

## This Time It's Personal

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### Before Reading

1. Look at the cover and read the back cover blurb. What kind of story do you think this is?
2. Read the list of characters on page 4. Can you predict who the good or bad guys will be?
3. Look at the map on page 5. What do you know about New York and Long Island?
4. If you have the cassette, listen to Chapter 1.

### Check your reading

#### CHAPTER 1

1. Which information about José is True (T), False (F) or Possible (P)?
  - a He was arrested by the NYPD.
  - b He was injured in a car accident.
  - c He was charged with drunk-driving.
  - d He was under police guard.
  - e He stole a car.

#### CHAPTER 2

1. Complete the summary.  
 José with <sup>1</sup>..... and  
<sup>2</sup>....., had gone to find work in  
<sup>3</sup>..... . The boss at the diner offered him  
 a job as a <sup>4</sup>..... and José's buddies were  
 taken on as <sup>5</sup>..... . Later, they went to  
<sup>6</sup>..... to celebrate. José had a  
<sup>7</sup>..... of waking up alone in a bar.

#### CHAPTER 3

1. Match the beginnings of the sentences with the endings.
  - 1 Alexei Romanov, a Brighton Beach business man,
  - 2 Romanov had been involved with
  - 3 A section of a boat
  - 4 The bodies found near the boat
  - 5 One of them had a gold cross around his neck
  - a which Eddie Tilden didn't recognise.
  - b had been found murdered.
  - c helping Russian immigrants.
  - d had been found on Jones Beach.
  - e were of two young men.

#### CHAPTER 4

1. Complete Captain Oldenberg's notes.
  - a José De La Cruz: charged with .....
  - b Victim: .....
  - c Weapon: .....
  - d Cause of death: .....
  - e Forensic evidence: ..... on handle and  
 ..... of pistol.

#### CHAPTER 5

1. Arrange the events into the correct order.
  - a Valdez told Marley to move in closer.
  - b Detective Valdez was trying to communicate with José.
  - c A firefighter lifted José to safety.
  - d Dr. Ericson started operating on José.
  - e Nat grabbed José's foot as he fell.
  - f José escaped from the operating room and went up to the roof.
  - g Marley and Stella tried talking to José.
  - h Dr. Ericson stressed that José was seriously ill.
  - i Dr. Ericson told Marley about bruise marks on José's neck.

#### CHAPTER 6

1. Which information is old (O) or new (N)?
  - a The last bar José visited was the Odessa Steps.
  - b The owner of the bar was a baseball fan.
  - c While José slept, his friends went to find coffee.
  - d José was still in the bar at nine o'clock.
  - e When Miguel and Carlos returned, José had disappeared.
  - f José grabbed a baseball bat, which came away from the wall.

#### CHAPTER 7

1. Complete the gaps with the correct names. Who . . .
  - a doubted José's ability to move anywhere quickly?
  - b had an encyclopedic knowledge of baseball?
  - c wouldn't say what happened to José in the bar?
  - d used minor blackmail to make contact with the Coast Guard?
  - e informed Nat about crime in the Russian community?
  - f agreed to meet Nat and Stella?

#### CHAPTER 8

1. Look at the words in italics. Who is *she*, *he* etc.?
  - a *She's* convinced she's getting through to him.
  - b I just hoped *he* was receiving something.
  - c *They* must have floated for as long as they could.
  - d *Our* guess is an illegal immigration operation.
  - e In her face, you could see the grief that *she* must have been going through.
  - f I am asking for your help in finding your husband's real killer.

#### CHAPTER 9

1. Put these sentences in order.
  - a Marley appealed to Kamenev's sense of patriotic duty.
  - b Joe pulled out his gun.
  - c Stella told Kamenev that her brother had been set up as fall guy for Romanov's murder.
  - d Marley told Kamenev to call Mrs. Romanov to check whether he was genuine.
  - e Marley suggested that Kamenev shared responsibility for the deaths of the Russian boys through money laundering.

## CHAPTER 10

- Complete the gaps with the correct names.
  - ..... hired Marley to find her husband's murderer.
  - ..... left to examine Romanov's computer files.
  - With ..... 's help, Marley questioned the bartender.
  - ..... protected José from the regular customers.
  - ..... had seen someone on Fire Island matching Zernov's description.
  - ..... had a few more drinks and then Zernov took him outside.
  - The ..... was too frightened to talk to the police.

## CHAPTER 11

- Which information is fact (F) or possibility (P)?
  - Zernov took the opportunity to use José as the fall guy.
  - Romanov knew too much about Mossolov.
  - Mossolov was smuggling in illegal immigrants.
  - Zernov had a long criminal record.
  - Mossolov had no criminal record.
  - Oldenberg changed the focus of the investigation to Zernov.
  - José's memory was beginning to return.
  - The fishing boat was connected with the deaths on Jones Beach.

## CHAPTER 12

- Who gave Marley this information?
  - The crew of the fishing boat had Russian identification.
  - Dates from Romanov's file matched dates of incidents reported to the Coast Guard.
  - Someone had been seen acting suspiciously on Fire Island.
  - 'Mossolov Import and Export' had an office on Brighton Beach Avenue.
  - The office was placed under NYPD surveillance.
  - Zernov made regular visits to Belarus.
  - The crossing from St. Petersburg to Long Island cost three thousand dollars.

## CHAPTER 13

- Match the questions to the answers.
  - Why did Marley return to his office?
  - Why didn't Marley attempt to escape?
  - What threat did Mossolov make via Zernov?
  - What two things did Marley learn?
  - What had the NYPD surveillance unit seen?
  - Why did Marley never carry a gun?
  - The other guy was younger, taller and fitter.
  - Zernov entering the offices of Mossolov Import and Export.
  - Mossolov was Zernov's boss, and Mossolov thought Marley, not the NYPD, had been watching them.
  - He didn't take on dangerous jobs.
  - He had forgotten his keys.
  - Stop asking questions or Marley's legs will be broken.

## CHAPTER 14

- Tick (✓) the fresh evidence.
  - José woke up in the bar and grabbed the bat.
  - Zernov protected José from the customers.
  - Zernov questioned José.
  - José was too frightened to refuse drinks from Zernov.
  - José attempted to escape from Zernov.
  - The crew complained about the condition of the lifeboat.
  - The lifeboat was carrying ten immigrants.
  - The crew were arrested by the Coast Guard.

## CHAPTER 15

- Complete Commander Lockhart's notes.
 

a..... NYPD/Coast Guard Operation.

Coast Guard duties:

  - Coast Guard patrol boat at sea to report any b.....
  - Coast Guard c..... from Air Station Cape Cod on d.....
  - Coast Guard officers in place at intervals along e.....

NYPD duties:

  - To observe f..... from beaches to mainland.
  - NYPD helicopter to follow any g..... vehicle.
  - Four h..... NYPD cars in position on i..... Avenue to pursue vehicle.

All units to be in position by j.....

k..... given by Oldenberg for l..... to join operation.

## CHAPTER 16

- Complete the paragraph with the correct names.
 

As <sup>1</sup>..... lay dying, he pointed to the woman. She was <sup>2</sup>....., the boss of the operation. <sup>3</sup>..... asked <sup>4</sup>..... for permission to question her. She admitted to having ordered the murder of <sup>5</sup>..... Oldenberg agreed to the immediate release of <sup>6</sup>..... Marley then called <sup>7</sup>..... to say that her husband's killer was under arrest, and also phoned <sup>8</sup>..... to say that her brother was now a free man.

## After reading

Choose some of these activities.

- Have you, like José, ever been unjustly accused of doing something wrong?
- Marley promised Mrs. Romanov a full report, page 107. Write Marley's report.
- Imagine you are a journalist. Write an article about José for the *Daily News*.
- Write a review of the book. Say what you enjoyed and didn't like about the story.
- Make up your own activities for other students to do. e.g. Write some 'Who said . . .?' questions.