

The Lady in White

Colin Campbell

Before reading

1. Look at the front cover and read the back cover blurb. What do you think the book is about?
2. Look at the list of characters on page 4. Imagine what they look like.
3. Match the chapter titles with the sentences from each chapter.

Chapter 1 Light and darkness
 Chapter 2 Happy birthday
 Chapter 3 The lady in white
 Chapter 4 Losing control

- a 'I turned to look at her for a moment and noticed her face was wet, and her hair, and her dress.'
 - b She had never seen him like this. He sat there in his own world and she was afraid to ask him any more questions.
 - c 'I mean, this is a special day for him, for all of us, and I just wanted to do something special.'
 - d It was strange, John thought, to feel so successful and so worried at the same time.
4. If you have the cassette, listen to Chapter 1.

Check your reading

CHAPTER 1

1. Match the beginnings and endings.

1 John's new television series	a kept any secrets from each other.
2 John and his wife Rachel never	b about the bad dreams that woke her.
3 Recently, John had become worried	c had been a great success.
4 Rachel wouldn't talk to him	d of taking Patrick in a car.
5 Rachel was frightened	e about his wife's strange behaviour.
2. Why do you think Rachel is frightened for Patrick's safety?

CHAPTER 2

1. Put the events in the right order.
 - a John remembered how he had first met Rachel.
 - b Rachel even suggested hiring a car.
 - c John and Jenny talked about his idea for a new TV series.
 - d Rachel sounded happy and excited about the holiday on the phone.
 - e John and Jenny had lunch together.
2. Has anyone ever told you an urban myth?

CHAPTER 3

1. True or false?
 - a Jenny found three very different stories.
 - b Each story happened in the same place.
 - c Each story was told by a man.
 - d The story happened on a wet, stormy night.
 - e The hitch-hiker said that she was all right.

CHAPTER 4

1. Complete the summary.

The driver noticed how the hitch-hiker was and wondered why she was When she turned to look at him, he felt and but also uncomfortable. As the car came near a bend, she started , saying 'We're losing !' Then she started the steering wheel. The man was surprised how she was and her. There was almost a terrible When the car stopped, he could see on her face.
2. Why do you think John said: 'No, it wasn't like that?' (page 24)

CHAPTER 5

1. True or false?
 - a Jenny wanted to know what John was thinking.
 - b John normally chatted a lot.
 - c John talked to Jenny on the journey.
 - d While John and Jenny were driving to the village, the car broke down.
 - e John knew the name of the village from the cassette.

CHAPTER 6

1. Who ...
 - a phoned the man who told the story on the cassette?
 - b called the police?
 - c was a middle-aged man in his fifties?
 - d was silent and hardly moved?
 - e wondered about the family photos?

2. Correct the summary.

The accident happened on a fine, clear day. The car may have gone round a bend too fast and the driver lost control. There were two other cars involved in the crash. The police checked the car afterwards and found something wrong with the brakes and steering wheel. The two passengers in the car died in hospital — a woman and her baby girl.

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CHAPTER 7

- Match the beginnings and endings.
 - The police tried to find friends and family
 - The police knew the dead woman had a sister
 - People remembered seeing a young woman near the car
 - The way John met Rachel was similar
 - Jenny told John not to worry about the stories

CHAPTER 8

- Put the events in the right order.
 - John remembered walking on the cliffs with Rachel.
 - John went for his last long walk on the island.
 - John was trying to forget about the lady in white.
 - John watched a man in black, sitting near the sea.
 - John looked for a place where he could be alone.
 - A man on the boat spoke to John about dolphins.
- 'But this time his sleep would not be so restful.' (page 55)
What do you think will happen?

CHAPTER 9

- What happened in John's dream?
 - He could hear the sound of traffic.
 - He could hear the sound of the wind and sea.
 - A person appeared from the wardrobe with Patrick.
 - A person appeared from the wardrobe with Rachel.
 - John could see the man's face clearly.
 - The man's voice was gentle and soft.

CHAPTER 10

- Who said what?
 - 'I was going crazy with worry.'
 - 'It was terrible. A terrible dream, a nightmare.'
 - 'I thought I'd lost you.'
 - 'But after your ... after that ... are you sure you want to stay after ...?'
 - 'I'd rather look after this darling boy ...'
- The last line of Chapter 10 is: 'He wasn't sure he believed his own words.' What do you think John believes?

CHAPTER 11

- Complete the summary.

After coming back from holiday, John did not feel
There were so many he couldn't answer about the
and the stories. In his pocket, John was surprised to find a
with the story of the lady in white. He didn't want
to find it. During dinner, John was very
That night, he couldn't sleep. In the car, he heard the story of the lady in white. John became angry and drove so badly that there was almost an
He stopped his car and began to

CHAPTER 12

- What happened on the night John saw the lady in white? Put the events in the right order.
 - John drove away at top speed.
 - John saw something white in the rear view mirror.
 - She moved towards the side of the car, and tried to open the passenger door.
 - John spoke to Rachel on his mobile phone.
 - Then he saw a woman in white standing behind his car.
 - Now he knew Rachel was not the lady in white.
- Who or what do you think the lady in white was?

After reading

Choose some of these activities.

- Which chapter do you remember most clearly from *The Lady in White*? Why?
- Do you think that John will make the TV series on urban myths after his experience? Why or why not?
- Do you think *The Lady in White* is a good title? Why or why not? Make up an alternative.
- On page 80, John asks Rachel: 'Will you wait up for me?' Write the conversation between John and Rachel when he arrives home.
- Imagine you are writing a book about urban myths. Write the first page of the book.
- Imagine you are John on holiday on Inishbofin. Write a postcard to Jenny in London.
- Make your own activities for other students to do.
e.g. Make a word search puzzle.
- Here is the blurb from another book at this level.

A Matter of Chance

Paul Morris's happy life in Italy changes when his wife dies suddenly. He develops an exciting relationship with Sandra, a friend at work. But all is not as it seems and Paul finds himself involved in a world of international crime and a car chase across Europe.

Do you want to read *A Matter of Chance*?

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