

Just Good Friends Penny Hancock

Before reading

1. Read the book in two minutes! Look at the front cover, the contents page, and the back cover. What sort of story do you think this is going to be?
2. Look at the list of characters on page 4. Imagine what they look like.
3. What do a man and a woman mean when they say 'We're just good friends'?
4. If you have the cassette, listen to Chapter 1.

Check your reading

CHAPTER 1

1. True or false?
 - a Max is very good-looking.
 - b Stephany didn't like Max at first.
 - c Carlo is an old boyfriend of Stephany's.
 - d Max is a very serious person.
 - e Stephany is Max's first girlfriend.
2. Which are Max and Stephany's interests? Write M (Max), S (Stephany), or B (both).
 - a swimming
 - b buildings
 - c parties
 - d paintings
 - e food and drink

CHAPTER 2

1. Which of these facts about Ruth are right?
 - a Ruth is very hard-working.
 - b Ruth is not Italian.
 - c Ruth loves Carlo's family.
 - d Ruth and Carlo moved to Genoa to be near his family.
 - e Ruth is not looking forward to Stephany's visit.
2. 'It wasn't a happy time' (page 11). What do you think happened during Stephany's last visit?

CHAPTER 3

1. Complete the summary.
Max was pleased when he heard Carlo was After the phone conversation with Ruth, Stephany felt about her. The next day Carlo phoned to say the flat was free. He told Stephany that he and Ruth had problems with , and that Ruth got when he worked too much. Stephany told Max that Carlo was they were coming, and that they shouldn't offer to for the flat.

CHAPTER 4

1. Match the beginnings and endings.
 - 1 Ruth couldn't understand
 - a and that Ruth was the only woman he loved.

- 2 Carlo explained he had made a promise to Stephany
- 3 Ruth felt jealous of Stephany
- 4 Carlo said that he and Stephany were 'just good friends'
- 5 Although Ruth trusted her husband,
 - b why Stephany wanted their flat.
 - c she still couldn't trust Stephany.
 - d because she was British and beautiful.
 - e before he had met Ruth.

CHAPTER 5

1. Look at the words in italics. Who do *you*, *he*, *she* etc. refer to?
 - a Carlo's mother: 'I think *you* are even more beautiful than you were before.'
 - b Carlo's mother: '*He* asked Ruth to prepare the flat for you.'
 - c Carlo's mother: '*She* is always busy. I never see my grandchildren any more.'
 - d Max: 'I expect *she* hoped Carlo would marry you, instead of Ruth.'
 - e Stephany: 'It's very kind of both of *them*.'

CHAPTER 6

1. Match the descriptions with the characters.
 - a has a lovely healthy body
 - b handsome, with brown skin and strong muscles
 - c medium-height, well-dressed, with a friendly face and glasses
 - d small, with red hair and a white face
 - e wearing a short black dress and high black shoes
 - f wearing a cotton skirt and yellow T-shirt

Carlo Ruth Stephany a boy on the beach
2. How do you think Stephany feels about Ruth?

CHAPTER 7

1. Match the beginnings and endings.
 - 1 Max thought that Stephany was trying
 - a of Stephany in the evenings.
 - 2 Max started to get angry
 - b when no-one helped Ruth.
 - 3 Max offered to help Ruth with the children
 - c to be able to live in Italy.
 - 4 Stephany thought that Ruth was lucky
 - d so she could stay in the restaurant.
 - 5 Max wondered how much he would see
 - e to make Ruth jealous of her.
2. Who do you think will enjoy the holiday most: Stephany or Max? Why?

CHAPTER 8

1. Complete the paragraph.
Max was in the night and had to stay in bed the next day. This made Stephany a bit She wasn't a good and didn't want to look after him. She wanted to have fun on holiday, but so far had only discovered Max's At the bar she met , the waiter, an old

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friend of Carlo's. He reminded her about the short she had had with Carlo years before. Stephany had found Carlo attractive after he had However, Carlo had said it must not happen again because he didn't want to Ruth.

CHAPTER 9

1. True or false?
 - a Stephany had had a very boring day.
 - b Carlo wished he had married Stephany.
 - c Stephany didn't think the night two years ago had been a mistake.
 - d Stephany felt jealous of Ruth.
 - e Carlo and Stephany agreed to tell nobody what had happened.

CHAPTER 10

1. Put the events in the right order.
 - a Max asked Ruth if she had enjoyed the festival.
 - b Ruth said that Carlo and Stephany were just good friends.
 - c Max went alone to the market.
 - d Ruth knew Stephany was hiding something from Max.
 - e Max noticed that Ruth looked sad and tired.
 - f At the market Max met Ruth.
2. Stephany asks: 'Perhaps it's perfectly normal to be in love with two people at once?' What do you think?

CHAPTER 11

1. Match the beginnings and endings.

1 Max felt he hadn't had much time with Stephany	a when he suggested using the flat again.
2 Stephany wanted to forget about the previous night	b she wasn't at the festival with Carlo.
3 Stephany didn't answer Max	c and just enjoy being with Max.
4 Stephany realised Ruth hadn't told Max	d because she didn't want to meet Luigi.
5 Stephany suggested they went to another bar	e since they had come to Italy.

CHAPTER 12

1. Who makes these wishes – Carlo or Ruth?

I wish ...

 - a I could live near my own family.
 - b I hadn't spent the evening with Stephany.
 - c I got on with my mother-in-law.
 - d Stephany had never returned to Italy.
 - e Carlo could get a job in England.
2. What do you think will happen between Carlo, Ruth, Max and Stephany?

CHAPTER 13

1. Correct the summary.

On the last day of the holiday, Max was going to ask Stephany to marry him. Stephany decided not to continue her affair with Carlo. Max was pleased that Stephany had accepted the invitation to dinner with Carlo's parents. But she hadn't expected Carlo and Ruth to be there. Carlo put his arm round Stephany and kissed her. Stephany thought that Ruth looked very pretty. Stephany was surprised how little Carlo's parents knew about her.

CHAPTER 14

1. Match the questions and answers.

1 'Perhaps you could all come and stay with us in England?'	a I was afraid I was going to lose him.'
2 'How would you feel about moving in together when we get back?'	b 'I was ill in bed but Stephany was there ...'
3 'I expected to see you at the festival ... Where were you?'	c 'One day, maybe.'
4 'You mean you waited until Carlo was married to Ruth before sleeping with him?'	d 'Oh, Max. I've been thinking the same thing.'
2. Do you think this is really the end for Stephany and Max? Why or why not?

CHAPTER 15

1. Match the beginnings and endings.

1 Max had not phoned Stephany	a is someone who is honest with you.
2 Carlo and Stephany could be friends	b when she said she loved him.
3 Max didn't believe Stephany	c since they had got back to London.
4 Max told Stephany that a good friend	d and went out to have a good time.
5 Stephany stopped feeling sorry for herself	e if she hadn't kissed him.

After reading

- Choose some of these activities.
1. Do you think *Just Good Friends* is a good title? Why or why not? Make up a new title for the book.
 2. Which character did you like best? Why?
 3. Do you think it is possible to be 'just good friends' with someone of the opposite sex?
 4. If you were a film director, which actors would you choose to play Stephany, Max, Ruth and Carlo?
 5. Write a different ending to the book.
 6. What do you think might happen to Stephany and Max after the end of the story? Write another chapter.
 7. Make your own activities for other students to do. e.g. Write some True/False questions.

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