

A Pretty Face

JOHN ESCOTT



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A Pretty Face

JOHN ESCOTT

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and Yuzuru Takasaki*

STARTER LEVEL ■ 250 HEADWORDS



John Escott has written many books for readers of all ages, and particularly enjoys writing crime and mystery thrillers. He was born in the west of England, but now lives on the South Coast. When he is not writing, he visits second-hand bookshops, watches videos of old Hollywood movies, and takes long walks along empty beaches. He has also written *The Wild West* and retold *William Tell* and *Other Stories* for Dominoes.

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activities

BEFORE READING

Here are the people in the story *A Pretty Face*.



Zoe Baker



Aunt Peggy



Todd Marin



Mike Morrison



Annie O'Neil



Kate Lawson

1 Match these sentences with the pictures and write the names. Use a dictionary to help you.

- a She's a student. She's Zoe's friend.
- b She works in a bookstore. She likes acting.
- c She's the editor of an important magazine.
- d He's a student. He likes writing.
- e He's a rich writer. He doesn't like talking to people.
- f She's the editor of a small newspaper. She's Mike's aunt.

2 Some of the people in this story become friends. Who makes friends with who?

1 Zoe is angry

Zoe is seventeen years old. She works in a **bookstore**, in the little town of Newport. Zoe likes books and she likes her work. But after work she likes to **act** in **plays** with the Newport **Players**.

The Newport Players do six plays every year, and Zoe is in most of them. Some plays are exciting, and some plays are **famous**. This week, the play is *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare.

'A lot of people are coming to see it,' Zoe thinks. 'I must act well.'

bookstore a shop for books

act to speak and move; to tell a story in front of other people

play a story that people act

players an old name for people who act in plays

famous that everybody knows



college you study here after you leave school

theatre a building where people go to see plays

newspaper people read about things that happen every day in this

editor the person who says which stories go in a newspaper

review some writing in a newspaper telling people about a new play or book

Mike is eighteen years old. He is a student at Newport **College** and he likes writing. One day he wants to write plays for the **theatre** and for television.

'One day I want to be famous,' he thinks.

Newport has a **newspaper**. The *Newport Weekly News* is its name, and Mike's Aunt Peggy is the **editor**. One morning, she phones Mike.

'Do you want to write a **review** of *Romeo and Juliet* for the newspaper, Mike?' she asks him. 'The Newport Players are doing the play tonight at the Little Theatre.'

'Yes, please, Aunt Peggy!' Mike says. 'Thanks for asking me.'

That evening, he goes to Newport's Little Theatre to see the play.

Mike goes into the theatre and sits at the front. He gets out his **notebook** and pen, ready to write notes for his review. There are a lot of people in the **audience**.

Five minutes later, the play begins.

Zoe acts the **part** of Juliet's mother. She knows all her words and speaks them well.

Mike is watching her.

'She's very **pretty** and she's doing her best,' he thinks. 'But it's not easy to act the part of an older woman. She's only sixteen or seventeen years old, and we all know it.'

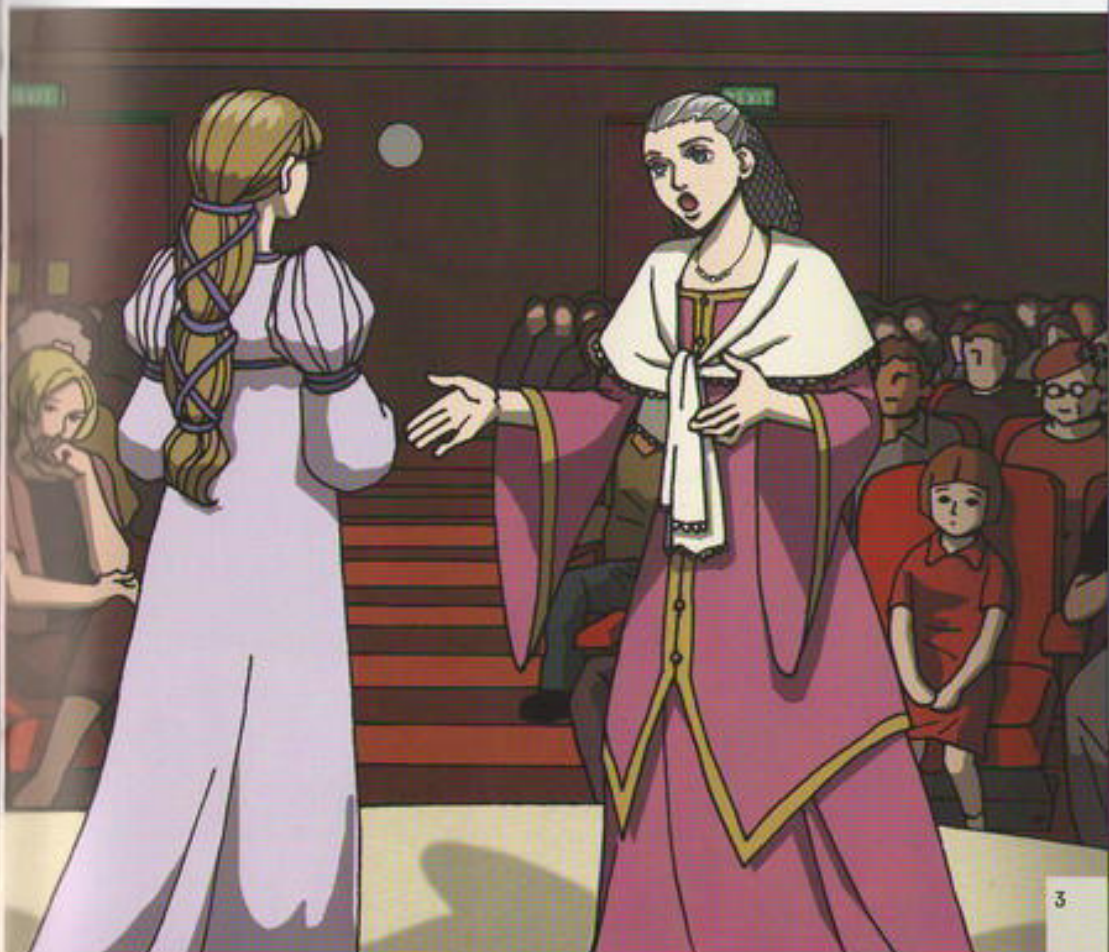
He begins to write in his notebook.

notebook a small book for writing in

audience the people who go to see a play

part one of the people in a play

pretty beautiful





Two hours later, the play ends and the audience leaves the theatre. Mike goes home and writes his review for the newspaper. He doesn't feel very happy.

'It was a good play, but what can I say about the girl acting the part of Juliet's mother?' he thinks. 'I want to be **kind** but I must be **honest**, too.'

At the bookstore on Friday, Zoe reads Mike's review of the play in the *Newport Weekly News*.



and Zoe Baker acts the part of Juliet's mother. She has a pretty face and she speaks her words well. But she is a young girl in an older woman's **costume**, and we all know it. She can never make me **believe** differently.

kind nice to people

honest saying things that are true

costume the things that a person wears in a play



believe to think that something is true

Zoe is angry. She looks at the name under the review: Mike Morrison.

'Who is this Mike Morrison?' she thinks. 'What does he know about acting?'

READING CHECK

Choose the correct pictures.

- a 1  2  3  ... works in a bookstore in Newport.
- b 1  2  3  ... is a student at Newport College.
- c 1  2  3  ... is the editor of the *Newport Weekly News*.
- d Mike sees Zoe for the first time ... 1  2  3 
- e Zoe is ... 1  2  3  when she reads Mike's review in the *Newport Weekly News*.

WORD WORK

1 These words don't match the pictures. Correct them.



a newspaper audience



b audience



c college



d notebook



e costume



f theatre

2 Use words from Chapter 1 to complete the sentences.

- a Aunt Peggy is the editor of the *Newport Weekly News*.
- b *Romeo and Juliet* is a _____ by Shakespeare.
- c Agatha Christie is a _____ English writer.
- d Zoe Baker likes to _____ in her free time.
- e Zoe has an important _____ in this week's play – she is Juliet's mother.
- f Mike thinks Zoe has a _____ face.
- g Mike must write a _____ of *Romeo and Juliet* for Aunt Peggy's newspaper.
- h Do you _____ that Zoe can act well?
- i Do you like my new shoes? Please be _____.

GUESS WHAT

What happens in the next chapter? Tick two boxes.

- a ☐ Zoe sees Mike. c ☐ Zoe hits Mike.
- b ☐ Zoe talks to Mike. d ☐ Zoe talks to a friend about Mike.

2 Zoe has an idea

On Tuesday evening the next week, Zoe and her friend Annie are drinking **coffee** in the Newport **Café**. Annie is a student at Newport College and sometimes in the evenings she and Zoe meet at the café.

Suddenly, Zoe sees a boy sitting at a table across the room. 'Who's that boy?' she asks Annie.

Annie laughs. 'Do you like him? He has a nice face,' she says. 'His name's Mike. I often see him at the college.'

'Mike?' Zoe says. 'Mike who?'

'Mike Morrison,' Annie says.

coffee people often drink this in the morning

café you go here to have a drink and something to eat

'That's Mike Morrison?' Zoe says. She is **furious**.

'Yes, why?' Annie asks.

'He writes reviews for the *Newport Weekly News*,' Zoe says.

'That's right,' Annie says. 'His aunt is the editor. He . . . oh!' She stops suddenly and looks at Zoe. 'The review of *Romeo and Juliet*—'

'Right!' Zoe says. 'Do you remember it? "Zoe Baker acts the part of Juliet's mother. She has a pretty face and she speaks her words well. But she is a young girl in an older woman's costume, and we all know it." Nice face or no nice face, I **hate** him!'

furious very angry

hate not to love





Annie laughs. 'OK, go and tell him,' she says. 'Go and say, "I hate you, Mike Morrison. You write **stupid** reviews for the newspaper." Go on.'

But Zoe isn't laughing. 'Yes, all right!' she says furiously, and she begins to get up from her chair. Then she stops, suddenly.

'What's wrong?' Annie asks. 'Are you afraid?'

'No,' Zoe says. 'I have a better **idea**. Does he come into this café often?'

'Every Tuesday and Thursday evening, I think,' Annie says. 'He has a writing **class** at the college, and he comes here after it finishes.'

stupid without thinking well

idea something that you think

class a time when students learn with a teacher

Zoe thinks for a minute or two. 'That's very interesting,' she says at last.

'Is it?' Annie says. She looks across at Mike Morrison, then at Zoe. 'Why is it interesting? What are you thinking of doing?'

'Tell me, am I a good **actress**?' Zoe asks.

'Yes, you are,' Annie says. 'But—'

'OK,' Zoe says. 'I'm a good actress and I want to **prove** it to Mr Mike-Nice-Face-Morrison.'

'How do you want to do that?' Annie asks.

Zoe smiles and begins to tell Annie about her idea . . .

actress a woman who acts in plays

prove to make people see that something is true



READING CHECK

Put these sentences in the correct order. Number them 1-8.

- a ☐ Zoe gets very angry.
- b ☐ Zoe sees a boy across the room.
- c ☐ Annie remembers the review of *Romeo and Juliet*.
- d ☐ Zoe starts to get up to speak to Mike.
- e ☒ Zoe and Annie meet at the Newport Café.
- f ☐ In the end Zoe wants to do something and she tells Annie about it.
- g ☐ Then Zoe sits down again.
- h ☐ Annie says the boy's name is Mike Morrison.

WORD WORK

1 Find nine more words from Chapter 2 in the computer.



2 Use the words from Activity 1 to complete these sentences.

- a Zoe's a good a**ctress**..... and she wants to p..... it.
- b My father loves drinking c..... in the morning, but I h..... it.
- c At my college we have an English c..... every week.
- d Zoe doesn't like Mike Morrison's review – she thinks it's a s..... review and she is f..... with him!
- e At the end of the chapter, Zoe has an i.....; she wants to do something.
- f A c..... is a good place to meet friends.

GUESS WHAT

What happens in the next chapter? Tick one box.



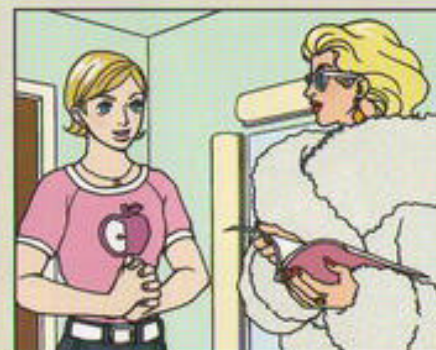
a ☐ Someone phones Aunt Peggy.



b ☐ Mike meets a famous writer.



c ☐ Mike meets an editor.



d ☐ Zoe meets a famous actress.

3 A difficult interview

On Thursday, Mike comes to the Newport Café after his writing class.

He asks for a cup of coffee, then starts to read one of his books. Some minutes later, a woman comes into the café. She is **carrying** a **magazine** under her arm.

At first, Mike does not see the woman. Then she comes across to his table.

'Hello,' she says. 'Are you Mike Morrison?'

Mike is **surprised**. 'Yes,' he says. 'That's me.'

The woman smiles. 'Can I sit at this table?' she asks.

'Yes, of course,' Mike says.

carry to take

magazine a thin book with lots of pictures in it; you can buy it every week or every month

surprised feeling that something very new is suddenly happening



'My name is Kate Lawson,' the woman says. 'I'm the editor of *Yes!* magazine. Do you know it?'

She sits down and puts the magazine on the table in front of Mike.

'Yes, I know it,' Mike says. 'It's a magazine about famous people.'

'That's right,' Kate says. 'Do you want to write something for it? Can you do an **interview** for me?'

interview a meeting to ask questions

playwright a person who writes plays

reporter a person who writes for a newspaper or magazine

gossip talking openly about people's lives

throw out to make somebody leave a building

'An interview?' Mike says, surprised. 'Why are you asking me?'

'You sometimes write theatre reviews for the Newport weekly newspaper,' she says. 'Is that right?'

'Yes, I do,' he says. 'I want to write plays one day, and—'

'Well, do this interview for my magazine then,' she says.

'It's with a famous **playwright**. He lives in Newport.'

'Todd Marin is the only famous playwright in Newport,'

Mike says. 'He lives quietly and doesn't go out very often.

And he's famous for not talking to **reporters** from . . .

gossip magazines. He **throws** them **out** of his house!'

Kate laughs. 'Are you afraid?' she says. 'Good reporters aren't afraid to do **difficult** interviews. You want to write plays, don't you? Well, perhaps he can tell you something about play-writing.'

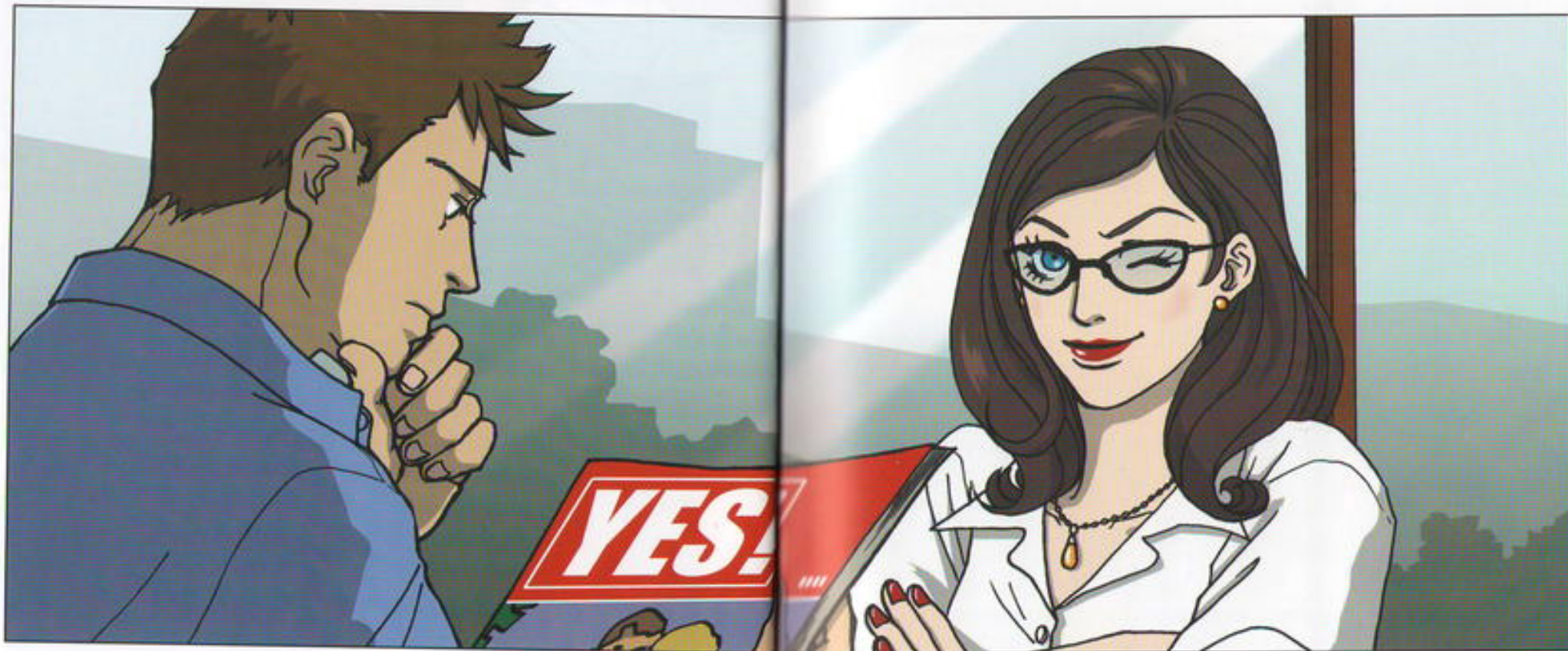
Mike thinks, 'She's right. Perhaps I can learn something from Todd Marin.'

'OK!' he says. 'When can I do it?'

'Tomorrow morning,' Kate says. 'You must tell Marin, "This interview is for Yes! magazine." But tell him after you get into the house. OK?'

'OK,' Mike says.

difficult not easy



activities

READING CHECK

Match the first and second parts of these sentences.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| a Mike is ... | 1 into the café. |
| b A woman comes ... | 2 the editor of <i>Yes!</i> magazine. |
| c She comes across ... | 3 drinking a cup of coffee at the Newport Café. |
| d First she says ... | 4 'Can you write something for <i>Yes!</i> ' |
| e Then she says 'I'm ... | 5 to Mike's table and sits down. |
| f She puts a magazine ... | 6 'yes'. |
| g She asks Mike ... | 7 with Todd Marin, the famous playwright. |
| h Mike must do an interview ... | 8 on the table in front of Mike. |
| i Mike says ... | 9 'My name is Kate Lawson.' |

WORD WORK

1 Find words from Chapter 3 in the coffee cups.



c arry



m _____



s _____



d _____



p _____



r _____



g _____



i _____

activities

2 Use the words from Activity 1 to complete the sentences.

- a Shakespeare is a famous English playwright.
- b *Newsweek* is a famous American _____.
- c I'd like to be a _____ and write for a newspaper.
- d It's _____ to be a good writer.
- e Mike must do an _____ with Todd Marin tomorrow.
- f Mike is _____ when Kate Lawson says his name.
- g Some magazines have a lot of _____ about famous people in them.

GUESS WHAT

What happens in the next chapter? Read the sentences and write *Yes* or *No*.



a Zoe phones Annie. _____



b Zoe phones Kate. _____



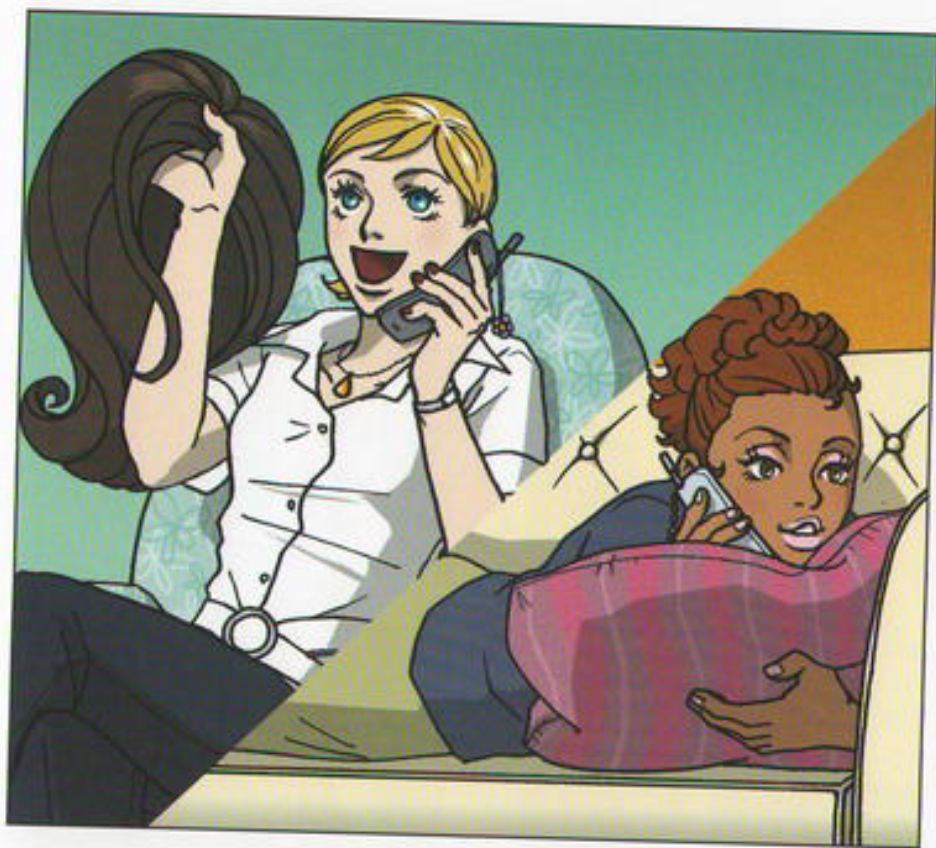
c Mike meets Todd Marin. _____



d Todd throws Mike out. _____

4 Todd Marin's house

Later that evening, Zoe is speaking to Annie on the phone.



'... so I say to him, "I'm the editor of *Yes!* magazine and can you interview Todd Marin?"' Zoe tells Annie.

'Todd Marin!' Annie says. 'But he throws gossip magazine reporters out of his house!'

'I know!' Zoe says, laughing. 'And I want to stand outside his house and watch Todd Marin throw Mike Morrison out!'

The next morning, Mike goes to Todd Marin's house. It is a big house, and there are lots of **bushes** and tall trees in front of it.

'I don't like *Yes!* magazine very much, but this is an important interview,' Mike thinks. 'And perhaps I can talk to Todd Marin about my play.' (Mike is writing a play for television.)

He walks up to the front door of the house. He is carrying his notebook and he has a **list** of questions to ask the playwright. But he is a little afraid of the famous man.

bush a short, little tree

list a number of things that you write down



follow to go after someone

wig false hair

glasses you wear these to help you see better

hide to go where no one can see you

funny making you laugh

Zoe **follows** Mike to Todd Marin's house. She is careful and she follows Mike very quietly. Zoe is acting the part of Kate Lawson again. She has a black **wig** over her hair and she is wearing **glasses**.

She **hides** behind one of the bushes in front of Todd Marin's house and watches Mike go to the front door. It is a big, dark house.

'This is **funny**,' she thinks, smiling.



When Todd Marin opens the door of his house, Mike begins to talk quickly.

'Hello, Mr Marin,' he says. 'I'm Mike Morrison. I'm a student at Newport College, and I want to write plays.'

'Do you?' Todd Marin says.

'And I write reviews in the *Newport Weekly News*,' Mike tells him.

'What do you want from me?' Todd Marin asks.

'Can I ask you some questions?' Mike says.

'Why?' Marin asks. 'Is it for the *Newport Weekly News*?'

'That's a difficult question. What do I do now?' Mike thinks. 'Do I tell him a **lie**, or do I tell him the **truth**?' Then, after a second or two, he says, 'It . . . it's for Yes! magazine. Listen, I know it's a stupid magazine, but . . .'

'Come into the house,' Todd Marin says suddenly.

lie something that is not true

truth something that is true

READING CHECK

Correct six more mistakes in the story.

Zoe speaks to ^{Annie} Mike on the phone that evening. She tells her friend about Kate Lawson and she cries. The next morning, Mike goes to Todd Marin's office. Mike likes Yes! magazine, but the interview with Todd Marin is important; he knows that. Zoe watches Mike go to the front door. She is acting the part of Juliet's mother. Mike and Todd talk at the front door. Mike says, 'I'm writing for the Newport Weekly News.' Todd says to Mike 'Go away!'

WORD WORK

Complete the sentences with words from Chapter 4.

a It's a bad idea to tell a lie



b Zoe hides behind a

c My grandmother has white hair; she's wearing
a !



d I like this play. It's

e When you can't remember things, it's good to write
a



f My dogs me to school every day.

g I can and you can look for me.



GUESS WHAT

What happens in the next chapter? Tick the boxes.

a Todd Marin ...

- 1 ☐ throws Mike out of his house.
- 2 ☐ talks to Mike in his study.
- 3 ☐ gives Mike a play to read.

c Zoe waits ...

- 1 ☐ for more than an hour.
- 2 ☐ in her car.
- 3 ☐ in Todd Marin's house.

b Todd Marin says yes ...

- 1 ☐ to an interview for Yes! magazine.
- 2 ☐ to an interview for the Newport Weekly News.
- 3 ☐ to reading Mike's play.

d Todd Marin and Mike talk about ...

- 1 ☐ Todd's plays.
- 2 ☐ Mike's play.
- 3 ☐ gossip magazines.

5 Zoe waits

Zoe is watching Mike and Todd Marin from behind a bush. She can see them but she cannot hear them speaking. She sees Todd Marin open the door, and she sees Mike follow him into the house.

Zoe smiles. 'Right. He's in the house,' she thinks. 'Now let's wait for Todd Marin to throw him out!'

Todd Marin takes Mike to his **study**. There are hundreds of books in the room, and a big **desk**. Todd goes and sits behind the desk.

'Thank you for telling me the truth,' he says to Mike. 'I can see you're an honest young man. You can ask your questions. But not for *Yes!* magazine. You're right. It is a stupid magazine. I hate gossip magazines. Why do people write for them?'

'Because they **pay** a lot of money, I believe,' Mike says.

Todd Marin laughs. 'Yes, you're right again,' he says. 'But you can write about me for the *Newport Weekly News*. Is that OK?'

'Yes, that's OK,' Mike says, and he smiles at Todd Marin happily.

'I like to help young writers with ideas when I can,' Todd says kindly. 'Sit down.'

Mike sits down, puts his notebook on Todd's desk, and opens it.

'I read your reviews in the newspaper sometimes,' Todd says. 'They're very good.'

'Well, I think they're OK,' Mike says. 'But I want to write for the theatre, for TV, and for **movies**. I'm writing a play now.'

'Are you? Tell me about it,' Todd says.

'Can I?' Mike asks. 'Well, it's about a boy and a girl.'

'A boy and a girl?'

'That's right. They ...'

Todd Marin sits back in his chair to listen and Mike tells him the **plot** of his play. Mike is very **nervous**, but Todd Marin does not speak. He smiles at Mike and he listens to him very carefully.

study a room in a house where you go to write or work

desk a table in a study or in an office

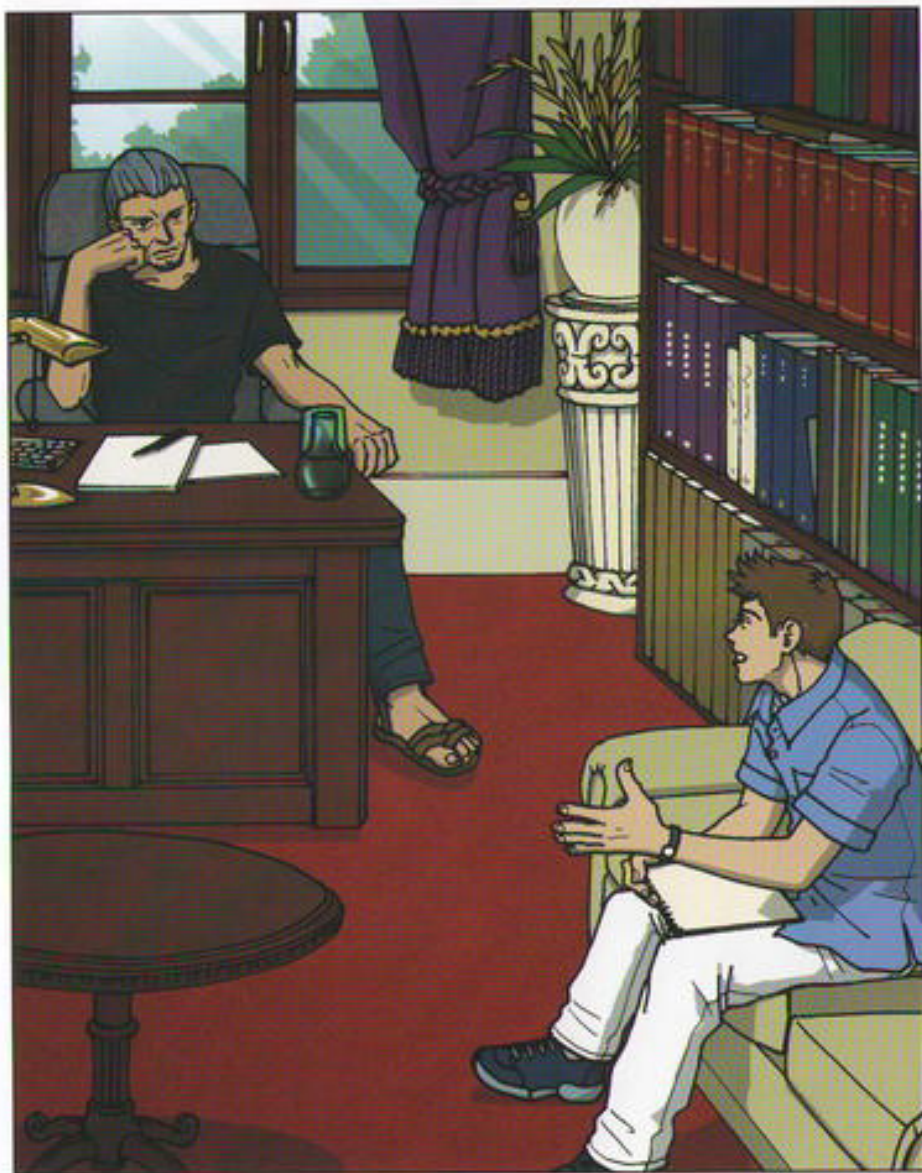
pay to give money for something

movie moving pictures that tell a story

plot the story of a book, play, or movie

nervous a little afraid





When at last Mike stops speaking, Todd says, "Thank you. That's very interesting. It's a good story, and it's funny too. But there are one or two things you can do to make it better. To begin with . . ."

Zoe stays behind the bush and waits. An hour goes by and nothing happens. She is getting **impatient**.

'What are they doing in there?' she thinks. "Todd Marin never gives interviews to gossip magazines, so what are they talking about?"

She remembers Mike Morrison's review of *Romeo and Juliet* in the newspaper. She remembers his words about her acting – and she wants to see his face when Todd Marin throws him out of the house.

'How long must I wait?' she thinks impatiently.

impatient not feeling happy about waiting for something



READING CHECK

1 Correct the mistakes.

- a Zoe watches Mike and Todd Marin from behind a ~~car~~ ^{bush}.
- b Todd Marin takes Mike to the café.
- c Todd Marin likes gossip magazines.
- d Todd Marin likes to help old writers.
- e Mike photographs Todd Marin for the *Newport Weekly News*.
- f Todd Marin asks Mike about his friends.
- g Zoe waits in front of Todd Marin's study for more than an hour.
- h Zoe remembers Mike's review of *Antony and Cleopatra*.

2 Are these sentences true or false? Tick the boxes.

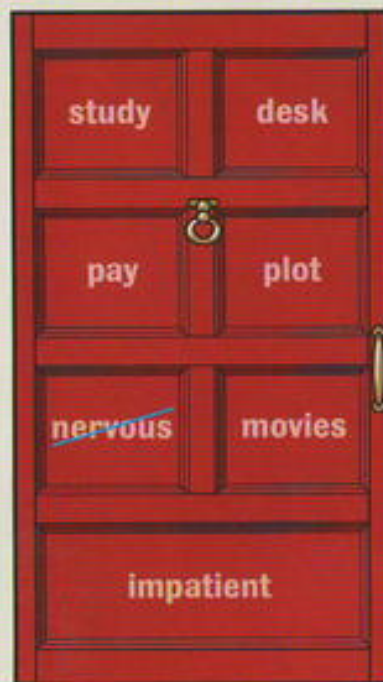
True False

- a Zoe can hear Mike and Todd Marin talking. ☐ ☒
- b Todd Marin likes Mike because he is honest. ☐ ☐
- c Mike is going to write about Todd Marin for *Yes!* magazine. ☐ ☐
- d Mike is writing a play about a boy and a girl. ☐ ☐
- e Todd Marin throws Mike out of the house. ☐ ☐

WORD WORK

Use the words from the front door to complete the sentences.

- a I'm not happy about speaking in front of lots of people. I'm usually very nervous.
- b This is my I do all my writing in this room.
- c He has a big with a computer on it.
- d This book has a very interesting It's about a man going back in time.
- e People sometimes get when they are waiting for the bus.
- f 'You don't have any money! That's OK. I can for our coffees.'
- g Mike is writing a play, but he wants to write for TV and too.



GUESS WHAT

What happens in the next chapter?

Tick three boxes.

- a ☐ Zoe is tired of waiting and she goes home.
- b ☐ Mike leaves Todd Marin's house with a smile on his face.
- c ☐ Kate Lawson is angry with Mike.
- d ☐ Mike writes a play for the Newport Players to perform.
- e ☐ Mike and Zoe make friends.
- f ☐ Annie tells Mike the truth about Kate Lawson.

6 Telling the truth

After an hour and a half, Mike Morrison leaves Todd Marin's study and comes out of the house. He and the playwright are smiling, and Mike is saying 'Thank you.'

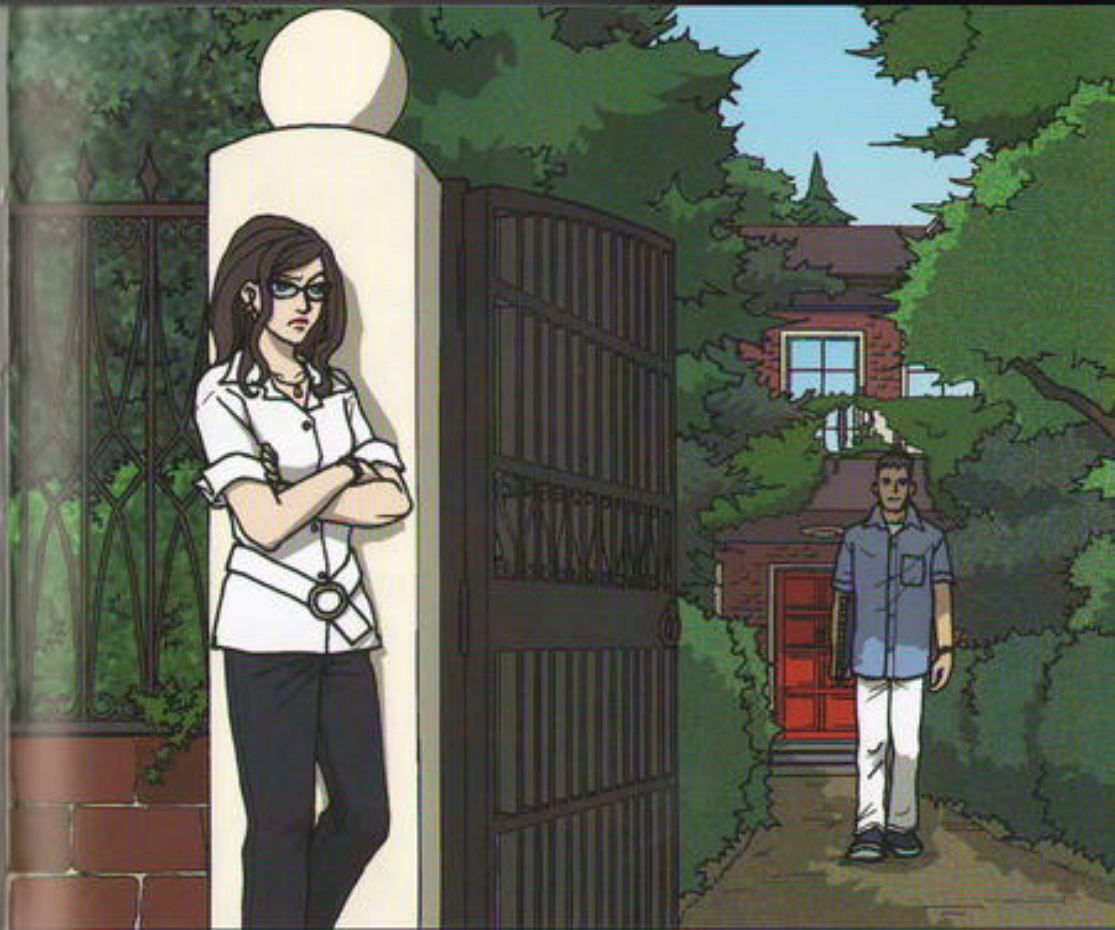
They talk for two or three minutes and Zoe watches them from behind the bush. She is **amazed**.

'What's happening?' she thinks. 'Why are they so friendly?'

After a minute or two more, they **shake hands**. Then Todd Marin goes back into the house and Mike Morrison walks away.

amazed very surprised

shake hands to give your hand to someone when you say hello or goodbye to them



Mike sees Kate Lawson waiting for him.

'Oh, hello,' he says nervously. He is surprised to see her so soon. 'Are you waiting for me?'

'Yes,' she says impatiently. 'I'm waiting for your interview.'

'Look, I can't lie to you,' he replies. 'There's no interview for *Yes!* magazine. Mr Marin always **refuses** to talk to reporters from gossip magazines.'

'But what—?' Kate begins.

'What can two people talk about for an hour and a half?'

Mike says, laughing. 'About writing, about **characters** and about plot. Nothing for *Yes!* magazine, I'm afraid.'

refuse to say no when someone asks you to do something

character a person in a book, a movie or a play

Oh, I have my list of questions and Mr Marin's answers, but my interview is for the *Newport Weekly News*. And I know a lot more about writing plays now. He's very interested in my play.'

'Your play?' Kate says furiously.

'Yes, I'm writing a play for TV,' Mike says. 'And Mr Marin wants to read it. He can help me with the characters and the plot.'

'Well, that's nice,' she says. 'Say hello to Mike Morrison, the famous playwright! He writes stupid reviews for the *Newport Weekly News* but his plays are OK.'

'You're angry,' Mike says. 'Listen, I'm sorry about the interview for Yes!'

Kate laughs. 'No, it's OK,' she says. 'I'm not angry.' And then she does something very strange.



She takes off her hair.

'She's wearing a wig!' Mike thinks, amazed.



*Next, she takes off her glasses and she smiles at Mike.
And now he knows her.*



*He begins to laugh. 'You're not Kate Lawson!' he says.
'You're—'*

'That's right,' Zoe says. 'I'm a seventeen-year-old girl in an older woman's costume, Mr Mike Morrison, review writer for the *Newport Weekly News*!'

Mike's face is very red now. He feels **embarrassed**. 'What a **trick**! So there is no Kate Lawson, editor of *Yes!* magazine,' he says.

'No, there isn't,' Zoe says, laughing. 'What do you think now? Does this prove something? Am I a good actress?'

'Yes, you are a good actress,' Mike says, laughing with her. 'And I'm going to put that in the *Newport Weekly News*.'

'Are you?' Zoe says.

'Yes, and thanks for making me go and see Todd Marin,' Mike tells her. He doesn't feel embarrassed any more.

'Now I can get help with my play,' he says. 'Come on, let's get a cup of coffee. And I'm paying!'

'Well, I can't refuse a **free** coffee!' Zoe says, and she laughs.

embarrassed
feeling bad after
you do something
stupid

trick something
that you do to
make somebody
feel stupid

free that you
don't pay for



The
End

READING CHECK

Write sentences about Chapter 6.

- a After an hour and a half



leaves



's house.

After an hour and a half Mike leaves Todd Marin's house

- b Mike and Todd Marin are



- c Mike sees Kate waiting in front of Todd Marin's



- d Mike tells her about Marin helping him with his



- e takes off her



and



- f Mike is now talking to



— not



- g In the end Mike and Zoe are friends and they go for a



WORD WORK

Use the words in the glasses to complete the sentences.



- a Romeo is an important character in Shakespeare's play *Romeo and Juliet*.
 b You don't need to pay for this ticket. It's
 c Zoe puts on a wig and glasses to play a on Mike Morrison.
 d Mike is when Kate takes off her hair and he sees it's a wig.
 e Todd Marin to give interviews for gossip magazines.
 f Mike is and his face is red when he thinks about his review of *Romeo and Juliet*.

GUESS WHAT

What happens after the story ends? Choose from these ideas or add your own.

- a ☐ Todd Marin helps Mike with his play.
 b ☐ Mike writes a play for Zoe.
 c ☐ Mike visits Zoe in her bookstore every day.
 d ☐ Aunt Peggy meets Todd Marin and likes him a lot.
 e ☐ Annie and Zoe stop being friends.
 f ☐
 g ☐

PROJECT A A Newspaper Report

1 Correct the underlined words in this newspaper report.

NEWPORT WEEKLY NEWS

ACTRESS'S TRICK ON REVIEW WRITER

Zoe Baker works in a supermarket in Newport. She acts in plays with



the Newport Players too. This week she acts the part of Romeo's mother in *Romeo and Juliet* at the Big Theatre, Newport. She says, 'I like acting in plays, and I like acting younger characters. I'm only seven years old.'

Mike Morrison is a teacher at Newport College. He sometimes writes stories for the *Newport Weekly News*. (His Aunt Kate is the editor of the newspaper.) He likes writing books in his free time.



2 Put these words in order to write more of the report.

a glasses Zoe Baker and a wig puts on

Zoe Baker puts on a wig and glasses

b Yes! magazine She's under her arm carrying

c of Yes! 'I'm says, She the editor

d Kate Lawson,' says she 'My name's

e She with Todd Marin? 'Can you do an interview asks Mike Morrison,

3 Put these sentences in order to finish the report. Number them 1-7.

a ☐ She watches Mike and Todd Marin from behind a bush.

b ☐ The next morning Mike Morrison goes to Todd Marin's house.

c ☐ Mike comes out of Todd Marin's house and he sees Kate Lawson.

d ☐ Mike remembers his review of *Romeo and Juliet* and he feels embarrassed.

e ☐ Zoe acts the part of Kate Lawson and follows Mike.

f ☐ Zoe takes off her wig and glasses.

g ☐ Now Mike Morrison says, 'You're a good actress, Zoe Baker!'

PROJECT B Writing a Play

1 Use Zoe's words to complete this scene from Chapter 2 of the story.



I have a better idea.

Yes, all right.

Mike who?

He writes reviews for the *Newport Weekly News*.

Nice face or no nice face, I hate him!

SCENE 2
In Newport Café

Zoe and Annie are talking. Mike is sitting across the room. Zoe looks over and sees Mike. She is interested in him.

ZOE (to Annie, quietly) Who's that boy?

ANNIE (laughing) Do you like him? He has a nice face. His name's Mike. He goes to Newport College with me.

ZOE Mike? (a)

ANNIE Mike Morrison.

ZOE (surprised) That's Mike Morrison!

ANNIE Yes, why?

ZOE (b)

ANNIE That's right. He ... oh! The review of *Romeo and Juliet*—

ZOE (angrily) Right! You remember it?

(c)


ANNIE (laughing) OK, go and say 'I hate you, Mike Morrison. You write stupid reviews for the newspaper.' Go on.

ZOE (furiously) (d)

ANNIE What's wrong? Are you afraid?

ZOE No. (e)

2 Use Mike's words to complete this scene from Chapter 4.



Listen, I know it's a stupid magazine, but—

Can I ask you some questions?

It ... It's for *Yes!* magazine.

And I write reviews in the *Newport Weekly News*.

Hello Mr Marin. I'm Mike Morrison and I want to write plays.

SCENE 4
At Todd Marin's House

Mike is standing in front of the house. Todd Marin opens the door.

MIKE (excitedly) (a)

TODD (interested) Do you?

MIKE (b)

TODD What do you want from me?

MIKE (nervously) (c)

TODD Why? Is it for the *Newport Weekly News*?

MIKE (after a second or two) (d)

Todd Marin looks furiously at Mike and begins to close the door.

MIKE (quickly) (e)

Todd Marin opens the door again.

TODD (suddenly) Come into the house.

3 Act out the scenes on page 42 and 43 before you look at page 44.

4 Look at four more scenes from the story. Write one scene and act it out.



SCENE 1

In the newspaper office



SCENE 3

On the phone



SCENE 5

In Todd Marin's study



SCENE 6

In Newport Café

A Pretty Face

Zoe Baker works in a bookstore. She also likes acting, and she has a part in the play *Romeo and Juliet*. Mike Morrison writes about the play for the newspaper. What does he write about Zoe? Is Zoe a good actress . . . or is she just 'a pretty face'?

What does Zoe think when she reads the newspaper? What does she do?

*Illustrated by Kanako Damerum
and Yuzuru Takasaki*

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