Not Above the Law  Richard MacAndrew

Summary

George Keegan, a young Dublin lawyer, wakes up to find himself fully clothed, his flat covered in blood, and no memory of the previous night. At the same time Inspector Sean Murphy and Sergeant Tara Lynch are beginning to investigate the murder of another lawyer, Orla Quinn, whose stabbed body in a red dress has been pulled out of the river. George cleans his flat and clothes, but then the police arrive. After questioning him at home, and finding a bloody knife, a piece of red material down the back of his sofa, and a handkerchief with chloroform on it, they take him to the police station. They question him again, but finally ask him if he had any enemies. He suggests Geraldine Keane, from an animal rights group called FLAIR, so the police question her. George's lawyer friend, Michael Sullivan, gets him out of the police station. George then breaks into Orla's office, where he finds that she was about to work on a case connected to FLAIR. When he breaks into Orla's flat, he finds a bunch of half-dead flowers in the waste paper basket. He is just about to look at the message attached to them when Murphy and Lynch arrive; George hides in a cupboard and then escapes. The police examine the flowers, and the message, and then visit the flower shop where they came from to question the owner about who sent them to Orla. Meanwhile, George goes home and phones Michael. He is suspicious about something Michael says related to flowers. The police find out that it was Michael Sullivan who had sent the flowers, and also that Geraldine Keane and Sullivan had gone out with each other at university. Keane visits Sullivan at his house. They argue and Keane picks up a knife. George arrives and knocks the knife from her hand, and then starts to question Sullivan. But Sullivan takes out a gun and moves it towards George Keegan. At this point the police arrive, and Murphy tells them that he knows that Sullivan killed Quinn because she went out with Keegan. Sullivan puts the gun in his mouth and kills himself.

Before reading

1. It shows an Arum Lily with blood on it.
   Meaning: student's own ideas.
2. ‘To be above the law’ means to avoid living by the rules of society (perhaps because of a special position in society). The title implies that the law applies to everybody, regardless of their position.
3. Student's own answers.
4. Student's own answers. Some are obvious (colleague, girlfriend). Fergal McBride is a flower seller, and there is a flower on the cover.

Check your reading

Chapter 1
1. His head hurts, his mouth is dry and it tastes strange.
2. He is still fully dressed, in his working clothes.
4. He washes them in cold water.
5. His friend Michael, his girlfriend Orla.
6. No, he doesn't.
7. Student's own answers.
8. Student's own answers.

Chapter 2
1. a) Fiona Whelan, Inspector Murphy's boss
   b) Inspector Sean Murphy
   c) Sergeant Tara Lynch
   d) Inspector Sean Murphy
   e) Sergeant Tara Lynch
   f) Inspector Sean Murphy
2. She had an unusual blood group.

Chapter 3
1. a F; b T; c F; d T; e T; f T; g F; h T; i F; j F
2. Student's own answers.
Chapter 4
1. 1 – d; 2 – b; 3 – f; 4 – a; 5 – e; 6 – c
2. No, they don’t – that’s why they take him to the police station.

Chapter 5
1. In the Pearse Street police station.
2. Lynch is ‘hard’ and asks difficult questions; Murphy is ‘soft’ and kinder with him.
3. Three times.
4. Whether there was anyone who might not like George.
5. Patrick Duffy, a bank robber; Geraldine Keane, a member of FLAIR.
6. FLAIR let the mink go the night before; Geraldine Keane worked for FLAIR.
7. Because Michael has come to see him.

Chapter 6
1. a) George Keegan; b) Michael Sullivan; c) Patrick Duffy; d) Geraldine Keane; e) Keane’s boyfriend; f) George Keegan
2. That she has a bandage on it because she cut herself.

Chapter 7
1. She thinks they’re intelligent and good at their job.
2. Yes; she used a stolen credit card, pushed a police officer, and broke into the offices of a drug company.
3. The mention of Orla Quinn’s name.
4. Law.
5. Student’s own answers.
6. Student’s own answers.

Chapter 8
1. d – h – a – f – b – g – c – e
2. Student’s own answers.

Chapter 9
1. She heard the front door close and ran out to see who it was; she didn’t see anyone.
2. The half-dead flowers in the waste paper basket.
3. They were an unwelcome present from someone.
4. The pieces of the card that went with the flowers.
5. So that he didn’t touch them with his fingers.
6. The forensic police to check things.
7. To visit the florist’s where the flowers came from.

Chapter 10
1. a F; b T; c F; d F; e T; f T
2. Student’s own answers.
3. Student’s own answers.

Chapter 11
1. a) Lynch and Murphy
   b) an Eastern European shop assistant
   c) Fergal McBride
   d) Pat Higgins
   e) nobody
   f) Murphy
   g) her uncle
   h) Michael Sullivan
   i) Michael Sullivan
2. Student’s own answers (Michael Sullivan’s).

Chapter 12
1. e – h – a – i – b – f – d – c – g
2. Student’s own answers.

Chapter 13
1 – b; 2 – b; 3 – a; 4 – a