

Double Cross

Aims

- To introduce students to the characters and settings in the story.
- To help them to speculate on how the people are connected.

1 Ask students to look at the List of Characters. Ask them to work in pairs and decide how they think they might be connected in this story.

2 Ask the students to read the Blurb. They should relate the named people in the List of Characters to the people mentioned in the Blurb.

3 The title of the book is *Double Cross*. Ask students if they know what it means to double cross somebody.

Suggested answer: It means to cheat someone by pretending to do one thing while actually doing the opposite – for example, pretending to help someone but really be working against them.

4 Monika is a secret agent. Ask students to work in pairs and think of other secret agents they know from books and films. Ask them to list what they are like, what they have to do and how they behave?

Answers: James Bond is probably the best-known example. They are intelligent, brave, efficient, take risks and often have expensive tastes. They use special technical ‘gadgets’ to help them. They live with danger. They have exciting adventures.

5 Ask students to read Extracts 1 and see if they show Monika behaving like a typical secret agent.

Answers: she knows how to fight; she has a ‘gadget’; she investigates in an unusual way; she gets into dangerous situations.

6 Ask students to read Monika’s Travels and find out where she goes, why she goes there and what happens to her.

Answers: (1) She goes to London to investigate Millham United. (2) She goes to South Africa to wait for Vitjord; records his conversation by the hotel pool. (3) She goes to Vitjord’s house and escapes in his Mercedes. (4) She is at the airport, going to Maputo, Mozambique. (5) As she walks into Maputo, Vitjord’s men try to get her but Cabinda saves her. (6) She flies to Stockholm via Paris, to meet Blom.

7 Tell students that Millham United football team always travel everywhere in Europe by coach. Ask what they think about that? Ask them to read Millham United in Russia. Ask what they think is going on, and how they can link everything they know about the story.

Answer: They use the football coach to transport the bomb and pay for it with South African gold.

8 Ask students to work in pairs and to invent a new job for Monika Lundgren to do. It should involve an international crime connected to Sweden, and should take her to at least one other country. Ask them to write an outline plot of what happens, then share it with some other pairs.

Double Cross

List of Characters

Monika Lundgren: an agent for Swedish Military Intelligence (SMI), Stockholm.

Anders Blom: Monika's boss at SMI.

James Chapman: an agent for MI5, British Intelligence in London.

Kurt Carlsson: a senior minister in the Swedish Government.

Millham United: a football team from London.

Bruce: a guitarist and fan of Millham United.

Adolf Vitjord: the leader of a right-wing party in South Africa.

Cabinda: a passport officer in Maputo, Mozambique.

Amelia: Cabinda's wife.

Blurb

A fast-moving international thriller set in Scandinavia, London and southern Africa. A politician nearly dies in Stockholm, and secret agent Monika Lundgren chases the would-be killer. As she races across the world she meets a strange football team, a rock musician, and a madman with dreams of world power.

Extracts 1

- a Monika suddenly put her arms up over her head. The fan's arms flew up in the air and he dropped the glass. Monika was free. She quickly hit the fan hard in the stomach. His head came forward and down as his hands moved to his stomach . . . Quickly Monika brought her knee up into his face.
- b Monika felt in her jeans pocket. She carefully took out a very small camera which looked like a cigarette lighter. Monika photographed the people in the room through the window.
- c The only light came from a high window. It was the room where the men were. Monika climbed onto one of the cars. Then she jumped from the car roof to the coach. The coach was next to the window. Moving carefully she went across the roof to the office window.
- d Monika drove the Mercedes straight at the wooden doors. The engine screamed. The doors broke, and the Mercedes drove through into the street.
- e As she was walking a van slowed and stopped beside her. It was a big white van with black windows. The van stopped in front of her. Two men got out . . . One of them opened the van's back doors.
'Get in,' the bearded man said and tried to take her arm.

Monika's Travels

- a Monika took the early afternoon SAS flight to London and checked into the Scandic Crown Hotel, near Victoria Station. She had a map of London, and knew where Millham United's stadium was. She decided to go there first.
- b . . . the SAS 747 took off for Johannesburg . . . The Carlton Hotel was big and expensive . . . The next morning she found the swimming pool on the roof of the hotel . . . Monika woke up. There were other people by the pool now. Three men were sitting at a table about ten metres away. Another man was walking towards them . . . It was Vitjord . . . Monika . . . put a cassette into the Walkman and pressed RECORD. She could hear every word of the men's conversation . . . She couldn't believe her ears.
- c Monika went into the house with Vitjord . . . Monika jumped into the Mercedes and started the engine . . . There was a loud bang! Vitjord was shooting at her! Monika drove the Mercedes straight at the wooden doors . . . through into the street.
- d Monika knew she couldn't stay at the airport all day. Where was the next flight going to? She looked at the flight information. Maputo in Mozambique. Great.
- e Other people were walking into Maputo and she decided to walk too . . . a van slowed and stopped beside her . . . Two men got out. They were Vitjord's men . . . Then Monika heard another engine, and then a friendly voice . . .
'Can I help you?' . . . It was Cabinda from the passport police . . . The men . . . got back into the white van. The bearded man . . . spoke to Monika.
'We'll find you,' he said. 'Maputo's a small town.'
- f The flight took off for Paris on time and arrived early on Monday morning. Monika then took an SAS plane to Stockholm and was in Anders Blom's office in the Old Town by lunchtime.

Millham United in Russia

Meanwhile, Millham United were in Russia . . . The football team went to their hotel. Then the coach . . . drove out of St Petersburg on the road to Moscow. After about a hundred kilometres the coach turned off onto a side road . . . The coach stopped by a high wall . . . Big doors in the wall opened and the coach drove through. Two men in hats and long coats got into the coach. Dixon gave them a very heavy sports bag . . .

The men in coats took the heavy bag and put it in a black car . . . Then the men in long coats carried what looked like a very large heavy suitcase over to the coach from the car. Worthington opened a door in the side of the coach. The huge 'suitcase' was put in and the door was locked. Then the bus returned to St Petersburg.