

A Puzzle for Logan

Richard MacAndrew

Before reading

- The book is called *A Puzzle for Logan*. Look up 'puzzle' in your dictionary. What does it mean? Now read the contents page. What do you think the puzzle is?
- Read the back cover blurb. Why isn't it Logan's day off any longer?
- Look at the maps on page 4. What do you know about Scotland and Edinburgh?
- Match the chapter titles and sentences from each chapter.

Chapter 1	An escape and a murder
Chapter 2	A visit to Jimmy Brown
Chapter 3	The 'main man'
Chapter 4	Bags of money
Chapter 5	Questions for Robert Baxter

- 'I think he's someone important ... but she's never told me.'
 - 'Someone's found a young woman's body in Holyrood Park.'
 - 'Did you ever know a man called Craig Sinclair?'
 - Their knock was answered by a young fair-haired man who badly needed a bath ...
 - 'I thought he was telling me that he was going to become very rich ...'
- If you have the cassette, listen to Chapter 1.

Check your reading

CHAPTER 1

- How much do the police know about the dead woman? Write SURE or NOT SURE after each sentence.
 - She was in her late twenties.
 - She was probably murdered between two and three in the afternoon.
 - Her throat was cut by a left-handed person.
 - Her name is Morag Mackenzie.
 - Ronnie Campbell is the murderer.
 - Ronnie Campbell knows Morag Mackenzie.

CHAPTER 2

- Look at the words in italics. Who is *she*, *he*, etc.?
 - '*She* said she'd seen Campbell and Sinclair drinking together and shouting at each other on the night that Sinclair died.'
 - '*He*'d never been to prison but that was just good luck.'
 - Because *she* was good-looking, people did not always take her seriously.
 - He* was described as slim and quite strong.
 - '*He*'s part of all sorts of criminal activities: robbery, stealing cars, everything.'

Jimmy Brown Ronnie Campbell Inspector Logan
Morag Mackenzie Craig Sinclair

- Look at page 12, paragraph one. Logan asks herself six questions. What do you think the answers could be?

CHAPTER 3

- True or false?
 - Morag left the flat at midday.
 - Morag had a nine to five job.
 - Morag got money from the 'main man'.
 - Morag told Brown everything about the 'main man'.
 - Morag probably went out to see the 'main man'.
 - Brown hadn't left the flat all day.

CHAPTER 4

- Complete the summary.

Jean Drummond was sad but not when her brother Craig was Craig had been in trouble with the police since he was She told the police that Craig and Campbell were probably together. She had hoped that Craig would get a but she realised that he would always be a When she last saw Craig, she thought he said that he was going to become very

CHAPTER 5

- Match the beginnings and endings.
 - People used to call Baxter 'Bags'
 - Now Baxter was a rich and important man who
 - People were too frightened to talk about Baxter
 - Baxter said that he had not met Morag Mackenzie and
 - Logan and Grant weren't sure if Baxter
 - Also, Baxter used his right hand
 - Grant thought it was strange,
 - was probably behind much of the crime in Edinburgh.
 - was Morag Mackenzie's main man.
 - to hold his tennis racket.
 - that Baxter wasn't surprised at Logan's questions.
 - did not know Craig Sinclair.
 - so the police couldn't get information on him.
 - because he had once stolen an old lady's handbag.

CHAPTER 6

- Put these events in the right order.
 - Campbell was taken to London Road Police station.
 - Tam MacDonald stopped him from getting away.
 - Tam told Logan that he'd followed Campbell from Holyrood Park.
 - Logan and Grant started to drive towards Princes Street.
 - Campbell tried to escape from Logan and Grant.
 - Tam MacDonald phoned Logan to say he'd seen Campbell in Princes Street.
- Why do you think Campbell visited Holyrood Park?

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CHAPTER 7

1. Match Campbell's replies to what Grant and Logan say to him.
 - 1 'I think you escaped so you could find Morag and murder her ...'
 - 2 'But you did know where she lived, didn't you?'
 - 3 'Where did you spend the night?'
 - 4 'So what happened when you went to see her?'
 - 5 'And Morag?'
 - a 'Yes, I did ... I know someone who knows her.'
 - b 'She hadn't told the truth ... and I wanted to know why.'
 - c 'I didn't see her.'
 - d 'Holyrood Park.'
 - e 'Stop it! ... I didn't kill Morag Mackenzie and I didn't kill Craig Sinclair.'
2. Why do you think Morag Mackenzie lied to the police?

CHAPTER 8

1. What did Logan and Grant find out from Jimmy Brown? What did they already know and what was new information? Write OLD or NEW after the sentences.
 - a Brown's flat was full of stolen things.
 - b Morag left the flat at about midday.
 - c Brown left the flat and followed Morag.
 - d Morag got into a car on Dalry Road.
 - e Morag was paid money by the main man.
 - f Brown didn't like Morag working for the main man.
 - g Brown bought a newspaper.
 - h Brown knew Craig Sinclair.
2. Why do you think Morag phoned the main man?

CHAPTER 9

1. Tick (✓) what Gus did or saw on the night of Craig Sinclair's murder.
 - a Gus talked to the police.
 - b He saw the dead body.
 - c A big, tall man left the body.
 - d The man brought the body there by car.
 - e The car was a dark green colour.
 - f The number of the car was RB 1.

CHAPTER 10

1. What information did Logan need from Baxter to complete the puzzle?

CHAPTER 11

1. Complete the summary with the names of the characters.

The fingerprints on the envelope and the knife belonged to Logan told him that had seen him leave body in Beaverhall Road and had remembered his car number. Finally, Baxter said that he had murdered and had made the police believe that was the killer. Also, he had paid to tell the police that she'd seen with on the night of the murder. When escaped from prison, had demanded more money from, who killed her to keep her quiet.

Robert Baxter Ronnie Campbell Gus MacLeod Morag Mackenzie Craig Sinclair

After reading

Choose some of these activities

1. Have you seen a film or read any other stories where someone was sent to prison for something they hadn't done?
2. Campbell was sent to prison for fifteen years. How long do you think Baxter should stay in prison?
3. Make two lists of the characters. Divide them into 'good guys' and 'bad guys'. Which characters do you like best or least from your two lists?
4. Logan is a woman who does what some people think is a man's job. Did this cause her any problems in *A Puzzle for Logan*?
5. What do you think will happen in the future between Tam MacDonald and Logan?
6. Morag Mackenzie demanded more money from Baxter to keep quiet about lying to the police. Write the conversation between Morag and Baxter.
7. Here is a newspaper headline: EDINBURGH DOUBLE MURDER. Imagine you are Tam MacDonald. Write the story of the Baxter murders for your newspaper.
8. Write a letter to the author, Richard MacAndrew. Say what you liked or didn't like about *A Puzzle for Logan*.
9. Make your own activities for other students to do. e.g. Write some True/False questions.
10. Here is the blurb from another book at this level.

The House by the Sea

A married couple, Carl and Linda Anderson, buy a house by the sea to spend their weekends. But one weekend Linda does not arrive at the house and Carl begins to worry. What has happened to her? Who is the taxi driver that follows Carl? And how much do the people in the village really know?

Do you want to read *The House by the Sea*?