






# East 43rd Street

## Aim

■ to stimulate students to read the book.

**1** Play the following extracts from tracks 6–10 on the CER sample CD and ask which tracks are taken from thrillers.

-  **Track 6** *The Ironing Man*: play to 'I haven't killed anyone yet!' (1 min 25)
-  **Track 7** *The House by the Sea*: play to 'and all the lights were on inside the house.' (1 min 25)
-  **Track 8** *A Matter of Chance*: play whole track (1 min 20)
-  **Track 9** *East 43rd Street*: play to 'But it didn't make me feel any more important right then in McFadden's bar.' (1 min 30)
-  **Track 10** *All I Want*: play to 'For some reason she's wearing a red hat even though she's indoors and the house is warm.' (1 min 10)

**Answers:** Thrillers are 7, 8, 9. Track 6 is a comedy, Track 10 is a romance.

OR:

Ask students for the names of popular TV programmes about the police and crime. Ask where the programmes take place, in Europe or in the USA.

**2** Ask students to read the beginnings and endings of various thrillers from the sheet (Extracts A) and match them up in pairs. When all students have finished nominate different pairs to read them out to check answers.

OR:

Cut up the beginnings and endings of stories from the photocopiable sheet (Extracts A), and give one to each student. Explain that everyone has the first or last paragraph of a thriller. The aim of the activity is to find the student who has the same story as you. Students walk around the class reading their paragraphs aloud to each other (they must not show it). When most students have found their partners, get pairs to read out their paragraphs to check that they are from the same story.

**Answer:** 1E, 2D, 3C, 4A, 5B

**3** Explain that this lesson is about *East 43rd Street*, a thriller set in New York. Copy the list of characters (including text) from page 4 of *East 43rd Street* onto the board/OHP. Then read out these descriptions of five of the characters. Students listen and write down who they think is being described. Ask students to compare answers with a partner before checking answers.

*From a Puerto Rican American family, she grew up in East Harlem... The truth is I depend on her. She knows how to use all the new office equipment and she speaks Spanish, a useful skill in this city.* (Stella)

*a smartly-dressed Chinese man... There was a large yellow diamond in his tiepin... not the sort of guy to take chances with. He was dangerous.* (Tommy Lam)

*...an old-fashioned, Irish-American cop, now retired.* (Joe Blaney)

*...rich, successful...small, thin and bald, with diamond-shaped glasses. He looked like the typical computer expert.* (Robert Lake)

*She was wearing a short black dress which showed a lot of leg... Thirty-something, with long wavy blonde hair and cold blue eyes.* (Angela Lake)

**4** **Reading race:** Divide the class into teams of 3–4 students. Give each team the list of questions about *East 43rd Street* from the photocopiable sheet (Extract B). Ask the teams to stand in lines at the back or on one side of the class and put copies of the extract from *East 43rd Street* from the photocopiable sheet at the front of the room. When you say 'Go!' member no 1 from each team runs across the room and finds the answer to question 1. She/he then runs back and writes the answer on the question sheet while no 2 runs across to find the answer to question 2 and so on. The winning team is the one to finish first with all the correct answers. When all or most of the teams have finished ask the team that finished first to read out their answers to check them.

OR:

Put the class into pairs and tell them to find the answers to the questions as quickly as possible. First pair to finish shouts out. When all have finished, check answers.

**5** **Communication Activity:** Divide the class into pairs. Cut up the text extracts (a to h on the handout) and give four sentences to student A and four to Student B. Tell the class that each pair has a scene from the story but that it is mixed up. Tell the students that the first paragraph is a to help them start the scene. Without showing each other their copies students have to work together to find the correct order. They can read out their extracts but they mustn't show them to each other. When all or most of the students have finished get one pair to read out the correct order.

OR:

Give pairs the sentences as they are and ask them to put the scene in the right order.

**Answer:** a, f, d, b, g, c, h, e

**6** If you have a set of the books give them out and ask the class to start reading!



To obtain your **free copy** of the sample CD please contact your local Cambridge University Press office.

## Extracts A

### Beginning 1

It started with a telephone call. Just like any other day.

I'm Kenji, Kenji Harada. Everyone calls me Ken. I take photos. It's my job. I take photos for newspapers, for anybody who wants to buy them. I take photos of famous people. I have a Nikon camera and a darkroom in my flat. Sometimes work is good, sometimes it's bad.

### Beginning 4

After two or three hundred years of rain, ice, snow, wind and sun the roof-tile fell from its place down into the street of the old town and hit my wife in the middle of her head, killing her instantly.

### Ending B

She thought about being on top of the Big Wheel, and then about Chapman who had double crossed her and almost killed her.

Then she smiled and said: 'You know, ever since this business started I've felt like I've been standing on the wing of a plane.'

### Ending D

'Great story, Jensen!'

'Thanks,' I said. 'Oh, and Dave, I'd like to take two weeks off. I need a holiday.'

I held the telephone away from my ear and smiled. Some things never changed.

Photocopiable

### Beginning 2

'You need a holiday, Kate,' said Max Carson. It was early evening and we were having a beer in the Queen's Head. 'A break from London,' he added.

'Oh sure, Max!' I smiled. 'Go and tell Balzano. I'm sure he'll agree with you!'

### Beginning 5

The woman standing on the wing of the Boeing Stearman plane was wearing dark glasses. The plane flew under a bridge, and then low over the crowd. The woman waved. The crowd waved back.

### Ending C

The gray waters of the East River now shone golden in the pale sunshine. It felt good to be alive. At the beginning of the week, I'd had nothing to do. Now I'd had more than enough excitement. I wouldn't complain about divorce work or finding missing persons ever again.

### Ending E

Mori-sensei was right. You can't see everything. 'Maybe there's something you don't see,' he said. 'Maybe you don't see something important.'

But sometimes the important thing is right in front of you.

### Beginning 3

It was seven-thirty on a cold wet December evening, six days before Christmas. As usual, I was in McFadden's Bar, on the corner of East 42nd Street and Second Avenue. Most of the early evening Christmas shoppers had gone home, and the people left in the bar weren't the types who had nice homes and families to go to.

### Ending A

In many ways my life has been very easy. And there has been plenty of time to think about how things work. I have thought about the relationship between humans and this earth we live on. And I have tried to understand how everything is a matter of chance

...  
A roof-tile falls.  
A roof-tile stays where it is.

## Extract B

I went through to my office. There she was, sitting in the client's chair. Beside her was a large black bag. Through a cloud of cigarette smoke, I could make out long wavy blonde hair and cold blue eyes. She crossed her legs. I'd seen those legs before, the previous night in McFadden's Bar. Legs like those are hard to forget. Then she looked straight at me. I could feel the ice in her eyes. I was getting very curious.

'Good morning, Mr. Marley. I've already been waiting half an hour. You don't believe in starting your day early,' she said.

'I start work when I'm good and ready,' I replied.

She looked around her. 'This office looks like something out of the 1950s.'

The office computer, fax and photocopier were in reception with Stella. I just had my old-fashioned desk, a reading lamp with a green shade, an ancient typewriter, and a couple of filing cabinets. On the wall, a 1990 calendar. A good year for me: that was when I left the NYPD, the New York Police Department.

'So I'm old-fashioned. I like it that way,' I said.

'Don't you have any manners, Mr. Marley?' she asked.

'I lost them a long time ago.'

'Don't you take your hat off in front of a lady?'

'I'm going bald so the hat stays on. Keeps my head warm. I'm a very busy man,' I lied. 'Let's get down to business. Who are you and what can I do for you?'

## C: Communication Activity

- a Inside the car, the two bodyguards sat like statues along the back seat. Tommy Lam looked very relaxed. Another morning, another tiepin, with the largest white diamond I'd ever seen a man wearing.  
"Good afternoon, Mr. Marley. So pleased you could come. A drink?" Lam offered.
- b "I don't trust him," I said. "And I don't really care what happens to him."
- c "Payment in jewelry will be ready this afternoon," I said.
- d "I'm not here to be polite, Lam."  
We had already stopped calling each other "Mister". I knew the meeting would be short and businesslike.  
"Then we understand each other, Marley," said Lam. "I asked for you because you're a professional. The Lakes are amateurs. I need someone like you to keep Robert Lake under control. He's the problem."
- e The statues on the back seat came to life and grinned. They were looking forward to it. A murder would obviously make their Christmas merry.
- f "I don't feel like drinking," I replied.  
"Marley, people who refuse me are either very brave or very foolish."  
"Let's just say I don't like guys who drive around Manhattan in stretch limos," I said.  
"That's not very polite of you."
- g "Agreed, but he's still necessary. A small matter of five million dollars. I need guarantees from your end, Marley. The first is the payment, in money or jewelry or both. So far, I've only received a pair of earrings."
- h "Good. The second is that the police will not be involved. I want them kept out of this. If I learn that the police are involved, my assistants will kill you and the Lakes."

## Questions B

- 1 What year did Marley leave the NYPD (New York Police Department)?
- 2 How long has the woman been waiting?
- 3 What does the woman have next to her?
- 4 Name three objects that Marley has in his office.
- 5 What reason does Marley give for keeping his hat on?
- 6 What office equipment is there in reception?
- 7 What does Marley lie about?