

DEAD MAN'S MONEY John Escott



Dead Man's Money

JOHN ESCOTT

OXFORD BOOKWORMS

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STARTER

DEAD MAN'S MONEY

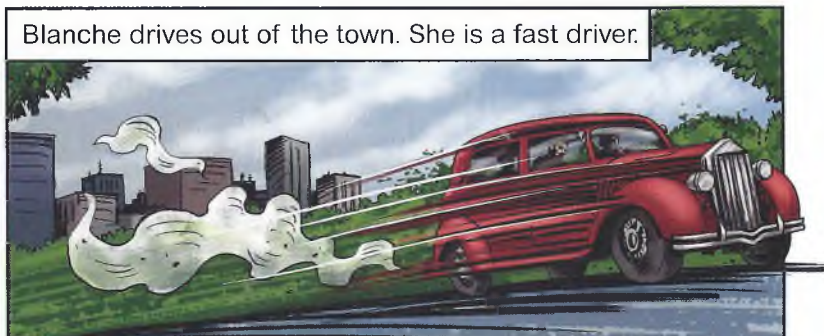
The year is 1931. Two men run out of a bank in a little American town. Joe and Eddie are bank robbers. Joe's girlfriend, Blanche, is their driver. She is waiting in the car.



The newspapers call them The Red Mask Gang.



Blanche drives out of the town. She is a fast driver.



Suddenly, Blanche sees a car.

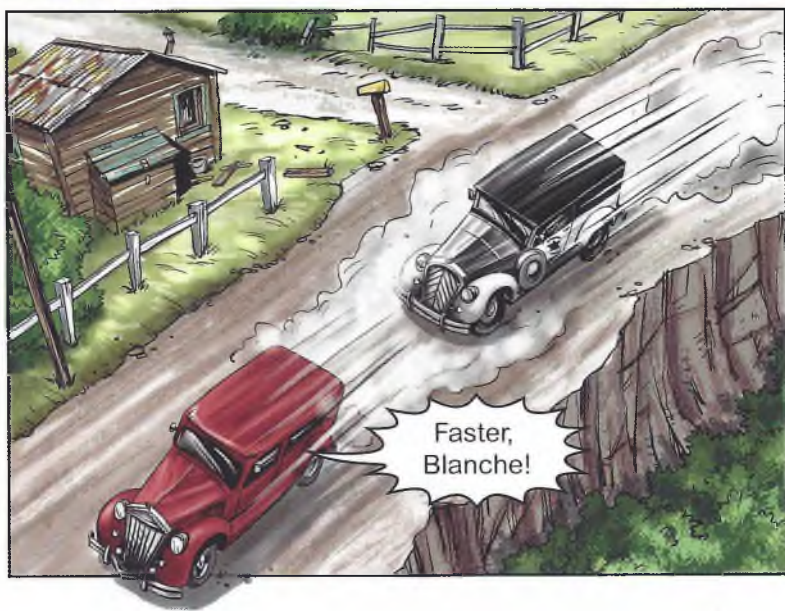
The police!



They're
getting nearer!



Faster,
Blanche!



Blanche drives the car faster, but it is dangerous.



It's OK, Blanche!
The police car is
off the road!

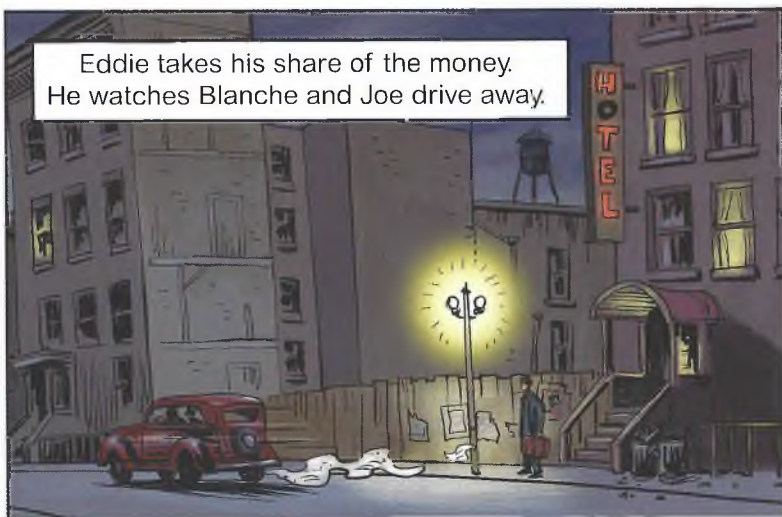
Two hours later, Blanche drives into a town.



You can leave me here.
I'm going to rent a car. There
are some cabins near here.
The Blue Lake Cabins.
I can stay there for
a week or two.

OK, Eddie. Phone us
in two or three weeks.
We're going to stay
with Blanche's mother.

Eddie takes his share of the money.
He watches Blanche and Joe drive away.



Eddie gets a room for the night. Then he counts his share of the money.



Next morning, Eddie rents a car.



Half an hour later,
Eddie arrives at the
Blue Lake Cabins.



I want
your best cabin
for a week
or two.

OK. What's
your name?

Er – Collins.
Edward Collins.



Where can I
put my money?



In a different cabin,
a man is working.
His name is Cal Dexter,
and he is a writer.



Later, Eddie goes and sits by the lake. It is a beautiful morning.
Three or four minutes later, Cal comes down to the lake.



Hi, there!
How long are
you staying?

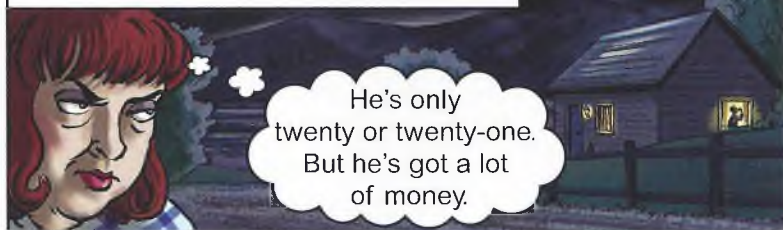
Hi.
A week or two.



I'm here for
the summer. You've got a
cabin near the lake. They're
too expensive for me.
Have you got lots
of money?

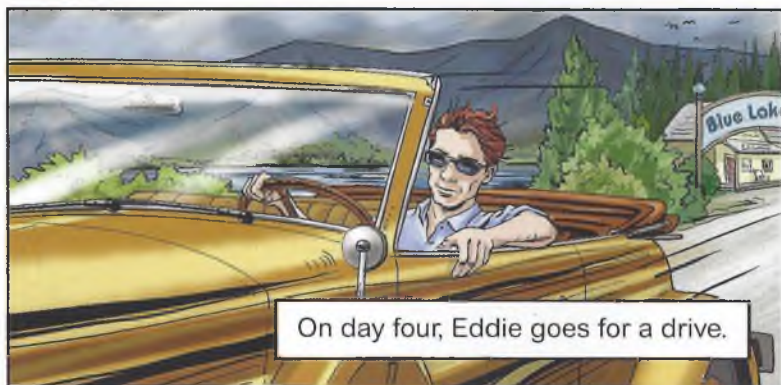
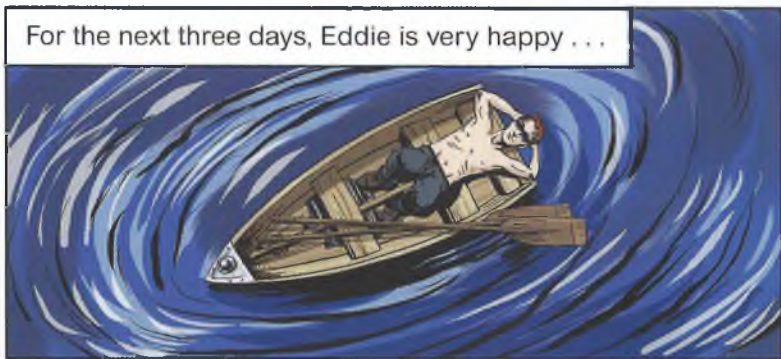
Yes!

That evening, Wilma Pinch sits outside
her cabin. She looks at Eddie's cabin.



He's only
twenty or twenty-one.
But he's got a lot
of money.

For the next three days, Eddie is very happy . . .



On day four, Eddie goes for a drive.

After some time, it begins to rain.



The rain gets worse. And it is a dangerous road.



Suddenly, the car goes off the road!

Oh, no!
No! NO!



But it is too late.
He can't stop
the car.



The next morning, a police car arrives at the Blue Lake Cabins. The policemen tell Wilma about Eddie.



Wilma tells Cal Dexter about Mr Collins.



Wilma goes to Eddie's cabin. She puts his things in his bag.



Later that day, Wilma gets ready to take Eddie's things to the police.



What's this?



Is some of the bank money in Mr Collins' cabin?



I must find the money before Mr Dexter takes it.





Wilma can't sleep.
She goes for a
walk by the lake.

Has Dexter
got the money?

So Dexter
has got the money!
What's he going
to do with it?

Three thousand dollars!
Do I take it to the police?
Or tell Wilma Pinch?
No, not Wilma. I need
to think about this.

It's the money
from the bank robbery.
But how do I get it?

In a different town, Joe and Blanche are listening to the news. It is about a car accident near the Blue Lake Cabins.



That afternoon, Cal goes out onto the lake.

Now is a good time to look for the money.



The money!



Mr Dexter is going to look for the money when he gets back. I can take it later. But what do I do about Mr Dexter?



Later that day . . .



We want to rent a cabin.

There's one near the lake. It's expensive.

That's OK.



A young man with money! That's interesting.

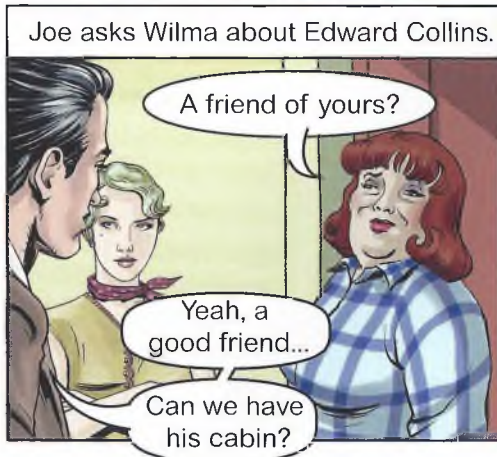


Joe asks Wilma about Edward Collins.

A friend of yours?

Yeah, a good friend...

Can we have his cabin?

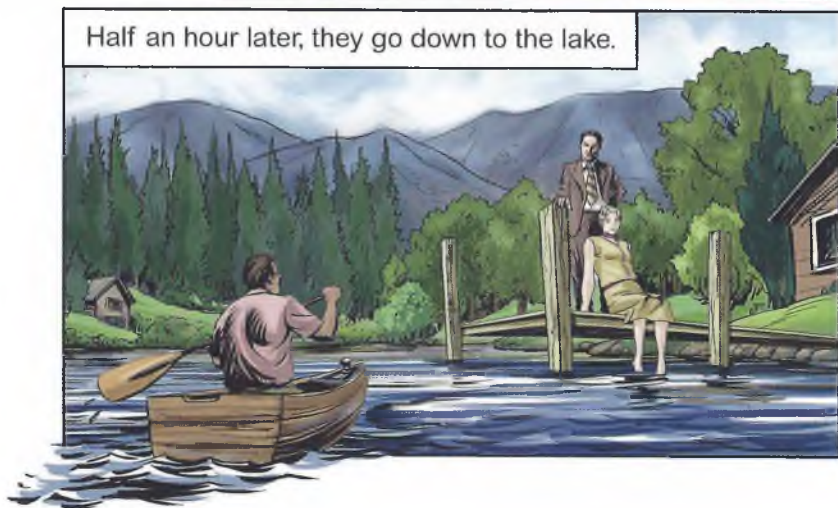


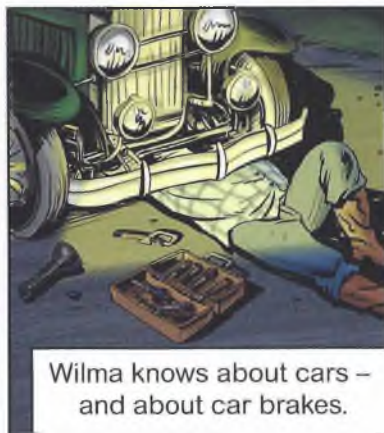
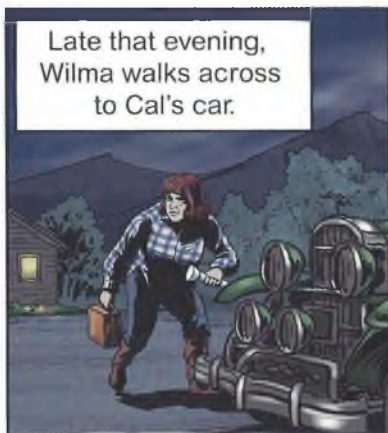
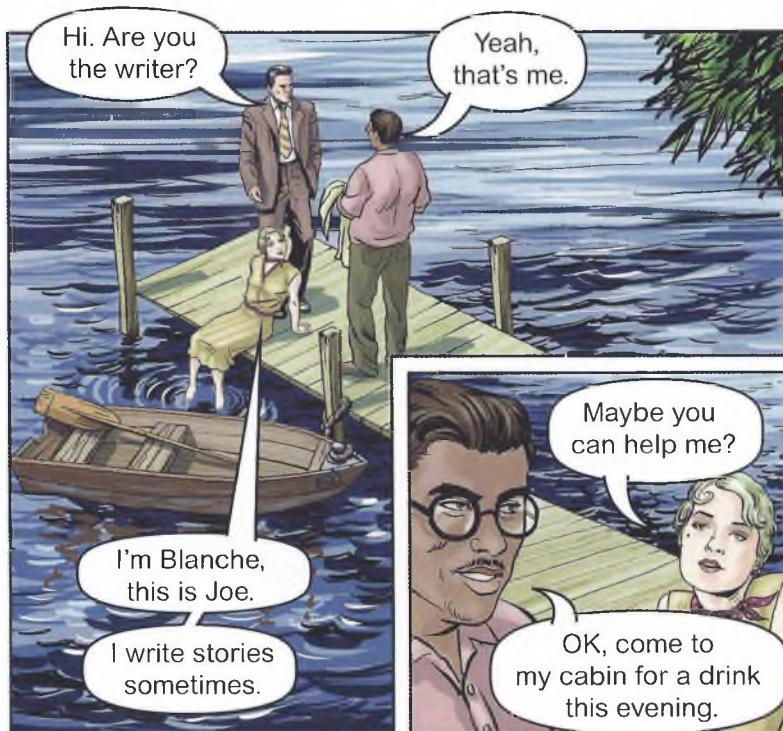
Sorry, Mr Dexter's got it now.



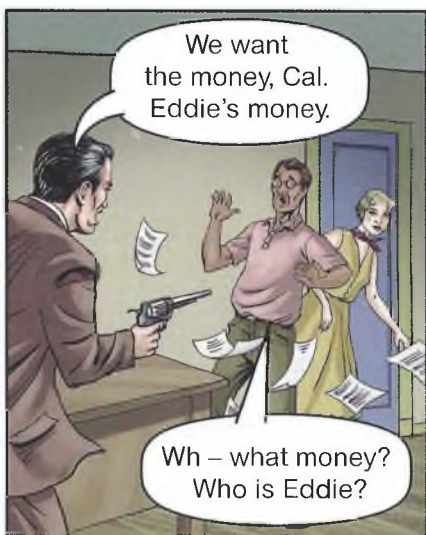


Half an hour later, they go down to the lake.





In Cal's cabin, Cal shows Blanche his new story. Joe is thinking about Eddie's share of the money.











Oh, no!
The money!

A dead
man's money!

GLOSSARY

accident something bad that happens

bank a building to put your money in

brake the brakes make your car stop

cabin a small house

count (*v*) to see how much of something there is

dangerous something that can hurt or kill you

dollars American money

gang a group of people who do bad things

gas the American word for petrol – you put it in a car to
make it go

lake a big area of water

mask something to put over your face, so that people do
not know you

maybe perhaps

news when someone tells you or writes about something
new

newspaper you can read about things that happen every
day in this

outside not in a building

police people who stop other people doing bad things

rent (*v*) to pay money to use something

robber somebody who takes something that is not theirs

share how much one person gets of something

story *Dead Man's Money* is not true; it is a story

thousand one thousand = 1000

Dead Man's Money

ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITIES

Before Reading

1 Look at the front cover of the book and answer these questions.

1 When do you think the story happens?

a ☐ today

b ☐ 1930s

c ☐ 2020

2 Where do you think the story happens?

a ☐ France

b ☐ England

c ☐ America

2 Read the back cover of the book and answer these questions.

1 What does Cal find under the floor of the cabin?

2 Where is it from?

3 Do you think Cal is going to . . .

a take it to the police?

b put it back under the floor?

c lose it?

ACTIVITIES

*While Reading***1 Read pages 1–5, then answer these questions.**

- 1 Who are the three people in the Red Mask Gang?
- 2 Who drives the gang's car?
- 3 What happens to the police car?
- 4 Where is Eddie going to stay for a week or two?
- 5 How much is Eddie's share of the money?

2 Read pages 6–9. Match the words with the pictures.

- a 'He's only twenty or twenty-one. But he's got a lot of money.'
- b 'Oh, no! No! NO!'
- c 'Er – Collins. Edward Collins.'
- d 'Where can I put my money?'
- e 'Hi, there! How long are you staying?'

3 Read pages 10–15. Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- | | <i>T</i> | <i>F</i> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 The police take Eddie's things to the police station. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 Wilma finds a red mask in Eddie's coat. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 Wilma finds the money in Cal's cabin. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 Joe and Blanche hear about Eddie's car accident on the radio. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

4 Read pages 16–23 and answer these questions.

Who . . . ?

- 1 . . . goes out onto the lake?
- 2 . . . asks Wilma about Edward Collins?
- 3 . . . knows about car brakes?
- 4 . . . has a gun?

Why . . . ?

- 5 . . . can't Blanche get their car to start?
- 6 . . . can't Blanche stop Cal's car?

5 Before you read page 24, can you guess what happens?

- | | <i>Yes</i> | <i>No</i> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Joe and Blanche escape with the money. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 Wilma gets the money after the car crashes. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 Wilma and Cal share the money after the car crashes. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 Nobody gets the money. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

ACTIVITIES

After Reading

- 1 Complete this summary of some of the story. Use these words:

*newspapers floor Mask money accident wants
share robbers*

Joe, Blanche, and Eddie are bank _____. The _____ call them The Red _____ Gang. After a robbery, Eddie goes to stay at the Blue Lake Cabins. He puts his _____ of the robbery money under the _____. Eddie dies in a car _____. Cal Dexter finds the _____, but Wilma Pinch sees him. Now she _____ the money, too.

- 2 Use these words to join the sentences together.

but when for and

- 1 'I can stay there. A week or two.'
- 2 Blanche drives the car faster. It's dangerous.
- 3 His name is Cal Dexter. He is a writer.
- 4 'Dexter is going to look for the money. He gets back.'

3 Look at each picture and answer the questions.



Who is this?



Where is this car?



Who is this? What is she doing?



Who is listening to this radio?



Who is holding this gun?



Who is this?

Dead Man's Money

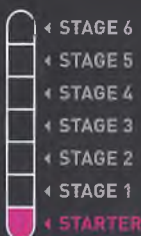


When Cal Dexter rents one of the Blue Lake Cabins, he finds \$3000 – under the floor! He doesn't know it, but it is the money from a bank robbery. A dead man's money.

'Do I take it to the police?' he thinks.

But three more people want the money, and two of them are dangerous.

Can Cal stop them? (Word count 1,260)



? CRIME & MYSTERY

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