Bad Company  Richard MacAndrew

Before reading

1. Look at the front cover of the book. What can you see? How do you think it is connected to the title?
2. Read the blurb on the back cover. Who is talking? What are they talking about?
3. Look at the maps on page 5. Where do you think the story takes place? Why?
4. Look at the list of people in the story on page 4. There are two groups of people who work together. What do they do? Who doesn’t belong to either group? Why?
5. If you have the recording, listen to Chapter 1.

Check your reading

Chapter 1

1. Where is Helen Shepherd when the story starts?
2. How does she feel and why? What does she do to feel better?
3. Who is Brian Webb? How does he behave towards Helen Shepherd and why?
4. Look at the picture on page 9. Who are the six people you can see?
5. How did the woman die and when?
6. What three jobs does Webb have to do while Shepherd has breakfast?

Chapter 2

1. Put the events in the correct order.
   a) The police officers interview James McNab.
   b) Webb tells Shepherd about Claudia Engel.
   c) Shepherd gives Webb a series of jobs to do.
   d) Shepherd and Webb go to the Wells room.
2. True or False?
   a) Claudia Engel and James McNab worked for the same company.
   b) McNab’s company has offices in Hythe.
   c) McNab’s company makes only CDs.
   d) There were four people at the MMI meeting.
   e) An unknown man came to the meeting.
   f) McNab is not allowed to leave the hotel.

Chapter 3

1. Match the beginnings and the endings:
   1) Harriet Johnson and Claudia Engel
   2) Harriet Johnson
   3) Claudia Engel
   4) Harriet says that James McNab
   5) Harriet says that MMI
   a) had taken Harriet Johnson’s boyfriend.
   b) is doing well.
   c) had worked together for two years.
   d) was afraid of Claudia Engel.
   e) didn’t like Claudia Engel.
2. Which statement is correct? After dinner:
   a) Harriet met Claudia Engel outside.
   b) Harriet saw Claudia go outside and walk away.
   c) Harriet saw Claudia meet the strange man outside.
3. Which two people left the hotel around 10.45?
4. What does Webb notice about Harriet? What does it mean?

Chapter 4

1. What details do you know about the strange man (Mr X)?
2. Who did Shep talk to on the phone? What did she tell her?
3. Which of these things about Chowdury are True?
   a) He is the accountant at MMI.
   b) He knows a lot about music.
   c) He lived with Claudia Engel.
   d) He thought Claudia Engel was sweet and kind.
   e) He heard McNab and Engel shouting the day before.
   f) He says that company sales are falling.
   g) He went for a walk the night before.
**Chapter 5**

1. What does DC Fox have to do at the start of the chapter?
2. Answer these questions about Darren Fleming:
   a) How old is he?
   b) How does he know Claudia Engel?
   c) What did he think about Claudia?
   d) How does he feel about Claudia now? Why?
   e) How long was he in the hotel for? Why did he leave?
   f) Who saw him after he left the hotel?
3. Do you think Fleming killed Claudia Engel? Why/why not?
4. Where is the key to Claudia Engel’s room?
5. What important thing didn’t Shep and Webb find in Engel’s room?

**Chapter 6**

1. Who says the following to whom, and why:
   a) ‘I don’t think we’re going to get anything from the laptop.’
   b) ‘I didn’t tell her . . . She knew already.’
   c) ‘. . . one of the cleaners saw you leaving the hotel this morning at six thirty.’
2. What made Claudia Engel have such a powerful position in MMI?
3. Do you think Harriet Johnson killed Claudia Engel? Why/why not?

**Chapter 7**

1. Why did Harriet Johnson take her laptop to her car?
2. Why did she bring her laptop back to her room?
3. What happened when Harriet went to McNab’s room?
4. What does Shep put on the table to show everyone?
5. Why does she say it’s important?
6. What did a police officer find on the back door and the piece of wood?
7. Which of these things is true? McNab killed Claudia Engel:
   a) because she wanted too much money.
   b) because she said she would start a company with the new bands if he didn't pay.
   c) because she said that all the MMI bands would then go to her company.
   d) for all of the above reasons.
8. How did Shep trick McNab with the memory stick?

**After reading**

Choose some of the following activities to do:

1. Write a physical and character description of one of the characters.
2. You are Brian Webb. Write what you think of your new boss, Shep.
3. Write either (a) Helen Shepherd’s report of the case or (b) a local newspaper report of the case.
4. There is going to be a film of *Bad Company*. Which actors will play the main characters?
5. Write a letter to the author, Richard MacAndrew, telling him what you liked and didn’t like about this story.
6. Think of another title for *Bad Company*, and give reasons for your choice.
7. Choose one of the pictures on pages 14, 20 or 29 and describe what you can see carefully, explaining what is happening at that moment.
8. Make a quiz about the story for other students, e.g. some true/false questions or some correct/incorrect sentences.
9. Would you like to be a police inspector and investigate murders? Write a composition explaining why or why not.