

# How I Met Myself

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## Before reading

1. Think about the title. How could you meet yourself?
2. Read the contents and the back cover blurb. What sort of story is this?
3. Look at the maps on page 5. What do you know about Hungary and Budapest?
4. If you have the cassette, listen to Chapter 1.

## Check your reading

### CHAPTER 1

1. Write a short paragraph describing John's strange meeting.

### CHAPTER 2

1. Complete the summary with numbers and times.

John Taylor, a ..... -year-old Englishman has been working in Budapest for ..... years. .... months after falling in love with his Hungarian teacher, Andrea, they get married. They live in the ..... District of Budapest. It takes John ..... minutes to get to work. His normal day starts at ..... a.m. and finishes at ..... p.m.

### CHAPTER 3

1. What happened after John fell down? Put the events in order.

- a He noticed the man left no footprints.
- b He had a drink and went home.
- c He checked the toilet but nobody was there.
- d That night, he lay awake thinking.
- e He saw the man go in a wine cellar.
- f He couldn't tell Andrea the truth.
- g He followed the man who ran into him.
- h He asked the barman if anyone had come in.

### CHAPTER 4

1. What did John find out? Match up the beginnings and endings.

- 1 The door where John had fallen
- 2 The flats in the street had five floors
- 3 Some of the flats had gunshot holes
- 4 He waited and watched in the street
- 5 The people living at number 7

- a and were built in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.
- b made during World War II or the 1956 revolution.
- c seemed to be normal Hungarians.
- d was number 7 Felka utca.
- e but saw nobody like himself.

2. How did the dream change everything round?

### CHAPTER 5

1. Complete the sentences in your own words.
  - a And every night I had the same dream and ...
  - b And if I went back to sleep, ...
  - c And if I didn't go back to sleep, I lay in bed ...
  - d And every morning I was more and more tired, ...
  - e And I felt worse because ...
  - f And even worse, ...
  - g And then because I didn't feel good ...

### CHAPTER 6

1. Were the housekeeper's answers 'Yes' or 'No'?
  - a Was anybody who looked like John living in the flats?
  - b Did she know everybody?
  - c Had she worked there a long time?
  - d Were there any new families?
  - e Were there any men looking like John who'd lived there and then moved away?
2. 'I had a feeling deep inside me that I was right.' (page 22)  
What was John sure about?

### CHAPTER 7

1. What do you know about doppelgängers?

A ..... word which is used in English. It means a ..... double of a ..... person, who comes to give messages about ..... or to offer ..... It can only be seen by its ..... However, it can sometimes be seen by someone ..... if it has an important message. It is usually thought to bring bad ..... , and is often believed to show that there will soon be a serious ..... or a .....

### CHAPTER 8

1. Who or what is *he*, *you*, etc.?

- a *We* decided to go to England at Christmas.
- b *He* didn't laugh or tell me I was stupid.
- c 'So perhaps *you* should be more careful.'
- d *I* was trying to decide what the meeting with myself had meant.
- e '*I* thought you'd forgotten about that stupid story.'

Paul    John    Andrea

### CHAPTER 9

1. Put the events in order.

- a Andrea got angry with John.
- b John woke up at three o'clock in the morning.
- c John told Andrea he wanted to find out more about what happened on 18 January.
- d John realised it was the date that was important.
- e Andrea finally agreed to go to Felka utca on Sunday.
- f John went to the bookshelf and took down last year's diary.

2. What do you think will happen on Sunday 18 January?

## CHAPTER 10

1. What things were the same as last year and what things were different?
  - a There was no snow in the street.
  - b John heard the inside door shut.
  - c The man ran into John, who fell to the ground.
  - d John saw that the man had his face.
  - e The man ran into Zsolt's bar.
  - f The wine bar was closed.
2. What do you think John's dream means now?

## CHAPTER 11

1. Fact or possibility?
  - a Fighting in Pest ended on 18 January 1945.
  - b A bomb was dropped on a building in Gergely utca.
  - c Mrs Szabó and her daughter were killed.
  - d The people killed by the bomb were hiding from the fighting.
  - e John's doppelgänger knew the people who were killed.
  - f The Szabó family still live in the area.

## CHAPTER 12

1. What information is the most important for John?
  - a János Szabó was not a soldier in World War II.
  - b János and his family lived at 7 Felka utca.
  - c János's wife had a baby girl in 1943.
  - d His wife worked in a cellar shop in Gergely utca.
  - e His wife and daughter were killed at the shop on 18 January 1945.
  - f János changed after the death of his family.
  - g János died in the 1956 revolution.

## CHAPTER 13

1. What is fact? What is difficult to understand?
  - a Things have changed between John and Andrea.
  - b A man called János Szabó had lived at 7 Felka utca.
  - c On 18 January 1945, his wife and child had been killed in what is now Zsolt's bar.
  - d John had met the man twice on the anniversary of the deaths.
  - e The man looked the same as John.
2. How would you feel if you were Andrea?

## CHAPTER 14

1. 'I had a horrible feeling that this dream and the meetings with myself had something to do with her.' (page 50) What is John really afraid of?

## CHAPTER 15

1. Complete the information about John and his doppelgänger.
  - a Their eyes, nose and mouth: .....
  - b Their dates of birth: .....
  - c Their wife's name: .....
  - d Their daughter's name: .....
2. What do you think the doppelgänger wants to tell John?

## CHAPTER 16

1. Match the beginnings and endings.
  - 1 There was a note from Andrea
  - 2 John raced out of the house
  - 3 He went inside the front door of number 7
  - 4 John heard there had been an explosion in Gergely utca
  - 5 In the street, he ran into somebody,
  - 6 John saw himself on the ground,
  - a said 'Sorry', and ran to Gergely utca.
  - b saying she had gone to Zsolt's bar with Kati.
  - c so he ran out, shutting the door behind him.
  - d but suddenly heard a noise, like a bomb.
  - e and reached Felka utca just before 7.00.
  - f who fell to the ground.

## CHAPTER 17

1. Who said what?
  - a 'But my wife and daughter are in here ... We must get them out!'
  - b 'Leave it to us. The place is full of gas – can't you smell it?'
  - c 'There's nothing you can do now, sir ... Just rest.'
  - d 'Are you feeling any better, sir?'
  - e 'I've got your telephone number and I'll call you as soon as we have any news.'

## CHAPTER 18

1. Who ...
  - a pointed to Andrea and Kati?
  - b thought Andrea and Kati were dead?
  - c didn't let Andrea and Kati go into Zsolt's bar?
  - d realised the man in front of the entrance was not John.
  - e remembered a doppelgänger can be seen by somebody close.
  - f thought John had been in the explosion at the bar?

## After reading

Choose some of these activities.

1. What did you learn about Hungary's history?
2. Which characters do you like best or least? Why?
3. Do you believe it is possible to meet your doppelgänger?
4. Would this story work best as a play or a film?
5. 'I wanted to talk about it with Andrea, but that still seemed impossible.' (page 53). Imagine John was able to talk. Write the conversation.
6. Look at the newspaper headline on page 39. Write the full story.
7. Imagine a year has passed since the end of the story. Write an extra chapter called '18 January again!'
8. Make your own activities for other students to do. e.g. Write some True/False questions.
9. Here is the blurb from another book at this level.

### A Puzzle for Logan

'Someone's found a young woman's body in Holyrood Park. We're wanted over there immediately.'  
'Today was my day off,' said Logan.  
'Not any longer,' replied Grant.  
Did an escaped murderer kill the woman? Or was it somebody else? Can Logan find the answer to the puzzle?

Do you want to read *A Puzzle for Logan*?