

Trumpet Voluntary

Jeremy Harmer

Before reading

1. Look at the front cover and read the back cover blurb. What do you know about Rio and Brazil?
2. Look at the blurb again and the list of characters on page 4. Which character disappears? Who goes to Rio?
3. Read the definitions of *trumpet* and *voluntary* and the note on 'Trumpet Voluntary' on page 5. What do you think is going to happen in the story?
4. If you have the cassette, listen to Chapter 1.

Check your reading

CHAPTER 1

1. Put these events in the right order.
 - a Derek phoned Malgosia's best friend, Rosemary.
 - b Derek rang Malgosia's family in Poland.
 - c Derek came home and realised something was strange.
 - d The police came to Derek's house looking for Malgosia.
 - e Derek found an e-mail from Tibor to Malgosia.
 - f Derek and Malgosia went to an Italian restaurant.
 - g Derek phoned the theatre where Malgosia was working.
2. Where has Malgosia gone? Why has she gone there?

CHAPTER 2

1. Match the descriptions with the right character.

a loves music, used to teach the piano, wants Derek to be a doctor	Malgosia	Derek	Derek's mother	Tibor
b is bad at sport, hates the sight of blood, wants a career in music				
c studies conducting, has dark hair and is very good-looking				
d has long red hair, is Polish, has a beautiful voice				
2. Who do you like most? Derek or Tibor? Why?
3. Imagine you are Derek sitting in the canteen when the others have left. How do you feel?

CHAPTER 3

1. Look at the words in italics. Who is *I*, *you*, *he*, *she*, *we*, *they*?
 - a *She* fell for him almost immediately.
 - b People seemed to like the way *we* played.
 - c When *she* smiled she looked like a happy child.
 - d That night *we* sat and talked about what we hoped for the future.
 - e '*I* wish I was beautiful like that.'
 - f '*She's* not right for *you*.'
 - g '*We're* special, all right?'
 - h 'So can *we* be just friends?'
 - i 'Why should *I* know? Must be some musician thing.'
 - j 'There's someone downstairs to see *you* and *she* doesn't look very happy.'

the quartet Ken Derek Malgosia Rachel

CHAPTER 4

1. Put the events in the right order.
 - a Malgosia bought a new trumpet.
 - b Malgosia talked to Derek about her problems with Tibor.
 - c Malgosia spent the night at a friend's house, after a party.
 - d Derek and Malgosia got married.
 - e Malgosia went away to Scotland on her own.
 - f Malgosia had a row with her family.
 - g Two policemen came to Derek's house looking for Malgosia.
 - h Tibor stayed with Malgosia and her family in Warsaw.
2. Write a list of questions for the police to ask Derek.

CHAPTER 5

1. Who said what?
 - a 'Have you ever been to Scotland?'
 - b 'I trust her completely, you see.'
 - c 'I need your help.'
 - d 'Please don't shout. You'll wake the children.'
 - e 'Anyway I couldn't betray a friend.'
 - f 'Why have you got your suitcase with you?'
 - g 'There's something I've got to do.'
 - h 'We're all in this together, we're a team, a family.'

Rachel Derek a policeman Matt Rosemary

CHAPTER 6

1. True or false?
 - a Derek had never been to Rio before.
 - b Derek felt much happier when he arrived in Rio.
 - c Sandra was born in Rio.
 - d Sandra was not very interested in Derek's story.
 - e Oswald agreed to help try and find Malgosia.
 - f Sandra introduced Derek to another Brazilian friend.
 - g Paul told Derek that his wife had also disappeared.
 - h Oswald phoned Sandra to say he'd found Malgosia.
2. Match the descriptions with the characters.

a is suntanned, has black curly hair and a big smile	Oswaldo	Paul	Sandra	Derek
b has very white skin and sunburn				
c is very fat, has thin black hair, is wearing gold rings and an expensive watch				
d is suntanned, is wearing colourful clothes, has a mobile phone on his belt				

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CHAPTER 7

1. Match the beginnings and endings.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 1 Derek felt nervous | a near Tibor's house and two men |
| 2 Oswaldo's friend Reinaldo | got out. |
| 3 Tibor was at the airport | b while Oswaldo was driving. |
| 4 Oswaldo was not very keen | c on a plane to Warsaw three days ago. |
| 5 A plane landed | d on Derek going with him to find Malgosia. |
| 6 Tibor and two men | e came out of Tibor's house. |
| 7 Derek started running | f to meet Malgosia when she arrived. |
| 8 Derek was hit by | g a bullet and woke up in hospital. |
| 9 Malgosia had been put | h saw Malgosia at the airport. |
| | i down the hill towards Malgosia. |

CHAPTER 8

1. Who said what?

- a 'I just want to know where my wife is.'
b 'My sister's dying.'
c 'There's nothing we can do here.'
d 'What kind of a husband do you call yourself?'
e 'I don't understand anything.'
f 'I'm sorry for everything that has happened.'
g 'There's nothing for you here anymore.'
h 'We've got some visitors who want to come aboard.'
i 'We don't want you running off again, do we?'

Malgosia's mother the captain on the plane
Anja Derek a policeman Malgosia's father

CHAPTER 9

1. Put the events in the right order.

- a Derek phoned Rachel to ask for help.
b Derek fell asleep in the back of the car.
c Derek went to stay with Rachel.
d The police locked Derek up in a cell.
e The police took away all Derek's possessions.
f Rachel's mother came to help Derek.
g The police drove Derek from the airport to central London.
h The police questioned Derek about Malgosia.

2. Look at page 93. How does Derek want Rachel to help him? What is he going to do? What does Rachel think about this?

CHAPTER 10

1. Look at the words in italics. Who is *I*, *you*, *he*, *she*, *we*?

- a *We* played the final chord with a burst of energy.
b '*I* admit it. *You* were right.'
c *She* knew that what *I* was thinking of could be very dangerous.
d '*He's* agreed. He'll meet *you*.'
e '*You're* the one asking for this meeting.'
f '*I* couldn't bear to lose *you* so soon.'
g '*She* gave me all the Seratraxel she brought over here.'
h '*I* never promised her anything.'

Derek the quartet Malgosia Carl Rachel Tibor

2. True or false?

- a Tibor thinks that Derek is going to kill him.
b Malgosia helped Tibor carry the nerve gas.
c Tibor wanted to marry Malgosia.
d Malgosia wanted to die because Tibor didn't love her.
e Derek pushed Tibor off the roof of the cable car.

CHAPTER 11

1. Tick the people at Derek and Rachel's wedding.

Derek's parents Rachel's mother Carl Matt
Sandra Oswaldo Paul Ken Rosemary

2. What do you think Sandra is going to do?

After reading

Choose some of these activities.

- Do you think that *Trumpet Voluntary* is a good title? Why or why not? Can you make up an alternative?
- Which character do you like the most? Why?
- Look at Chapter 6. Write Derek's diary after his first day in Rio.
- Look at page 108. Write a report about the cable car accident for a Brazilian newspaper.
- Imagine Derek did not go back to Rio. How would the story have been different? What would have happened?
- Do you think Derek was right to go back to Rio and see Tibor? What would you have done?
- What do you think happens after the end of the story? Write an extra chapter about what happens to the main characters.
- Imagine Derek or Rachel is your best friend. Write a letter of advice to one of them about their new life.
- Make your own activities for other students to do.
e.g. Make a word puzzle or write some True/False questions.
- Here is the blurb from another book at this level.

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An English executive in India, Dick Sterling, is dismissed after he tries to uncover corruption within his company. He returns to England where his life falls apart and his marriage breaks up. He then sets out on a one-man search for the truth behind his dismissal. He returns to the rich mystery and beauty of India and is finally forced to choose between love and revenge.

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ISBN 0-521-96596-9



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