

Hotel Casanova

Sue Leather

Before reading

1. Look at the picture on the front of the book and then read the blurb on the back. What do they tell you about where the story happens?
2. In the blurb there are two people's names. Look at *People in the story* on page 3 and find out who they are.
3. Look at the map of Italy on page 4. You know the story happens in Venice. Why do you think it also shows Rome and Roccella?
4. If you have the recording, listen to Chapter 1.

Check your reading

CHAPTER 1

1. Match the people and their jobs.

a Dino Bracco	1 hotel waitress
b Mr and Mrs Bracco	2 hotel boss
c Giovanni Tardelli	3 hotel receptionist
d Maria Luca	4 farmers
2. Who said what?
 - a 'Ah Dino . . . when I was twenty-one . . .'
 - b 'You must know what you want, Dino.'
 - c 'Wow! You're at a big hotel on the Venice Lido.'
 - d 'Yes, madam, of course, madam.'
 - e 'You can look at the picture and think of home.'
3. Look at the picture on page 7. What is happening?
4. Why are 20 April and 21 April important dates for Dino?
5. What is Dino's plan for five years time?

CHAPTER 2

1. Look at pages 8, 9 and 10 and describe Carla Maretti.
2. What does Carla like about Dino?
3. Dino gets or takes three things to Carla. What are they?
4. What is Dino's plan for nine years time?
5. Put these events in the right order.
 - a Dino talks . . . to Carla on the phone.
 - b Dino sleeps with Carla.
 - c Dino sees Carla for the first time.
 - d Dino takes drinks to Carla's room.
 - e Dino takes Carla coffee in the café.
6. How do Dino's plans change by the end of the chapter?

CHAPTER 3

1. Where did Carla go for a few days, Venice or Rome?
2. Put the places Dino went to on his day off in the correct order.
 - a the Rialto Bridge
 - b the Grand Canal
 - c San Polo
 - d St Mark's Square

3. What three kinds of boats can you find in this chapter? What often happens to boats in Venice? Why?
4. What two things does Carla suggest in her phone call to Dino?

CHAPTER 4

1. Match the events and the times.

1 June	a Dino decides to leave.
2 August	b Dino works hard at the hotel.
3 August to October	c Dino marries Carla.
4 September of the next year	d Carla buys the hotel.
2. True or false?
 - a Carla's husband was called Alessandro.
 - b Dino knew about Carla's husband when they met.
 - c Dino killed Carla's husband.
 - d Carla killed her husband.
 - e Carla killed her husband in Rome.
 - f She used her husband's money to buy the hotel.
 - g Carla will tell the police if Dino leaves her.
3. Do you think Dino can leave Carla? If so, how?

CHAPTER 5

1. How did Dino find out about Alessandro Maretti?
2. Why does Maria Luca come to see Dino?
3. Read pages 23 and 24. What is Maria Luca like?
4. Look at the picture on page 26. What is happening?
5. Look at the words in italics. Who are *I, you, we, they*?
 - a *I* mustn't do anything stupid.
 - b How wonderful to see *you*.
 - c *They* talked about the people *they* knew.
 - d *You* like that girl!
 - e *I* can kill you too!
 - f *I* can't tell you now.
 - g *We* must leave the hotel.

CHAPTER 6

1. What happened first, second, third and fourth?
 - a Carla goes after Dino and Maria in a fast boat.
 - b Carla is going to kill Dino and Maria.
 - c A fireboat crashes into Carla's boat.
 - d Dino and Maria get into a gondola.
2. Who said these things about whom?
 - a 'She's a killer.'
 - b 'We can get a gondola.'
 - c 'He's mine!'
 - d 'I'm going to kill them!'
 - e 'I want to be with you always.'
3. What happens to Carla in the end?

After reading

Choose some of these activities.

1. Look at the pictures on pages 9, 18, 20 and 26. What does each picture tell you about Dino and Carla's relationship?
2. Imagine you are a film director. Which actors would you choose to play Dino, Carla and Maria?
3. Look at *La Repubblica* in the picture on page 22, and the picture and details on pages 20, 21 and 22. Write the newspaper article about Alessandro Maretti's death.
4. Imagine there is another chapter to *Hotel Casanova*. Write what happens next to finish the story of Dino and Maria.
5. Make up a new title and chapter headings for the story.
6. What are the three main characters like as people? Write descriptions of Dino, Carla and Maria.
7. Maria telephones her mother in Roccella when she gets the job at Hotel Casanova. Write their conversation as she tells her all about Dino and her new work.
8. Dino is 21 years old at the start of the story. He has a plan for what he wants when he is 26 and 30. Do you have any plans for your future? Write down what you want to be doing in five and ten years' time.
9. Make up some activities for other students to do (e.g. write some true/false questions, or some story events to put in the correct order).
10. What do you think of Dino's mother's sayings: 'You must know what you want' and 'Sometimes you must take what life gives you'? Is this good advice? Why/why not?