



The Street Lawyer

Photocopiable

While reading

Chapters 1–2

1 Complete the sentences. Use the words in the box.

clients dynamite eviction
shelter squatter warehouses

- a He does not pay rent and he is not the owner of that place. He is just a
- b in the old port are used by squatters.
- c If you do not pay your rent, you will soon face and you will have to find a new place to live.
- d is a very dangerous substance that can cause an explosion.
- e If you work in the service industry, you probably have that pay you.
- f Many homeless people want to find a bed in a in winter because of the cold.

2 Are these sentences about Drake & Sweeney right (✓) or wrong (X)? Change the wrong sentences.

- a Barry Nuzzo, a lawyer at Drake & Sweeney, was the same age as Michael. They started work on the same day. They were both married.
- b Lawyers in this company earned more than one hundred thousand dollars a year. If you were a partner, it might be more than a million but you had to work long hours.
- c Arthur Jacobs became a partner when he was thirty. Now he was seventy-nine but he was the youngest of the partners in Washington.
- d Claire was a doctor. She did not have to work as much as Michael so she was home when he came back from work.
- e All the lawyers in the company were responsible for the eviction of illegal squatters like Mister.

Chapters 3–4

3 Complete the sentences about RiverOaks. Use the words in the box.

January 27 started in 1977
eviction of squatters a partner in real estate
forty-two files warehouse

RiverOaks was a private company in Maryland. It was ^a..... It was a client of a Drake & Sweeney lawyer called Braden Chance, who ^b..... There were ^c..... Michael found the file about the ^d..... that the company had bought on Florida Avenue. Chance ordered the ^e..... on ^f..... DeVon Hardy was one of them.

4 Complete the sentences to compare Drake & Sweeney and the 14th Street Law Center.

- a Michael's office had expensive furniture and Persian carpets but Mordecai's
- b The company had rich and powerful companies as clients but the center
- c Michael was a lawyer with money but Mordecai
- d Mordecai's office was busy, dusty and interesting but Michael's
- e Michael did not like his job but Mordecai

Chapters 5–6

5 Put these in the right order, 1–8.

- a Michael went near a young mother who was sleeping with her three children to offer them some cookies. Her name was Lontae Burton.
- b On Sunday, he heard on the TV that Lontae and her family were dead.
- c He could not give them his presents because they were not at the shelters and Mordecai did not know where they were either.
- d The next morning, Michael went shopping and bought some warm clothes and toys for the children.



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- e One of the boys was not sleeping. His name was Ontario and he was four. He asked Michael for some apple juice.
- f Michael arrived at the shelter and started making cheese and meat sandwiches for the homeless.
- g When Mordecai joined him, they talked about their families.

6 Answer the questions.

- a How did Michael feel when he saw the dead bodies in the hospital morgue?
- b What did he offer to do?
- c Where did the funeral take place?
- d What did the people organize after the funeral?
- e Why did Mordecai phone Michael a few days later?
- f What information did Michael keep to himself?
- g What happened when he told Claire?

Chapters 7–8

7 Are these sentences right (✓) or wrong (X)?

Change the wrong sentences.

- a Arthur and Nuzzo thought Braden Chance was a fool.
- b Palma was afraid of losing his job.
- c Drake and Sweeney had control of everything the lawyers did at the office.
- d Michael had no problems in getting the file out of Chance's office.
- e Michael told Mordecai the file was important because it had information about the RiverOaks eviction.
- f Palma's note about the eviction showed how upset he had felt as he was part of it.
- g During the eviction, the tenants fought with the police.
- h Michael had a file which he could not use because it was not his.

Chapters 9–11

8 Write why these people said the following.

- a Michael to Claire: "Get the video camera."
- b "I have an appointment with Dick Heile," Michael said.
- c Hector Palma to Michael: "Meet me at 12 in front of the building."
- d "There were police everywhere, but only one other white face," Michael said.

- e "Is this a gift?" the young gang member said to Michael.

9 Answer the following questions.

- a What made Michael enjoy his new job?
- b Why did Drake & Sweeney want Hector Palma out of Washington?
- c How did Sofia help find Hector Palma?
- d Why did Michael have to tell Mordecai about the RiverOaks file?
- e How did Michael feel when he found out that there was a guy in his flat with his wife?

10 Find the mistakes in this description of Megan. Correct them.

Megan is medium height and thin. She has short, dark brown hair and large, dark brown eyes. She has a wedding ring on her finger. She likes her job with the poor. She has worked with them since she was a child.

Chapters 12–14

11 Match the person and his/her words.

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| a Judge DeOrio | 1 "Call the Washington Post." |
| b Mordecai | 2 "The eviction was wrong." |
| c Arthur Jacobs | 3 "I wouldn't advise you to blame the mother in court." |
| d Megan | 4 "I apologize to you." |
| e Michael | 5 "Ruby? Watching TV." |

After reading

12 Have an interview.

A popular TV show star interviews Michael Brock. They talk about what his life used to be like and what it is like now. Act out the interview in pairs.

13 Get into two groups, one for and another one against the following. Have a discussion.

Working for a big company is better than working for a small one.

14 Help the homeless.

Your class wants to organize something to collect money for the homeless, like a concert or a fair. Decide what you are going to do and how to advertise it.

15 In small groups discuss the following questions. Then present your case to a judge.

Should Braden Chance be punished? How?



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Chapters 1–2

- 1 Choose the correct answer. Circle a, b, or c.
- Michael asked Arthur Jacobs to do as Mister said because ...
 - all the lawyers in the room were afraid.
 - he had a gun and sticks of dynamite to kill them.
 - they earned a lot of money and could pay for Mister's lunch.
 - Claire did not come to see him because ...
 - there were other doctors to examine the lawyers.
 - nobody had called her.
 - she was told to stay at the hospital where she worked until it was all over.
 - Their marriage was not going well because ...
 - he worked too hard because he wanted to become a partner.
 - she loved her job more than him.
 - they did not have any children.
 - DeVon Hardy was homeless because ...
 - he had no known family.
 - he had lost his job, found a warehouse to live in, but was evicted.
 - he had been in prison for stealing.
 - DeVon Hardy ...
 - was shot when he opened the door for the soup and bread.
 - died in a gang fight in the street.
 - was badly hurt by one of the lawyers and died in hospital.

Chapters 3–4 and Chapters 5–6

- 2 Are these sentences right (✓) or wrong (X)?
- Michael went to see his parents because he needed some time off but Claire could not leave the hospital.
 - Michael's father advised his son to think of the people in other industries who were happier.
 - There were a lot of homeless people at the shelter when Michael arrived because it had snowed heavily and they had no place to go.
 - Lontae Burton and her three young children were sleeping in a car when they were killed by a gang.
 - Claire visited a divorce lawyer after Michael told her he had accepted Mordecai's offer to work at the center because she wasn't interested in helping the poor any more but about the money he got with a big firm.

Chapters 7–8

- 3 What happened first? Put the sentences in the right order. Number the sentences, 1–8.
- So he never returned the file.
 - His fingerprints were found on the file drawer.
 - Hector Palma met Michael at a bar to talk about the file.
 - On his last day at the law company, Michael found out somebody wanted him to get a file with information about the Burtons' eviction.
 - On his way to the Center he had an accident.
 - Then he thought he could borrow the file, take it to the 14th Street Law Center to photocopy it.
 - Michael got the file back from the wreck of his car: he discovered a note was missing.
 - But Michael knew it was illegal.

Chapters 9–11

- 4 Look at the underlined words. Who are they?
- "She's in the shower."
 - "Did you tell them where I live?"
 - "RiverOaks wanted them out quickly so they could start pulling the warehouse down."
 - "Tell me everything you know about this person."
 - "No wedding ring on her finger."

Chapters 12–14

- 5 Correct five mistakes in the following sentences.

When the story about the lawsuit against RiverOaks appeared in the newspaper, Jacobs met Mordecai to tell him that he knew that the Burtons were tenants and that he wanted to meet Michael and Mordecai and a judge to decide on the lawsuit, the theft of Palma's note and the Bar Association complaint.

At the meeting with Judge DeOrio, Mordecai asked for five million dollars for the death of the Burtons. Arthur Jacobs agreed that the eviction was wrong but argued that the events after the eviction were the children's fault.