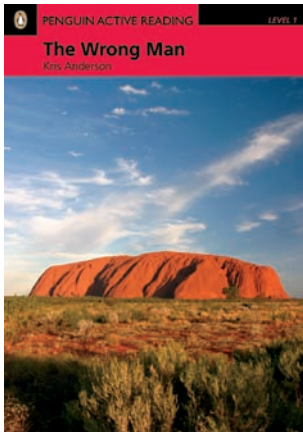




The Wrong Man

Kris Anderson



Summary

The Wrong Man is a police story set in Australia. One of the men staying in a hotel in Uluru in the middle of Australia wants to kill the Police Commissioner, who is coming to that town on Monday. Somebody writes an anonymous letter to warn the police. Steve Malone works for the police in Sydney and he must find the killer, whose name begins with “M”. The suspects are Micky Munro, a singer; William Mortimer, a businessman, and Dr. Eric Manton. With the help of Sally Peters, a reporter who works for a newspaper, Steve manages to solve the case. He travels to Uluru and finds out from the singer’s manager that, in order to commit the crime, the killer has taken on the doctor’s identity. They have kidnapped the real doctor and his daughter Joan. As Micky knows the real Dr. Manton from a previous appointment, the killer must get rid of him first. He plans to do this during a visit to the Rock. Steve follows Micky and the killer to the Rock. A park ranger helps him. In a fight, Steve injures the killer, who is taken to hospital. Sally has found the real Dr. Manton in Euralunga and he is reunited with his daughter. Micky invites Sally and Steve to his concert.

About the author

Kris Anderson used to be a university teacher but she is now a full-time writer. She has written a dictionary, *The Longman Dictionary for Language Teaching and Applied Linguistics*, and other books for learners of English. She also writes detective stories and love stories for young people.

Background and themes

Uluru: This is the aboriginal name of Ayers Rock, the second largest monolith in the world, located in central

Australia. Climbing it is a popular activity among tourists.

Crime never pays: The Police are always expected to catch criminals. Does this always happen?

Fear: Several people in the story are afraid: Joan is afraid of the kidnapper, Micky’s manager is afraid for him, Micky is afraid of the killer on the Rock. What are your students afraid of? What were they afraid of when they were children?

Discussion activities

Section 1, pages 1–7

Before reading

- Discuss:** Have the students look at the covers in pairs and:
 - Write a file card: Have students identify the title, author, publisher and ISBN, and write a file card for the book.
 - Read the title: *What is the story about?* Have the students discover the difference between ‘the wrong man’ and ‘the man is wrong’
 - Describe the picture: Have students look at the cover. *Where is this? What important city in Australia do you know?*

After reading

- Role play:** Have students work in pairs. Ask them to imagine that Sally phones her boss in Sydney and tells him about Steve and the killers. Then ask them to dramatise the conversation.

Pages 10–13

Before reading

- Guess:** Ask students the following questions.
Who is writing the letters? An angry killer / Micky / Micky’s manager / Dr. Manton? Who is the wrong man? Why?

After reading

- Write:** Have students write what Steve and Sally do on Sunday to find the killer.

Pages 16–19

While reading

- Guess:** Have students look at pictures 43 and 44.
What are these people saying?

After reading

- Discuss:** Ask students the following questions.
How does the story end? Why is Sally happy? What about Micky / Joan and Dr Manton?
- Read carefully:** Have students add a short summary of the story and their opinion of it on their file cards.

Vocabulary activities

For the Word list and vocabulary activities, go to www.penguinreaders.com.