

# The University Murders

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## Before reading

1. Look at the front cover, then read the back cover blurb. What sort of story is this?
2. Read the list of characters, page 4, and the contents, page 3. Can you say what might happen to these people in the story?
3. Look at the maps on page 5. What do you already know about Edinburgh and Scotland?
4. If you have the cassette, listen to Chapter 1.

## Check your reading

### CHAPTER 1

1. Complete the sentences. Logan and Grant did not believe Marr because ...
  - a his breath smelt of .....
  - b he regularly told the police ..... that were not .....
  - c there were no ..... or ..... on his hands and face.
2. What kind of person do you think Billy Marr was?

### CHAPTER 2

1. What was fact or possibility? Write F (fact) or P (possibility) after the sentences.
  - a The murdered girl was blonde and in her twenties.
  - b She was a student.
  - c She had been strangled somewhere else and taken to Calton Hill.
  - d The murder was a sex attack.

### CHAPTER 3

1. What information about Billy Marr was OLD or NEW? Write O or N after the sentences.
  - a Billy said he had strangled a blonde woman.
  - b He was strange when he was younger.
  - c He had probably never had normal relationships with women.
  - d He had been in a restaurant at the time of the murder.
  - e He had often wasted police time.
  - f He was a strange man who wanted attention.

### CHAPTER 4

1. Match the people to the description.
  - 1 Katie Jardine.
  - 2 David Balfour.
  - 3 Clare Rutherford.
  - a A twenty-five-year-old research student from New Zealand.
  - b The murdered woman's flatmate.
  - c A supervisor in the computer science department.
2. What information do you think will be useful to the police?
  - a Clare Rutherford had gone to a concert on Tuesday night.
  - b Clare's flatmate had been in Glasgow on Tuesday night.
  - c Clare had not been in a serious relationship.
  - d Clare had not been seen at the university on Wednesday or Thursday.

### CHAPTER 5

1. Match Balfour's answers to Logan's questions.
  - 1 Did Clare Rutherford have any problems?
  - 2 And how did you get on with her?
  - 3 And her research ... What was it about?
  - 4 Did you meet her outside the university?
  - 5 Everything is my business ... Did you meet her outside the university?
    - a I don't think that's any of your business.
    - b Not that I know of.
    - c Very well ... She was an excellent student.
    - d I took her out for dinner once or twice.
    - e She was looking into wireless technology.

### CHAPTER 6

1. Who ...
  - a was going to find about Balfour's home life and relationships with students?
  - b was going to find out about Balfour's area of research?
  - c found out that Clare's murder was not a sex attack.
  - d discovered bits of orange material on Clare's clothes?
  - e put Clare's picture in the newspaper and on TV news?

### CHAPTER 7

1. Are the following sentences true or false? Write T (true) F (false).
  - a Fran Stewart owned the flat that she lived in.
  - b Stewart may have met a guy at the party and went home with him.
  - c Stewart was the perfect young lady.
  - d The party was at the home of Dr David Balfour.
  - e Clare Rutherford and Fran Stewart were researching different areas.
  - f Stewart walked to the party.
  - g Logan asked Mrs Dalwhinnie for a photograph of Rutherford.

### CHAPTER 8

1. Look at the words in italics. Who are *he*, *she* etc?
  - a *He* was in his early thirties and handsome, and he knew it.
  - b *She* left fairly early as I remember – about one o'clock.
  - c But *he's* not really a party animal. He probably left early.
  - d *He* did not look much of a party animal either.
  - e Because *she* was good-looking, people did not always take her seriously.
  - f *I* invited *her* because I work with her, but I was surprised when she turned up.

### CHAPTER 9

1. Balfour or Henderson? Who ...
  - a did the university want to kick out?
  - b was OK at teaching and getting students through their exams?
  - c was bringing a lot of research money into the university?
  - d was not bringing in any research money?
  - e may not have been completely honest about his research?

2. Logan thought of three reasons why the two women were murdered:

- a sex.
- b money.
- c professional jealousy.

What do you think is the reason?

## CHAPTER 10

1. Complete Logan's questions.

- a Where was Balfour sitting in the ..... and could he have seen .....?
- b Did any of the guests at ..... party see ..... and ..... together?
- c Why did Billy Marr think he killed .....?
- d What was happening at the ..... department?
- e Did anybody see anything unusual in The ..... the .....?

## CHAPTER 11

1. What do you think is true? Tick (✓) the sentences you think are true.

- a Henderson spoke to Stewart about her research.
- b Balfour came to Henderson's party.
- c Henderson's house used to belong to his parents.
- d Henderson had stolen research.
- e Henderson was very honest about supervising research.
- f Henderson had been preparing classes on Wednesday evening.

## CHAPTER 12

1. Put the sentences in the same order as they are in the text.

- a Logan and Grant met Karen Ramsay, a friend of Katie Jardine.
- b Ramsay said she hadn't seen Rutherford on Tuesday evening.
- c Then they planned the evening activity for The Meadows.
- d Logan didn't like the way Ramsay stared at her.
- e Henderson said he had played squash on Tuesday evening.
- f Logan and Grant spent the morning checking paperwork.
- g Logan asked Henderson to come the police station the next day.

## CHAPTER 13

1. Match the research areas to the sentences.

- 1 Computer languages.
  - 2 Security.
  - 3 Wireless technology.
  - a ... how to stop people breaking into your computer.
  - b ... they can talk to each other without being joined.
  - c ... the special languages that make a commuter work.
2. Why do you think Logan wanted to know more about Ramsay?

## CHAPTER 14

1. Who said ...

- a I was wondering if Inspector Logan was still with you.
- b She never came. I thought she must have changed her mind.
- c Where else could she have gone?
- d She didn't say what she was going to do ... but, yes, she was interested in Karen Ramsay.

2. Where do you think Logan could be?

## CHAPTER 15

1. Match the beginnings and endings.

- 1 Logan woke up in the dark
- 2 She tried to open her mouth
- 3 Grant and Graham arrived at Ramsay's flat
- 4 Grant was asking about the murdered girls' research
- 5 MacDonald arrived and immediately
- a but parcel tape was stuck over her mouth.
- b in order to ask her some questions and to look around.
- c noticed Logan's scarf on a chair.
- d with her hands tied behind her back.
- e when the doorbell rang.

## CHAPTER 16

1. Who ...

- a preferred to take action rather than wait?
- b broke down the door and fell into the room?
- c hit MacDonald in the stomach?
- d pulled Ramsay to the floor?
- e untied Logan's hands?

## CHAPTER 17

1. Can you complete the paragraph without looking at page 77?

Ramsay knew what all the <sup>1</sup> ..... were doing. She saw how two <sup>2</sup> ..... pieces of research could be put together to provide an <sup>3</sup> ..... – a brilliant <sup>4</sup> ..... that would not only get her a <sup>5</sup> ..... but also make her <sup>6</sup> ..... The problem was the <sup>7</sup> ..... <sup>8</sup> ..... who had actually done the research. So she decided to <sup>9</sup> ..... them.

## After reading

Choose some of these activities.

- 1. What have you learnt about Edinburgh from reading the story?
- 2. Which character did you like best? Think of five adjectives to describe him/her.
- 3. Could you do Logan's job? Make a list of the advantages and disadvantages of working for the police?
- 4. On page 80, MacDonald said to Logan '... you're too good at it and you're too lucky.' Give reasons why Logan was good at her job and why she was lucky.
- 5. Imagine you are going to make a film of *The University Murders*, but it will take place in your country. Which university city would you choose, and why?
- 6. In Scotland, the punishment for murder is life imprisonment – which means at least fifteen years in prison. Do you think this is the right punishment?
- 7. Imagine you are Tam MacDonald. Write his story about the double murder for the *Scottish Daily News*.
- 8. 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*?