

Cambridge English Readers

Starter Level

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Dirty Money

Sue Leather



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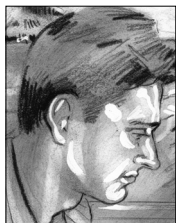
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People in the story



Joe works for the
Murray Echo,
a newspaper

Sandy is
Joe's wife



Dan is Joe and
Sandy's neighbour

Karl Johnson
is the boss of
Pan Global



Cameron Grady
is Joe's boss

Ed Bains is the boss
of the *Murray Daily*



Ken Reid is the mayor
of Murray

Places in the story



Chapter 1 *A noise*



‘Canada is beautiful,’ thinks Joe. He’s looking out of the window of his house. He can see water and mountains. On the water he can see a little white boat. In the big blue sky he can see an eagle. He can hear ... nothing.

Joe thinks about England. It’s small and dirty, he thinks. And the noise! Joe smiles. He sits and looks at the beautiful water and mountains.

‘Happy, love?’

Joe’s wife, Sandy, comes in with a cup of tea.

‘Mmm,’ says Joe, ‘very happy.’ He takes the tea and he drinks.

Sandy sits down too and they talk about their beautiful house. They’re far from England and far from the city. Here in the little town of Murray there’s no dirt and no noise. Canada is a new start for Joe and Sandy. They have new jobs too. Joe works for a newspaper, the *Murray Echo*. Sandy works at the hospital; she’s a doctor.

‘Tomorrow,’ says Joe, ‘we can have lunch by the water.’

‘Mmm.’ Sandy smiles.

Joe looks at Sandy and smiles too. ‘Thank you for the tea,’ he says.

Then Joe hears a noise.

‘What’s that?’ he asks.



‘What?’ Sandy asks.

‘Listen,’ Joe says.

Sandy listens.

Drrrr! Drrrr!

‘Is it Dan? Is he working on his house?’ asks Sandy. Dan lives in the next house.

‘No, that isn’t Dan,’ says Joe. He walks over to the window. He sees nothing. Just the mountains and the flat blue water. But he can hear the noise. A new noise.

Drrrr! Drrrr!

Joe looks up. He looks around. He looks up again. Then he sees it. On the mountain near his house he sees a big machine. It’s making a noise: Drrrr! Drrrr! The machine is taking trees down. Behind it there’s another big machine. It’s digging a hole in the ground.

‘Look at this!’ Joe says to Sandy.

‘What?’ asks Sandy.

Near the machines is a big white sign. On the sign it says PAN GLOBAL.



‘What is it?’ asks Sandy.

‘I don’t know, but I’m going to look,’ says Joe. He opens the door and runs to the mountain.

Joe stands in front of one of the big machines. The driver sees him and stops.

‘What do you want?’ the driver asks.

‘What’s this?’ asks Joe. He looks at the big hole in the ground. ‘What’s Pan Global?’

The man smiles. ‘It’s a mine,’ he says. ‘There are diamonds under here!’

