

# Death in the Dojo

Sue Leather

## Before reading

1. Look at the front cover. What is happening?
2. Read the back cover blurb. What do you think the 'crime committed thirty years earlier' might be?
3. Have you seen these Japanese words before: *karate, sensei, dan, samurai, kimono*? Check the glossary on page 5.
4. If you have the cassette, listen to Chapter 1.

## Check your reading

### CHAPTER 1

1. Look at the words in italics. Who is *he*, *them*, *him* etc.?
  - a ... *he* had the worst temper in the world.
  - b In London, anybody who wanted to train seriously trained with one of *them*.
  - c *He* was wearing a particularly horrible tie.
  - d ... *he* told us that Kawaguchi had been threatened before.
  - e You couldn't imagine *him* hurting a fly.
2. Look at the letter on page 12. Who do you think Brendan was? Why was he in prison?

### CHAPTER 2

1. Match the beginnings and endings.
 

1 Kate returned to her flat and listened to her neighbour	a by a single punch to the stomach.
2 She dreamt that she was in the dojo again,	b playing his saxophone.
3 Early the next morning, she was woken	c by an urgent phone call from Jonty Adams.
4 Ito had been killed	d fighting against her old friend Sanjay.
2. Read the letter on page 16. What was going to happen the following week?

### CHAPTER 3

1. True or false?
  - a Jun Kawaguchi was unwilling to talk to Kate about his father.
  - b Kawaguchi and Asano had had a serious disagreement.
  - c Martial arts training makes you more aggressive.
  - d The origami birds hadn't brought the family good fortune.
  - e One of the Kawaguchi family was involved in a murder case.
2. Read the letter on page 23. Who do you think 'Janey' was?

### CHAPTER 4

1. Put the events in the right order.
  - a Murphy was accused of the murder of Blakeston.
  - b A young man called Blakeston was driving a girl home.
  - c The girl picked Murphy out of an identity parade.
  - d Blakeston stopped to pick up a hitchhiker.
  - e Blakeston was shot dead and the girl was seriously wounded.
2. Why did Brendan write: 'I can't tell you how disappointed I am'?

### CHAPTER 5

1. Complete the sentences with the right person's name.
  - a ..... travelled to Peterborough to talk to ..... 's brother.
  - b ..... was not sorry that Kawaguchi was dead.
  - c ..... had confessed to the murder after ..... was hanged.
  - d ..... thought there had been a cover-up at the trial.
  - e ..... didn't tell ..... that ..... had been shot by the London Road murderer.

### CHAPTER 6

1. Match the questions and answers.
 

1 'Were all the letters written by the same person?'	a 'I think he just thought it was some madman.'
2 'Do you think Kawaguchi had any idea who "The Avenger" was?'	b 'He must have destroyed them so his family wouldn't find them.'
3 'Did Kawaguchi ever report these threatening letters to the police?'	c 'Yes, definitely. It was the same handwriting.'
4 'Where are they now, these letters?'	d 'No, nobody knew anything about them.'
2. Read the letter on page 35. Why did Brendan write: 'Today I am about as low as I've ever been in my life'?

### CHAPTER 7

1. Put the events in the right order.
  - a Kate stopped Tim from phoning for a doctor.
  - b As Kate entered her flat, she was attacked.
  - c Kate realised that the attack was a warning.
  - d Tim stayed the night to protect Kate.
  - e Kate knocked on the ceiling to attract Tim's attention.
2. Read the letter on page 39. What was the only thing Brendan could look forward to?

### CHAPTER 8

1. Look at the words in italics. Who is *somebody*, *me*, *he* etc.?
  - a *Somebody* was obviously warning *me*.
  - b Was *he* still alive now, *I* wondered?
  - c *He* said he would ring *her* and tell her *I* was coming.
  - d Now *she* looked ill and tired, but was as polite as her brother.

### CHAPTER 9

1. Complete the gaps in the summary.
 

Kate returned to her ..... and fell asleep. Later, she was ..... up by a phone call. It was Naoko's housekeeper. She told Kate that Naoko wanted to ..... to her now. Naoko told Kate that John Blakeston had been her ..... . Naoko's father was very ..... with his children and tried to stop her from seeing John. Now, Naoko wasn't sure if ..... had killed Blakeston.

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2. Kate asked Naoko: '... is it possible that your father had John Blakeston killed?' What do you think?

## CHAPTER 10

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 After Kate's second meeting with Naoko        | 1. Match the beginnings and endings.                |
| 2 While Kate was enjoying noodles and green tea | a and told him everything that had happened.        |
| 3 Kenji persuaded Kate to visit the dojo        | b she met Kenji, an old friend.                     |
| 4 Afterwards, Kate had tea with Ando-sensei     | c to watch a training session and meet Ando-sensei. |
|   | d she did some sightseeing around old Tokyo.        |

## CHAPTER 11

1. Match the sentences to the person or place.
- a The place was noisy and crowded and full of smoke.  
b 'Left here years ago, he did.'  
c The pub itself looked very old, as if it desperately needed repairs.  
d He looked like he hadn't shaved for days.  
e 'Oh, he stopped coming here about last November.'

The Pelican    The Six Bells    the barman at The Six Bells  
Peter Benson

2. Read the letter on page 60. What was the only way Brendan Murphy could escape hanging?

## CHAPTER 12

1. Match Kate's questions to the answers.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 'What do you think, Mr Benson. Did he do it?'                                       | a 'That is my reading of the situation, Miss Jensen.'     |
| 2 'Do you think there's a chance that Kawaguchi paid your brother to kill Blakeston?' | b 'What, and hurt his daughter? ... I don't think so.'    |
| 3 'Then the whole thing was a tragic mistake?'  | c 'I told the police on more than one occasion.'          |
| 4 'Why didn't you come forward and tell the police?'                                  | d 'The honest truth is that there certainly is a chance.' |

## CHAPTER 13

1. Correct the mistakes in the summary.

At 10.00 the next day, Kate was talking to Balzano about a story she was working on. Suddenly Jonty phoned to say that a letter bomb had exploded at the Prime Minister's office. Twenty minutes later they received an e-mail from Reuters News Agency. It read: 'At 9.00 this morning we received a fax from someone calling himself "The Psychopath". He said that he was responsible for the two letter bombs. He said that Murphy was guilty and he would avenge his death.'

2. Read Brendan's letter on page 69. What did Brendan ask his family to do for him?

## CHAPTER 14

1. Match the beginnings and endings.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 Kate met Jonty for a drink                                | a with a girl called Janey Lovat.                    |
| 2 Sandra Watts, the handwriting expert, was reasonably sure | b that the Avenger was a woman not older than forty. |

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 3 Paddy Murphy remembered that Brendan used to go out | c and discovered a top fighter called Brenda Lovat. |
| 4 Kate checked the list of black belts in London      | d but he didn't have any new information for her.   |

2. What do you think? Will the Avenger strike again? Who will he or she attack?

## CHAPTER 15

1. Put the events in the right order.
- a Tony Jensen knocked the person out with a right hook.  
b They took off the black cap and saw a woman's face.  
c Kate found Sanjay fighting with someone in the hall.  
d Just before seven there was a loud noise.  
e Kate and Sanjay went to stay with Tony Jensen.

## CHAPTER 16

1. Look at the words in italics. Who is *it*, *they*, *he* etc.?
- a Nobody knew about *it*, only Brendan, and *they* decided not to tell anyone.  
b *He* came from a poor family with no power.  
c I don't think *he* was an evil man.  
d *He* had told the police and *I* was sure they'd find me.

## CHAPTER 17

1. Complete the gaps in the summary.

Brendan Murphy was hanged for the London Road murder ..... years ago. Yesterday Murphy was given an official ..... by the Home Secretary. Tony Jensen had managed to find new ..... which proved that Murphy was in ..... at the time of the murder. Murphy's ....., Brenda Lovat-Murphy, was delighted to hear the news. She will be released from prison ..... year.

## After reading

Choose some of these activities.

1. Which character do you like the most? Why?
2. Think about the relationship between Kate Jensen and her father, Tony Jensen. What has Kate learnt from her father?
3. Write Kate's article in 'The Daily Echo' about the murders of Kawaguchi and Ito.
4. Imagine Kate interviews Brenda Lovat when she is released from prison. Write the interview for 'The Daily Echo'.
5. Do you think the punishment for murder should be death?
6. Read the letter on page 78. Imagine you are Brendan. Write what he really wanted to say to Janey Lovat.
7. Make your own activities for other students to do. e.g. Match the question to the answer.

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