

The Amsterdam Connection

Sue Leather

Before reading

- Look at the front cover and read the blurb on the back cover. What do you think this story is going to be about?
- Look at the map of Amsterdam and Holland on page 5. How much do you know about the city and country?
- Match the chapter titles with the sentences from each chapter.

Chapter 1	At the pub
Chapter 2	The past
Chapter 3	Amsterdam spring
Chapter 4	Talk with a striker
Chapter 5	Dinner at Sluizer's

- It was a fine spring day; the sky was blue with little white clouds here and there.
 - Max looked at his watch and finished his beer quickly.
 - I remembered that I'd recently read in the newspaper that he'd retired from football.
 - We sat down and ordered steaks and a bottle of Bordeaux.
 - 'I was really young and really stupid, I guess. I wanted to write a big story.'
4. If you have the cassette, listen to Chapter 1.

Check your reading

CHAPTER 1

- Look at the words in italics. Who or what is *he, it, you, me, he*?
 - In fact, *he* was famous for his bad temper.
 - I got the feeling that he didn't really want to talk about *it*.
 - 'Listen ... why don't *you* come and write a story about our club in Holland.'
 - 'You know *me*, Max, I only write about crime.'
 - Two days later, *he* was found lying dead in an Amsterdam street.

CHAPTER 2

- Match the beginnings and endings.
 - Kate couldn't understand why
 - Kate wrote a story about a gang murder
 - As a result of this story
 - Max put his life in danger
 - Dave Balzano finally agreed
 - in order to save Kate.
 - she was kept prisoner by the gang.
 - to let Kate go to Amsterdam.
 - when she worked in Manchester.
 - Max had been murdered.
- Why do you think Max was murdered?

CHAPTER 3

- Match the questions and answers.
 - 'So, it just looks like it was a mugging that went wrong?'
 - 'So who found him?'
 - 'Did the killer take his money, then?'

- 'Why didn't he just go back to the Hague?'
- 'Who's in charge of Max's case?'

- '... one of the police teams going round the city early on Thursday morning.'
- Joop de Vries. Murder Squad.'
- 'He must have had a business meeting the next morning.'
- 'Well, the police couldn't find his wallet.'
- 'I'm afraid that's what it looks like, Kate.'

- Jos van Essen's address was in Max's pocket. Why?

CHAPTER 4

- Complete the summary.

Jos van Essen couldn't Max was dead. Max had helped him become a footballer. Jos said that Max and his Tom were close, but they had been recently. Jos and Max had a drink on evening, and Jos gave him his new Max then took a to visit someone. Kate didn't know Max took for his bad Jos didn't want to talk about the at the football club.

CHAPTER 5

- Put the events in the right order.
 - Kate told Elly that Jos was frightened.
 - Balzano was annoyed about the *Gazette* getting the story first.
 - Kate visited the area where Max had been killed.
 - Kate was given three days to find a story.
 - Elly said the police had probably found the killer.
 - In a bar, Kate met an old man called Bert.
 - Kate thought Max's murder was not a simple mugging.

CHAPTER 6

- Look at the words in italics. Who is *I, he, they* etc.?
 - 'I have some information for you,' he said.
 - '... your friend was already dead when *he* was taken to that street.'
 - '*They* say they found my friend's wallet in his apartment.'
 - '*He* just stole the wallet from the dead body.'
 - I had no idea whether the information he'd given me was true.

CHAPTER 7

- Match the beginnings and endings.
 - Kate travelled to Rotterdam City Football Club
 - Elly had warned Kate not to get too involved
 - Tom didn't seem to be confident
 - Kate was worried that Tom might discover
 - Tom showed Kate around the football school
 - Kate thought there was another reason
 - why Tom seemed to be sad.
 - and explained the work that Max had done.
 - but Kate had to find out who had killed Max.
 - to speak to Max's brother Tom.
 - how little she knew about football.
 - about Rotterdam winning against Barcelona.
- Do you think Rotterdam City will win against Barcelona?

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CHAPTER 8

1. Complete the summary.

Kate discovered that Martijn Christiaans owned per cent of Rotterdam City Football Club. Kate went to visit him, but he wasn't at home. At the hotel, there was a letter for Kate, advising her to look into a bet that would lose to Kate called, who agreed to take her to the match against That night someone Kate, but she used her training to fight back.

2. Who do you think attacked Kate?

CHAPTER 9

1. Complete the sentences with numbers and times.

- a It was per cent certain that Max had died in de Pijp.
- b Max died between and in the morning.
- c The Amsterdam Connection had put over £ on Leiden to win.
- d At to, the syndicate had won about £
3,000,000 12.00 95 6 500,000 1 3.30

2. Why did Kate wonder about the goalkeeper?

CHAPTER 10

1. Fact or possibility?

- a Christiaans is part of the Amsterdam Connection.
- b Max was already dead when he was left in de Pijp.
- c Kate was attacked in the street.
- d Kate doesn't have any real evidence.
- e Kate thought the meeting with De Vries was a waste of time.
- f Schaap didn't kill Max.

CHAPTER 11

1. Put the events in the right order.

- a Rotterdam played well and scored the first goal.
- b In the second half, Barcelona scored two goals.
- c Kate noticed a spelling mistake on Jos's photo.
- d Kate knew the letter about the bet was from Jos.
- e Jos was disappointed about the result of the match.
- f Jos talked about the goalkeeper, Raúl Sanchez.

CHAPTER 12

1. Write the names in the spaces.

- a had offered money to lose matches.
- b knew what was happening but couldn't do anything about it.
- c knew if he went to the police he could lose everything.
- d wanted to stop losing matches but he didn't know how to do it.
- e had to act quickly to get evidence against

Christiaans Tom Kate Sanchez

CHAPTER 13

1. Complete the summary.

Raúl was going to ask Christiaans for more money so Kate would have recorded for the police. The police had found some called Lanoxin in Max's room. Lanoxin was a powerful

..... drug; perhaps it was used to kill Max. Kate picked up the computer from Kanters; there was information about against Rotterdam, made by the At o'clock, someone knocked on Kate's door. Kate was expecting and but it was

CHAPTER 14

1. Put the events in the right order.

- a Kate ran to the central police station for help.
- b Raúl and Elly were now both safe.
- c Christiaans said Raúl would lose the game against Ajax.
- d The police shot Christiaans in the leg.
- e Kate knew she had to escape before the football match.
- f Kate managed to get out of the cellar window.
- g Elly and Kate were locked in a cellar.

CHAPTER 15

1. Match the questions and answers.

- 1 'So he stabbed Max in his house?'
- 2 'Why then stab him?'
- 3 'And Van Essen?'
- 4 'And what about the rest of the Amsterdam Connection?'
- 5 'But why did you let Christiaans take over the club?'
- a 'Well, Christiaans had a body to get rid of.'
- b 'I didn't have any choice.'
- c 'We're looking for them now, Miss Jensen.'
- d 'Well, unfortunately he knew too much.'
- e 'No, Max was dead before he was knifed.'

CHAPTER 16

1. Who ...

- a had been a real friend to Kate?
- b was now in a police cell?
- c had put herself in danger to help Kate?
- d had been brave enough to do what was right?
- e had lost his brother?
- f had saved Kate's life long ago?
- g was pleased about Kate's story?

After reading

Choose some of these activities.

- 1. Which characters did you like most? Why?
- 2. Imagine you are making a film of the book. Which actors would you choose to play the main characters? Would you make any changes to the story?
- 3. Imagine Kate Jensen interviews Raúl after the match against Barcelona. Write the interview.
- 4. Write the conversation between Raúl and Christiaans in Chapter 13, when Raúl has the microphone and tape recorder.
- 5. Write a letter to the author, Sue Leather, telling her what you liked or didn't like about the book.
- 6. What happens after the end of the story? Write an extra chapter.
- 7. Write Kate Jensen's story for the *Daily Echo* about the Amsterdam Connection.
- 8. Make your own activities for other students to do. e.g. write some True/False questions.