The Stories

A collection of three short stories about crime.

Sister Love. This is about two very different sisters, Karin and Marcia. Whereas Marcia is unattractive and stays at home to look after their sick father, Karin is tall and beautiful with a good job. When Marcia falls in love with a man she meets at church she brings him home to meet her family. Karin, who enjoys sunbathing on the roof in a bikini, soon steals him away from her older sister. When Marcia overhears Howard declaring his love for Karin, she decides to act. She puts some of Karin’s suntan oil on the floor of the roof garden, so that when Karin runs to wave to Howard from the roof she slips and falls over the edge of the wall.

Joey’s Luck. Joey is a young thief in London in 1912. He makes money by stealing people’s wallets and bags in the street. But when he hears a friend telling his landlord that he keeps a lot of money in his shop, he decides to steal that. However, his plan goes wrong when he knocks over an oil lamp in his struggle with the old man and sets fire to the shop. Joey escapes but leaves the old man to die. With a lot of money in his pocket Joey buys a ticket to sail to a new life in America. Unfortunately, the ticket is for the Titanic and it seems that Joey’s luck has finally run out.

Hush Money. Rosa blackmauls people to get extra money. She waits outside a pub until she sees someone try to drive away when they are drunk, and then pretends they have injured her. They pay her money not to call the police. However, one victim follows Rosa and photographs her in an attempt to get her money back. In the argument wine is spilt over Rosa. Rosa is very angry and drives away, only to crash and seriously injure herself. Because she smells of wine the police think she is just another drunk driver.

Background

These are three modern crime stories about three different criminals. However, rather than focus on the process of detection they focus on the reasons people commit their crimes. They are meant to make you think criminals are ordinary people, and not monsters, and that maybe we are all capable of committing a crime, if the circumstances are right.

Before Reading

Here are some ways to help your students approach the story:

1. Give students the title of the book and show them the picture on the cover. Ask them to try and guess what kind of the story it is.
2. Give students a copy of the text on the back cover of the book, and of the story introduction on the first page. When they have read the texts, ask them a few questions about the story, or use the Before Reading Activities in the back of each Bookworm.
3. Use the pre-reading activity in this worksheet.
4. If there is a recording of this title, play the first few pages and stop at an interesting point.
Sister Love and Other Crime Stories

Pre-reading activity

Word search

A P A R T M E N T E P P
D F B F E T X D K U I R
K L I C H U R C H J C Y
F A K E G W H O R N K H
B H I A S E J W F G P M
L F N S U N T A N O O B
O N I F D E A L L F C V
N K I S S M E L A S K L
D S H G R A B E M T E T
E L T X V R Y T P G T D
G I U W J R K T O O T F
T P Q K M Y H A M M E R

DEFINITIONS

1 the brown colour of skin that has been in the sun
2 a short high sound made by a car horn
3 to touch someone lovingly with your mouth
4 with light yellow or gold hair
5 a copy of something, made to trick people
6 a group of rooms for living, can be part of a larger house
7 a person who steals things from people’s pockets
8 to take something quickly and roughly

9 a small flat case to carry money in
10 a thing that burns oil to give light
11 a tool with a handle and a heavy metal part, used for hitting nails into wood
12 to take somebody as your husband or wife
13 a thing in a car that makes a loud sound
14 a building where people go to pray to God
15 a piece of clothing in two pieces that women wear for swimming and lying in the sun
16 to move on something smooth or wet and nearly fall

To the teacher

Aim: To introduce key vocabulary from the three stories
Time: 10–15 minutes
Organization: Give one copy of the word search to each student or put it on an overhead projector. Give the students five minutes to find as many words as possible. Then, ask them to match the words they have found with the definitions. All the words are from the glossary at the back of the reader. Go through the words checking that they understand the meaning.
Key: 1 suntan, 2 toot, 3 kiss, 4 blonde, 5 fake, 6 apartment, 7 pickpocket, 8 grab, 9 wallet, 10 lamp, 11 hammer, 12 marry, 13 horn, 14 church, 15 bikini, 16 slip
Sister Love and Other Crime Stories

While reading activity

Spot the mistakes

Marci met Howard at church. She was twenty-five and lived with her mother and her father. Her father often left the apartment. Marcia did not go to work, she looked after her father, but her sister worked at the hospital.

At first Howard was in love with Karin. But later he fell in love with her sister. Marcia heard them talking about her. She decided to kill her sister and put some oil in her wine. Her sister slipped and fell under Howard’s car.

When you have finished the book, write a summary of one of the other stories here.

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To the teacher

Where: At the end of the first story
Aim: To check that students have understood the details of the first story. When they have read the other two stories they can write their own summary of one of them.
Time: Both activities should take about 30–40 minutes.
Organization: Give the students the worksheet after the first story. They should check what they remember first and then check with a partner and pool their information. They can then look up any details in the book. They then write the correct version of the story. When they have read the other two stories, they can write their own summary of it. They then give it to a partner to read and check the facts.
## Sister Love and Other Crime Stories

### After reading activity

**Who said what and in which story?**

Dorothy Burns  Theo Goldman  Webber  Marcia  Rosa  Karin  Joey  a policeman  Howard

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PERSON</th>
<th>STORY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 ‘This is the end of my old life’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 ‘I know you. You live at Albert Webber’s house’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 ‘Do you have a good place to put it?’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 ‘The hot sun’s not good for your body’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 ‘I’m not going to church today’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 ‘You didn’t see me because you didn’t look.’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 ‘I can smell wine on her.’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 ‘I come up here all the time when it’s sunny’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 ‘I’m very, very sorry, but not the police, please!’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### To the teacher

**Aim:** To help students focus on the different characters in the three stories.

**Time:** 10–15 minutes

**Organization:** Give each group of students a copy of the worksheet. Ask them to identify who said these words and in which story. Go through the answers and ask them where the words fit in each story.

**Key:**

1 Joey, Joey’s Luck  
2 Theo Goldman, Joey’s Luck  
3 Webber, Joey’s Luck  
4 Marcia, Sister Love  
5 Howard, Sister Love  
6 Rosa, Hush Money  
7 A policeman, Hush Money  
8 Karin, Sister Love  
9 Dorothy Burns, Hush Money.