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Gina D. B. Clemen

# Act II: Murder!

Illustrated by Paolo D'Altan



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### PRELIMINARY

#### T: GRADE 4

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This icon indicates Trinity-style activities




#### THE STORY IS FULLY RECORDED.

A track number indicates that the audio can be found on the CD.

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## CHAPTER ONE

*The Fundraiser*

 It was summer and school was over for Helen and Mark Anderson, who lived in a big two-storey house in Chicago. Helen was a cute girl of sixteen, with blonde hair and blue eyes. She was friendly and loved trendy clothes, photography and swimming. She wanted to become an actress and she belonged to the Lincoln High School Drama Club. Her brother, Mark, was a tall, handsome boy of seventeen, with short brown hair and blue eyes. He was one of the fastest runners of the Lincoln High School Track Team, and he loved biking. He also belonged to the Drama Club, but he didn't want to become an actor. He wanted to become a sports journalist like his father.

Our story begins one morning in June, a hot month in Chicago. Helen and Mark were looking forward to a great summer vacation.

June was an important month for the Drama Club because once a year the club performed a play at the school theater. This year the

play was a special event because it was a fundraiser. The Lincoln High library needed new books, new computers and other equipment. Mrs Brennan, the principal, talked to the School Board of Chicago and insisted on the fundraiser. She explained that a better library could greatly help the students with their research projects. It wasn't easy to convince the members of the School Board, but in the end they agreed. With the money from the sale of tickets, Mrs Brennan could really improve the library and the school.

The Drama Club decided to perform a high school version of *Macbeth* at a big theater in Chicago, the Century Theater. There were posters that advertised the play all over the city.

Helen and Mark were very excited about this special event. The Drama Club students worked hard for six months to get ready for the big night. Helen was one of the three witches<sup>1</sup> in the play, and Mark was one of King Duncan's guards. Peter Cummings, the school drama teacher, played the part of Macbeth.

"Helen, Mark! Breakfast is ready and on the table," said Mrs Anderson, an attractive woman of about forty-five. "I'm late for work. I have to catch the early bus this morning; see you at dinner!" She was the manager of a big dress shop in downtown Chicago.

Helen and Mark rushed to the breakfast table, where Mr Anderson was reading the morning paper.

"Hi guys!" said Mr Anderson, who was a tall man with a friendly smile. "Did you see this article in the paper about your school play?"

"No, what article?" asked Mark excitedly, while he was pouring milk into the cereal bowl.

1. witch :



"It talks about the Lincoln High School Drama Club and the fundraiser for the library," said Mr Anderson. "Your library really needs lots of new books and a few more computers."

"We're in the paper!" exclaimed Helen, looking at the article. "Mark, we're famous! I'm so excited – just a few more days and we'll be on stage. I have to wear a lot of make-up and look ugly and scary like a witch."

"Well, Helen, you don't even need the make-up..." Mark laughed. "You're perfect for the part. And Sue and Debbie, the other two witches, don't need make-up either."

"What a silly thing to say!" said Helen, who had a very pretty face.

"This article says that an important British actor called Lawrence Montague was acting at the Illinois Actors' Theater and heard about the fundraiser. So he decided to play the part of King Duncan," said Mr Anderson. "It'll be a great performance, I'm sure. Tickets are almost sold out."

"Yes, Lawrence Montague is King Duncan," said Mark. "He's a fine actor, but not a very nice person. He's a snob – he thinks he's better than everybody else. He and Mr Cummings don't get along."

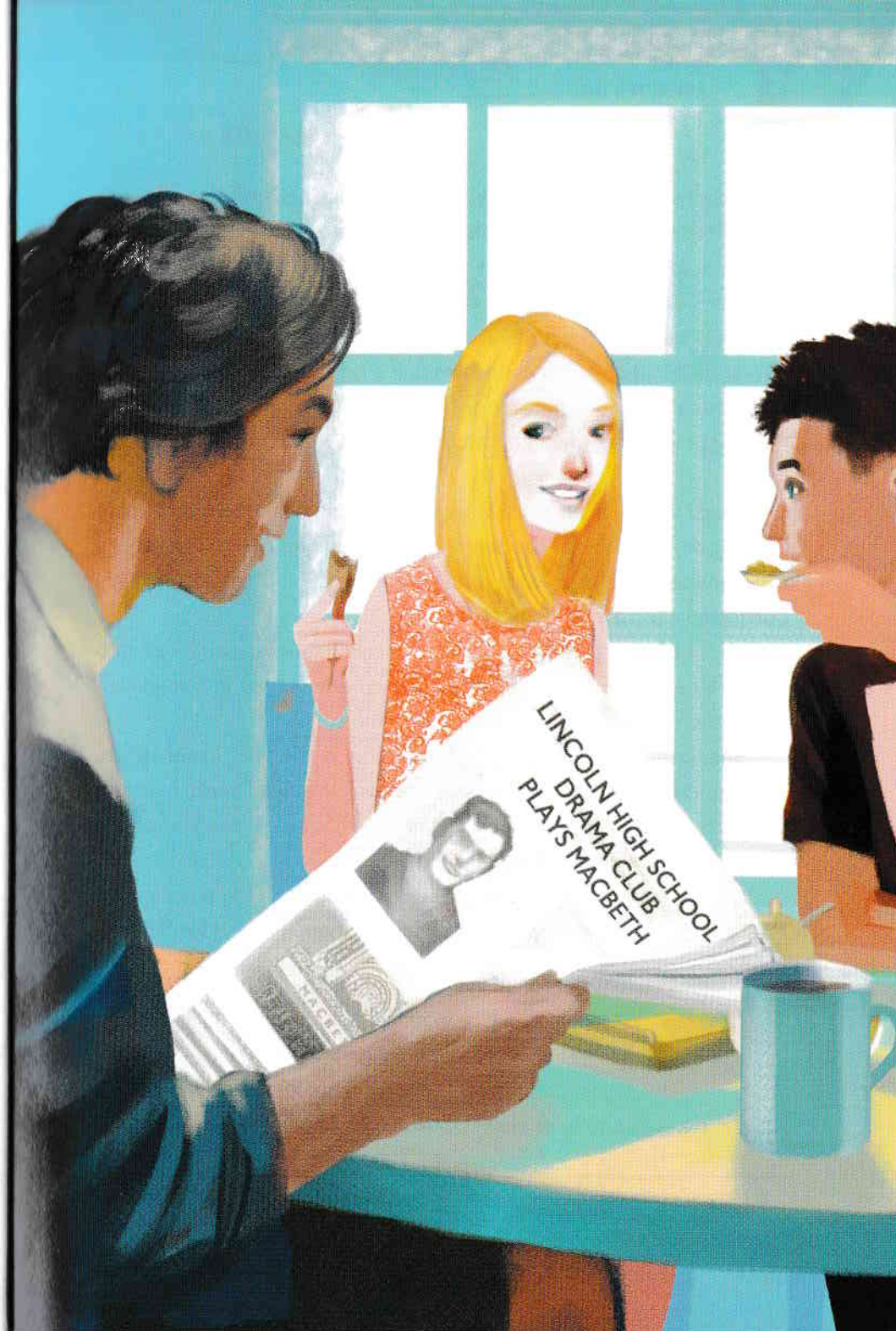
"They're always angry and arguing about something during rehearsals," said Helen, finishing her cereal. "Mr Cummings is such a great teacher, but Montague doesn't think so."

"Sometimes famous people think they're on top of the world," said Mr Anderson, turning the page of the paper.

He continued reading and suddenly exclaimed, "Guess who's in Chicago right now?"

"Our favorite rock band?" asked Helen, excitedly, grabbing the paper.

"No, no," answered Mr Anderson, laughing. "The famous London detective, Sherlock Holmes! I'm sure you've heard of him."



“Holmes...” said Mark, thinking. “He’s the one who solves all those difficult cases in London, isn’t he? What’s *he* doing here?”

“He’s giving lectures<sup>2</sup> on Criminology at the University of Chicago,” said Mr Anderson, who looked excited. “And the paper says he’s taking a short vacation in the States. He’s staying at the five-star Chicago Four Seasons Hotel. It’s right on Lake Michigan — a beautiful hotel with a great view!”

“I hope he likes Chicago,” said Helen. “It’s such a great place to live.”

“Dad, we have rehearsals at two o’clock this afternoon,” said Mark, getting up from the table and putting the cereal bowls into the dishwasher. “I’m going running with Geronimo this morning. We both need exercise. I’ll be back by noon.”

Geronimo was their pet dog — a boxer. The Andersons loved him because he was part of the family. He usually stayed in the garden under the trees during the hot summer months.

“Sue, Debbie and I are going swimming at the pool,” said Helen. Sue and Debbie were Helen’s best friends. “We need some exercise too, and then we’ll have lunch at Debbie’s house. I’ll see you at the rehearsal, Mark.”

“OK, enjoy your swim,” said Mark, running out of the back door into the garden. Geronimo started barking happily because he liked running with Mark.

2. **lecture** : a talk someone gives in order to teach people about a particular subject, usually at a university or college.

## The text and *beyond*

### Comprehension check

1 PRELIMINARY For each question choose the correct answer — a, b, c or d.

- 1 Helen Anderson wanted to become
  - a  a photographer.
  - b  a champion swimmer.
  - c  a manager.
  - d  an actress.
- 2 Mr Anderson was
  - a  a sports journalist.
  - b  a writer.
  - c  an actor.
  - d  a policeman.
- 3 Every year the Lincoln High Drama Club
  - a  performed at the Century Theater.
  - b  performed a play at the school theater.
  - c  bought new books for the school library.
  - d  had a fundraiser.
- 4 Lawrence Montague and Peter Cummings
  - a  were actors at the Illinois Actors’ Theater.
  - b  were drama teachers.
  - c  didn’t get along.
  - d  were snobs.
- 5 What was Sherlock Holmes doing in Chicago?
  - a  He was taking a course at the University of Chicago.
  - b  He was solving a difficult case.
  - c  He was writing a book about criminology.
  - d  He was teaching at the University of Chicago.

## Sentence transformation

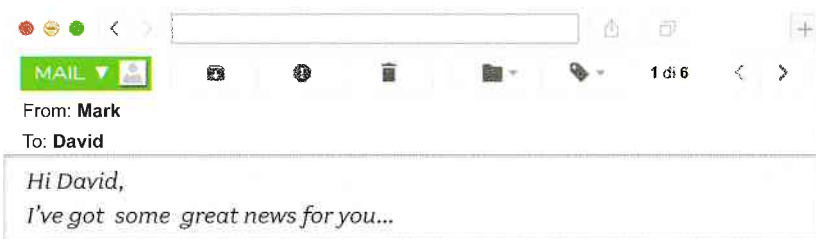
**2 PRELIMINARY** For each question complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first. Use no more than three words. There is an example at the beginning (0).

- 0 There were only a few swimming pools in town.  
There weren't .....*many*..... swimming pools in town.
- 1 Acting on stage isn't easy.  
It's ..... to act on stage.
- 2 Mark and Helen lived near the park.  
Mark and Helen ..... far from the park.
- 3 William Shakespeare wrote *Macbeth*.  
*Macbeth* ..... by William Shakespeare.
- 4 One of my friends invited me to a birthday party.  
A friend ..... invited me to a birthday party.
- 5 History was the subject Mark liked best.  
History was Mark's .....
- 6 Mark was taller than Helen.  
Helen was ..... as Mark.

## Writing

**3 PRELIMINARY** You are Mark and you want to write an email to your cousin, David, who lives in New York City. You want to tell him about:

- the Drama Club and the fundraiser at your high school
- your role in the play
- Helen's role in the play



## Speaking: fundraisers

**4** Work in small groups and each student can answer the first question.

- 1 Have you ever been involved in a fundraiser?
- 2 If so, tell your group about it.
- 3 If you haven't been involved in a fundraiser, create one and tell your group how you would organize it.
- 4 Exchange your experiences with other groups in your class.

## Before you read

### Listening



**1** Listen to Chapter Two and choose the correct answer – a, b or c.

- 1 Who had to pick up the programs?
  - a  Mr Cummings
  - b  Miss Foley
  - c  Mrs Brennan
- 2 Who was Cindy Cutter?
  - a  An actress
  - b  The school principal
  - c  The drama teacher assistant
- 3 What were Lawrence Montague and Peter Cummings doing?
  - a  They were arguing
  - b  They were talking to the students
  - c  They were making the costumes
- 4 Who was responsible for the performance?
  - a  Mrs Brennan
  - b  Cindy Cutter
  - c  Mr Cummings