was another loud cheer and more laughing and shouting. Someone called out 'Twenty-one today, twenty-one today...', and this time everyone in the restaurant sang too.

Suddenly there was a loud crash. Then someone screamed and a voice shouted, 'Bring a towel – quickly.'

ACTIVITIES

Before Reading

- 1 Read the back cover of the book, and the story introduction on the first page. What do you know now about the story? Tick one box for each sentence.

	YES	NO
1 Richard is always borrowing money.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 Richard has a good job.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 Jennifer worries about her brother.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 The police are looking for Richard.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5 The police are looking for Jennifer.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6 Richard went to Frankfurt by plane.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7 Jennifer has some expensive gold ear-rings.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- 2 What will you find out in this story? Can you guess? Choose some names to answer these questions.

Richard / Jennifer / Richard's girl friend / Another person

- Who stole the ear-rings?
- Who gave the ear-rings to Richard's girl friend?
- Who brought the ear-rings from Frankfurt to England?
- Who gets into trouble with the police?
- Who asks Jennifer for help?
- Who helps the police to catch a thief?

ACTIVITIES

While Reading

Read Chapter 1. Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)? Change the false sentences into true ones.

- Richard wanted to borrow twenty pounds.
- Jennifer was cross so she didn't give Richard the money.
- Jennifer went to Maxim's restaurant alone.
- The girl who was having a birthday party looked happy.
- A man called Joe fell and cut his face on some glass.
- Jennifer and Claire took the man to hospital.
- The girl with expensive gold ear-rings was taken away by the police.
- Jennifer worried about her brother.
- Jennifer knew that Richard worried about everything.

Read Chapter 2, and then answer these questions.

Who

- ... phoned to speak to Jennifer?
- ... was waiting for Jennifer outside her flat?
- ... was Mr Joe Kelly?
- ... was Wendy?
- ... went to Germany last weekend?
- ... was a criminal?
- ... came to see Jennifer the next day?