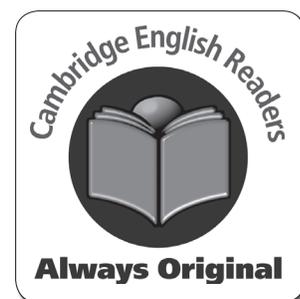


Worksheet

Answer Key

Level 5



A Tangled Web Alan Maley

Summary

Sitting by a French river, former MI6 agent Dan Combes is shot at. He falls into the river and hides, waiting for his assailant to come down. He is amazed to see it is Jurgen Heid, a former colleague with whom he shared a failed mission in San Cristobal, and who, like Combes, is supposed to have disappeared and never made contact again. Combes kills Heid and hides the body, taking his rifle and car keys. Combes decides to leave, so he returns to his house to get a few things, including some important CDs. When he goes to the village to find Heid's car he sees another San Cristobal colleague, Nina Rowlandson, waiting for Heid.

Next day he dumps Heid's car and gets his estranged daughter Annie to drive him to Barcelona. He tells her some of the San Cristobal story – how they'd been trying to help the communist rebels to overthrow the military dictatorship, and how it had gone wrong – the rebel leader shot and them escaping through the jungle. He arrives in London by plane and decides that his former MI6 colleague Bert Perkins will be the best person to talk to.

Meanwhile Nina Rowlandson uses the emergency phone to inform MI6 that the mission to kill Combes has gone wrong, and returns by train to a safe house in Wimbledon. At the same time news of the mission's failure has reached MI6 boss Sir Clive Horley, and he is telling his subordinate, Hugo Strang, to do something about it.

We then learn of another incident from the past, which involved Bert Perkins' son Peter, who had also worked for MI6. He had been captured by the East Germans in the period before the Berlin Wall came down, and then killed when a prisoner exchange for master spy Gunther Holzmann had unexpectedly been called off. Dan had tried to do something about it, but had had to give the bad news to Bert. Neither of them knew who had cancelled the exchange that cost Peter his life, but each suspected Strang was involved.

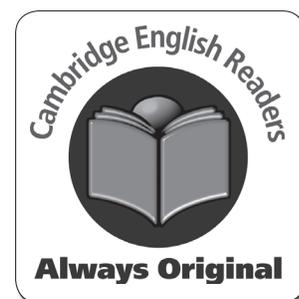
As he drives to meet Bert, Dan reflects further on the failed San Cristobal mission and Strang's briefing meeting, the links between MI6, the CIA, and the drugs business in the small central American republic. Bert gives Dan various pieces of new information: that Cas is still alive, that Strang wanted Heid and Nina to kill him, and that there's going to be a high-level meeting at Burstead Hall in Oxfordshire that weekend. Bert also gives him his briefcase, which contains a pistol and a key to the Wimbledon safe house. They are both keen to settle old scores.

The story moves back to Nina, who is waiting for someone to meet her at the Wimbledon safe house. She is surprised and delighted when her supposedly dead ex-colleague and lover Cas suddenly appears. However, his job is to kill her, which he does as she sleeps after making love with him. Dan goes to the house next morning and finds Nina dead. He realises Cas was the killer because there is one of his distinctive cigarette ends in an ashtray. To top all his immediate problems, Dan hears from his daughter Annie that she has split up with her boyfriend and is pregnant.

Dan goes to Burstead Hall, checks the place out, buys some materials and makes ten petrol bombs. Then in the evening he gets into the grounds and watches to see who is there. The meeting includes important people – Sir Clive Horley from MI6, the head of the CIA, a US presidential adviser, Strang and, to his surprise, Cas and German master spy Holzmann. Dan puts two and two together, and realises that they are all involved in the drugs business and want him dead because he knows too much. Next day he returns to Burstead Hall and kills Cas, seriously wounds Strang and sets Burstead Hall alight with the petrol bombs. When he leaves, Bert unexpectedly is waiting for him. He drives Dan to Whitstable where his brother-in-law Jeff has a small boat. Next day Jeff takes Dan to Dunkirk in France.

Worksheet Answer Key

Level 5



A Tangled Web Alan Maley

As Dan drives south, he reflects on his life, from the death of his parents when he was seven, through years of 'pretending', to his MI6 job. He worries about Annie, thinks how he has failed her as a father in the past, and resolves to help her as much as he can. They meet up in Marseille and drive back towards his house in southern France. As they travel he outlines a future together in a safe place, but Annie refuses, saying she needs to make her own way in the world with her child-to-be, and he will always be hunted.

Dan returns to the house and finds his CDs. He goes down to the river for the last time, but is killed by

unnamed hitmen. Bert is pushed under a train in London, and Strang poisons himself, falling dead across a newspaper with the headline 'MI6 Chief Accused'.

Before reading _____

1. a spider's web
2. That it is a story in which there is a web of connecting lies and deceit.
3. A spy thriller, with lots of twists and turns.
4. MI6, the British Secret Service.
5. Europe, particularly France and England.

Worksheet Answer Key

Level 5



A Tangled Web Alan Maley

Check your reading

The Valley

1. c, a, d, b

Chapter 1

1. a T, b T, c F, d T, e F

Chapter 2

1. a if he killed the man by the river. b very angry. c go down to the river and look for the body. d his pistol. e at the café by the bridge.

Chapter 3

1. a an MI6 agent and friend, b MI6 agents, c Jurgen Heid, d Dan Combes hit Jurgen Heid. e Jurgen Heid tried to strangle Dan Combes. f Jurgen Heid, g Dan Combes
2. Because the agents on the failed San Cristobal operation were told to change their identities and never meet again.

Chapter 4

1. a its position, b That there was a secret door and tunnel under the road. c a torch, d Heid's rifle, e his pistol, passport, money and some CDs, f He saw Nina – one of the team. g Heid's car
2. Student's own answer.

Chapter 5

1. a Dan Combes, b Heid and Nina, c Heid, Nina and Dan, d the hotel owners, e Annie (Dan's daughter), f Dan and Annie

Chapter 6

1. a F, b T, c F, d F, e T, f T, g T, h F

Chapter 7

1. a, d, e, g
2. Because they feel close to each other for the first time in years.

Chapter 8

1. 1 c, 2 a, 3 e, 4 b, 5 f, 6 d

Chapter 9

1. d, a, f, b, e, c

Chapter 10

1. a T, b T, c T, d F, e T, f F, g T, h F, i T, j F
2. Sir Clive Horley (a senior MI6 director), because the French operation went wrong.

Chapter 11

1. a Bert Perkins' son, an MI6 agent, b a German 'master spy' held by the British, possibly dealing in drugs, c Dan's oldest contact in Berlin
2. a Kurt Klassens, b Dan Combes, c Hugo Strang, d Bert Perkins

Chapter 12

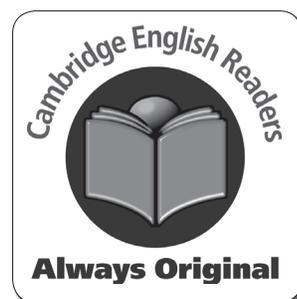
1. a Nina Rowlandson: beautiful – tall, slim, olive-coloured skin, green eyes, long red hair; moves like a cat; knowledge of medicine, b Jurgen Heid: same height and build as Dan, Germanic features, strange very blue eyes; rarely spoke; private person who never shows his feelings; knowledge of telecommunications, c Cas Cousins: tall, dark and handsome, dark eyes, humorous, energetic; good organisational and language skills; leader of the operation
2. a military dicator, President of San Cristobal, b Indian communist leader of the FLI

Chapter 13

1. a Because they are cheap, clean and impersonal. b Because he cannot find the envelope of CDs. c Because there are two hours before Bert's train arrives. d Because it wouldn't be safe (someone might be watching). e Because he wants her to go and get the CDs.

Worksheet Answer Key

Level 5



A Tangled Web Alan Maley

Chapter 14

1. **a** Nina goes out to buy some clothes. **b** She prepares supper in the house. **c** She goes to bed. **d** Nina and Cas eat something and talk in the kitchen. **e** Nina and Cas go back to bed.
2. Because she thought he had been killed in San Cristobal.
3. Because she and Heid didn't kill Dan in France.

Chapter 15

1. 1 d, 2 f, 3 a, 4 e, 5 c, 6 b
2. a pistol, the key to the Wimbledon safe house, student's own answers.

Chapter 16

1. e, a, d, b, g, c, h, f
2. Because he can't get in touch with Annie.

Chapter 17

1. **a** Dan's small hire car, **b** the village of Burstead, **c** Burstead Hall, **d** half a dozen large black cars, **e** the place where the stream ran under it, **f** petrol, small hand towels, rope, empty bottles, **g** ten petrol bombs, **h** some bushes near the back entrance, **i** the security lights

Chapter 18

1. **a** a top adviser to the US President, **b** head of the CIA
2. Cas and Holzmann
3. That he was the man he saw with Strang in Berlin.
4. That they are all making money out of the drugs trade, and that he is the only outside person who can make the connection between the different parts of the business.

Chapter 19

1. **a** T, **b** F, **c** F, **d** T, **e** F, **f** F, **g** T, **h** T

Chapter 20

1. Sail to France from Whitstable with Jeff, Bert's brother-in-law.

2. He was killed in an 'accident'.
3. That someone senior in MI6 got part of the drugs business.
4. A question was asked in Parliament about British special forces and weapons in San Cristobal.

Chapter 21

1. **a** Jeff to Bert, **b** Bert to Dan ('she' is Doris), **c** Bert to Dan, **d** Dan to Bert, **e** Jeff to Dan

Chapter 22

1. upset
2. His parents were killed in a car crash when he was seven.
3. pretending
4. To meet at Marseille railway station in three days' time.

Chapter 23

1. 1 d, 2 a, 3 b, 4 c
2. That he will find somewhere safe for them to live and Annie will join him later.

Chapter 24

1. **a** the CDs from his house, **b** go with him, **c** in the woods, **d** go along with Dan's plan for the future, **e** change her mind, **f** badly

Chapter 25

1. **c, e, a, d, b**
An Underground Station in London
 Bert Perkins
The Valley
 Dan Combes
A Drug Overdose at HQ
 Hugo Strang

After reading

- 1–8. Student's own answers.