

# The Man from Nowhere

Bernard Smith

## Before reading

1. Look at the front cover and read the blurb on the back cover. What sort of story is this?
2. Find the map on page 4. What do you know about this part of the world?
3. Look at the pictures on pages 6, 8, 11, 15 and 17. What do you think will happen in Chapters 1–4?
4. If you have the cassette, listen to Chapter 1.

## Check your reading

### CHAPTER 1

1. Match the numbers to the phrases about the Wahibi Desert.

- |            |                                  |
|------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 200      | a kilometres from east to west   |
| 2 100      | b metre wall of sand             |
| 3 50 or 60 | c kilometres to India            |
| 4 1500     | d kilometres from north to south |

### CHAPTER 2

1. Put the events in the right order.
  - a The man took the plane down to three hundred metres.
  - b Something hit the man's face.
  - c The woman and the man decided to fly to Bahrain.
  - d He heard a noise which meant danger.
  - e He knew the woman couldn't fly the plane.
  - f The man remembered when he worked in Oman.

### CHAPTER 3

1. Match the questions with the answers.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 'Where ... what?'                           | a 'Not a hope.'  |
| 2 'What happened, Andy? Do you know?'         | b 'Dad. Wake up. I need you.'  |
| 3 'What happened to your foot?'               | c 'I was asleep in the back. Next thing I knew we were here in the sand.'    |
| 4 'Is the radio still working, do you think?' | d 'I'll keep the sun on my back. Then I must be going east towards the sea.' |
| 5 'What if you get lost?'                     | e 'I don't know. It's my ankle. I think it could be broken.'                 |

### CHAPTER 4

1. Match the beginnings and endings of the sentences.
 

1 The man was not wearing a shirt	a that there was a dead man on the beach.
2 He knew he had to keep the sun on his back	b but couldn't get up again.
3 Then he fell down	c found a man lying in the wet sand.
4 A boy from a village	d and keep moving or die.
5 The boy ran to the village and told his father	e so his back was badly burnt.

### CHAPTER 5

1. Complete the summary.

The boy's father looked at the man on the beach. He was still ..... The men took him back to the village and ..... him. The head man called the police on his ..... telephone. A ..... arrived with a doctor, who said they had to get the man to hospital in ..... At the hospital, a ..... sat next to his bed all night. The man ..... in his sleep but she couldn't ..... him.

### CHAPTER 6

1. How much do the inspector and Doctor Singh know about the man?

If you think the sentence is true, write T in the box.

If you think the sentences could be true, write ? in the box.

- 1 The man speaks some English. ☐
- 2 He is thirty-five years old. ☐
- 3 He comes from Syria. ☐
- 4 He had nothing in his pockets. ☐
- 5 He nearly died. ☐
- 6 He was in an accident. ☐
- 7 He was wearing an expensive watch. ☐
- 8 He is a businessman. ☐

2. Complete the summary.

In the desert, Andy and his mother didn't have much ..... or ..... , and her foot ..... a lot. Andy heard something running out of the plane's engine – it was ..... Andy's mum told him to put a suitcase full of ..... under the engine. Then they could ..... the suitcase if they heard a ..... coming.

### CHAPTER 7

1. Who said what?

- a 'If you know his name or anything about him, please call any police station.'
- b 'We'll have to start again and look at everything we know about him.'
- c 'And nobody could go more than a few kilometres through the sands on foot.'
- d 'I'm afraid we're not going to find the answers until this man wakes up.'
- e 'There's water everywhere. Look it's running down.'
- f 'With this water we can be all right for another day or more.'

Andy	Andy's mother	Doctor Singh
Inspector Ibrahim	television newsreader	

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## CHAPTER 8

- Match the beginnings and endings of the sentences.
  - On the morning of the fourth day
  - When the nurse said 'red snow' and 'Morphia'
  - The man said his name was Bardis and
  - Bardis told the inspector.
  - The doctor thought that Bardis's family

- that he walked across the desert to find help.
- the man from nowhere woke up.
- could already be dead.
- he remembered everything.
- that his wife and child were waiting in the desert.

## CHAPTER 9

- Put the events in the right order.
  - Bardis wanted to go with the helicopter.
  - Nurse Imelda couldn't stop Bardis from leaving his bed.
  - Inspector Ibrahim called two police helicopters.
  - The inspector asked Doctor Singh to search the middle area.
  - The inspector made a plan with Doctor Singh.

## CHAPTER 10

- Look at the words in italics. Who or what is *it*, *them*, *his*, *I*, *we*?
  - It* could be half under the sand by now.
  - They had to find *them* before the sun went down.
  - His* white face was still against the window ...
  - How can *I* rest, even for a moment ...
  - We'll* fly until it's dark and we can't see anything.

## CHAPTER 11

- Who said what?
    - 'Mum! Mum! What's that noise?'
    - 'Yes! Go! Go! Go!'
    - 'I think we must go back and start again first thing in the morning.'
    - 'Wait! What's that? Over there.'
    - 'I can see the plane. It's on fire down there.'
    - 'I hope the woman and the boy weren't near that.'
- Andy      the pilot      Bardis      Inspector Ibrahim

## CHAPTER 12

- Match the beginnings and endings of the sentences.
  - The police helicopter came down in the desert
  - The inspector could see two people lying near the plane
  - When the inspector put his fingers on the woman's wrist
  - The boy asked the inspector
  - Mr Bardis, 'the man from nowhere',

- but was afraid they could be dead.
- got out of the helicopter to meet his family.
- what he thought of his fire.
- near the burning plane.
- he knew she was still alive.

## After reading

- If you were lost in the desert like the Bardis family, what could you do to stay alive?
- Do you think *The Man from Nowhere* is a good title? Make up a different title.
- Imagine you are a film director. Which actors could play the characters in *The Man from Nowhere*?
- What did Bardis, his wife and son say to each other when they met at the end of Chapter 12? Write the conversation.
- Write a letter to the author, Bernard Smith, telling him why you liked or didn't like the book.
- Word search. There are ten words from the story in this puzzle. How many can you find?

T	A	L	I	V	E	N	C	A	B
E	S	A	P	E	T	R	O	L	U
D	G	C	G	V	M	P	M	I	S
U	N	C	O	N	C	I	O	U	S
H	Y	I	M	P	U	A	C	P	E
C	T	D	E	S	E	R	T	C	A
O	P	E	V	H	R	F	R	M	R
M	E	N	G	I	N	E	I	A	C
A	C	T	F	S	H	N	C	R	H
C	R	A	S	H	P	G	A	N	E

- Here is the beginning of the news story from the Omani television news: 'A family has been found alive after four days in the Wahiba Desert.' Write the television news story.
- Write a sentence about each picture in the book.
- Make a quiz for other students to do.  
e.g. Write some True or False questions or make a Word search puzzle.
- Here is the blurb from another book at this level.

### The Double Bass Mystery

Penny Wade is a musician. She is enjoying her first visit to Barcelona with her orchestra. But first her double bass is lost, and then someone in her orchestra dies. The police want to know what happened, and Penny's life changes as she also slowly learns the truth.

Do you want to read *The Double Bass Mystery*?