

Emergency Murder

Janet McGiffin

Before reading

- Where was the front cover photograph taken?
- Read the back cover blurb. How will the story begin?
- Read the contents on page 3, and characters on page 5.
Now look at the map on page 6. Can you see where any of the action takes place?
- If you have the cassette, listen to Chapter 1.

Check your reading

CHAPTER 1

- Who are these sentences describing?
 - ... a big woman who could handle any kind of trouble.
 - ... small and slim with short brown curly hair.
 - ... a young woman who lived near Mercy hospital.
 - The woman was wearing a red wig, a black leather miniskirt, and a thin pink sweater...
- How do you think Nanette died?

CHAPTER 2

- Are these sentences True (T) or False (F)?
 - Nanette had a history of heart problems.
 - Nanette drove to the hospital.
 - Hank had been very helpful to Maxine.
 - Nanette and Hank lived near Lake Michigan.
 - Maxine knew Nanette and Hank equally well.

CHAPTER 3

- Put the events in the right order.
 - Professor Stanley suggested Nanette had been poisoned.
 - Hank asked to stay the night at Maxine's house.
 - Virginia wanted to know the details of Nanette's death.
 - Maxine went to Nanette's burial.
 - Maxine asked Aaron to do a blood test.

CHAPTER 4

- Complete the gaps in the sentence.
Tetrodotoxin is a ¹..... poison which comes from a ²..... found in ³..... fish.
- Match Maxine's answers to Grabowski's questions.
 - 'How long did you use the poison in your research?'
 - 'Did anyone else use this poison?'
 - 'How did you and the other researchers get the drug?'
 - 'Who knew you had this poison?'
 - 'I started my research three years ago and finished six months ago.'
 - 'My research wasn't secret...'
 - 'My research assistant, Charlie.'
 - 'I got mine from a chemical company in Chicago.'

CHAPTER 5

- Complete the summary.
The ¹..... lab was the only place which ²..... had the poison. This put Maxine in a bad ³..... . When the poison got to the lab, Maxine kept it in her desk, or the ⁴..... . The lab was shared by Maxine, Charlie and ⁵..... . But any of the professors and research ⁶..... could have ⁷..... the poison.

CHAPTER 6

- Match Hank's answers to Grabowski's questions.
 - 'What did Nanette do the day she died?'
 - 'Which train?'
 - 'You stayed at the Chicago Sheraton all day?'
 - 'Who knew what Nanette did the day she died? Maybe some of the students in her classes?'
 - 'Were you her doctor?'
 - 'The eight-thirty train.'
 - 'I don't know. I didn't see her.'
 - 'No. She had her own doctor.'
 - 'Yes, I was at the conference.'
 - 'Maybe. I've never met them.'

CHAPTER 7

- Match the beginnings and endings.
 - Charlie didn't have his Ph.D. because
 - Maxine and Virginia arranged
 - Virginia had been in a bad mood
 - The lab had not received a new fridge
 - Virginia had been seeing Hank, possibly
 - to persuade him to approve her research.
 - because of problems with her research.
 - so the research money may have been cut.
 - to play tennis the next day.
 - Virginia wouldn't approve his reports.

CHAPTER 8

- Which information is Old (O) or New (N)?
 - Grabowski liked Maxine a lot.
 - Hank was annoyed about Maxine's interest in Nanette's death.
 - Virginia was paid a lot of money for her research.
 - Virginia was trying to find a new drug for leprosy.
 - Hank was the head of the Research Review Committee.

CHAPTER 9

- Look at the words in italics. Who is *she*, *you* etc.?
 - She* told us to call her Mae West.
 - ... how do *you* know her name was Mae West?
 - 'Help!' *she* screamed again...
 - She* knelt beside Maxine and looked at her head and arms.
 - 'No-one at the tennis club knows anything,' *he* sighed.

CHAPTER 10

1. Are these sentences Right (R) or Wrong (W)? Correct any mistakes.
 - a North Avenue is in a rough neighbourhood.
 - b Nanette paid Lavelle \$200 to talk and walk with her.
 - c Nanette visited North Avenue three or four times a week.
 - d Nanette was studying for a degree in social work.
 - e Nanette bought drugs and drank alcohol.
 - f On the night she died, Nanette drove away with Aaron.

CHAPTER 11

1. Are these sentence True (T), False (F) or Don't know (DK)?
 - a Hank and Aaron were probably hiding something.
 - b Grabowski told Maxine to question Aaron.
 - c Dr. Kareena Singh knew that 'Mae West' was Nanette.
 - d Maxine was attacked by Nanette's killer.
 - e Aaron denied meeting Nanette on North Avenue.

CHAPTER 12

1. Complete the sentences with names or places.
 - a Maxine was attacked in her car outside a
 - b The taxi driver picked up Nanette on the corner of and
 - c knew that Aaron was lying.
 - d went off to question Aaron.
 - e told Maxine to stop investigating Nanette's death.

CHAPTER 13

1. Who ...
 - a admitted meeting Nanette on North Avenue?
 - b were having an affair?
 - c hired a private detective to follow Nanette?
 - d was the first man who talked to Nanette?
 - e couldn't identify the third person that Nanette met?

CHAPTER 14

1. Which information is Old (O) or New (N)?
 - a After Aaron had taken Nanette home, Charlie drove her to North Avenue.
 - b Charlie had serious disagreements with Virginia.
 - c Virginia's research money may have been cut.
 - d According to Charlie, Virginia's drug could not be tested on humans.

CHAPTER 15

1. Match the questions to the answers.
 - 1 What did Maxine find in the room above the grocery?
 - 2 What did the women on North Avenue give to Maxine?
 - 3 Why did Maxine run into Virginia's garage?
 - 4 Who was taken to Mercy Hospital with Maxine?
 - 5 Who did Grabowski arrest?
 - a She thought someone needed help.
 - b Aaron.
 - c Nothing.
 - d A telephone number.
 - e Virginia.

CHAPTER 16

1. Look at the words in italics. Who is *I*, *he* etc.?
 - a *I* just spent three hours at the jail.
 - b *He'd* been working hard in the lab.
 - c *We* had a sandwich in the park.
 - d *She* called him after Aaron took her home.
 - e *He* only cared about his work.

CHAPTER 17

1. Complete the gaps.

Virginia was testing her new drug on ¹..... . In the room above the ²..... , Virginia paid ³..... and twenty-five others to get ⁴..... . Then she gave them the new drug to see if it ⁵..... them. Virginia knew that ⁶..... was interested in her ⁷..... , and when she visited the room on ⁸..... Avenue, Virginia gave Nanette a pill poisoned with ⁹..... .

CHAPTER 18

1. How did Maxine know that Virginia was the murderer? Put the steps in order to make a paragraph.
 - a The phone number was the biochemistry lab at Marquette.
 - b After Kareena's call, she knew the murderer had to be Virginia.
 - c Maxine was sure that Virginia was using the room to give people leprosy.
 - d Then she knew the murderer had to be either Charlie or Virginia.
 - e The women who visited the room above the grocery gave Maxine a phone number.
 - f Virginia was doing research experiments with a leprosy drug.
 - g Kareena called and said she had seen leprosy cases at the North Avenue Public Health Clinic.

After reading

Choose some of these activities.

1. Detective or doctor? Which job would you prefer to do? Why?
2. Imagine a year has passed since the end of the story. What do you think is happening in the lives of the characters?
3. Who was your favourite character? Why? Why a list of adjectives to describe them.
4. Write a report about the murder investigation for the Milwaukee newspaper.
5. Write a review of the book. Say what you enjoyed or didn't like about the story.
6. Make your own activities for other students to do. e.g. Write some 'Who said what?' questions.