

Cambridge English Readers

Starter Level

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The Penang File

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With thanks to the staff and students of Sekolah Menengah Alor Janggis (1980–82) for providing such lasting memories.

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People in the story



Munro:
a British agent



Sergio:
a killer



Inspector Lee:
a Malaysian
policeman



The Big Man:
a friend of
Sergio

Naylor:
Munro's boss



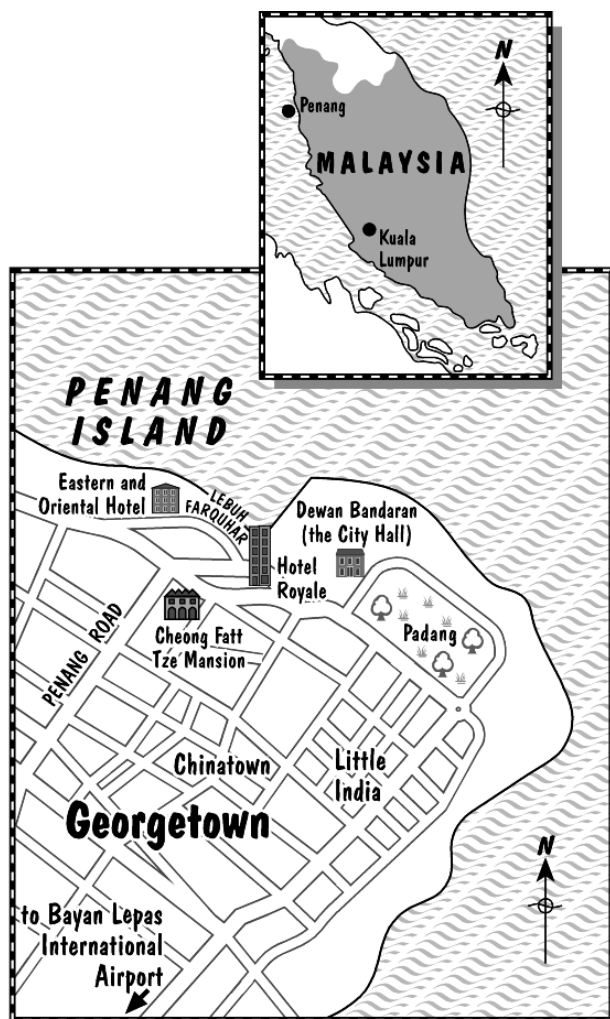
**Inspector
Abdullah:**
a Malaysian
policeman



**Sergeant
Ramasamy:**
a Malaysian
policeman



Places in the story



Peninsula News

31st August 1957

OUR NEW COUNTRY



Today is a very
important day
– the first day for
our new country.
We are not
British now. This
is OUR country.
Long live our
new country!

Chapter 1 *An important job*

'Sit down,' says Naylor. 'I have a job for you. Do you know Malaysia?'

'A little,' answers Ian Munro. 'Kuala Lumpur. Penang.'

'Good,' says Naylor. 'You're going to Penang. Tonight.'

'That's quick,' thinks Munro. 'This must be an important job.'

'The Prince is in Penang now,' says Naylor.





Naylor puts a photo in front of Munro.

‘Do you know this man?’ he asks. The photo is of a young man in a restaurant.

'No, I don't,' says Munro.

'That's Sergio,' says Naylor. 'He kills people for money. A lot of money. He's very good at his job.'

'And this is from our man in Paraguay,' Naylor says. He gives Munro an e-mail. Munro reads it and feels cold. This job *is* important.

From: British Embassy, Paraguay

To: Naylor, London

We hear S. is in Penang. His next job is the Prince.

'*Your* job,' says Naylor, 'is to find Sergio and stop him.'

'What do we know about Sergio?' asks Munro.

'Not much,' answers Naylor. 'He always kills with a gun. And always from far away – often a thousand metres. And he often has "friends" in the police. He gives his "friends" money and they help him.'

Munro thinks for a minute. 'Can't the Prince just come home?' he asks.

'No,' says Naylor. 'August 31st is an important day in Malaysia. And this year it is *very* important.'

'Of course.' Munro looks at the newspaper on Naylor's

desk. It has a photo of the British Prince on the front. 'The country is fifty years old. And the Prince is going to meet the King of Malaysia on August 31st.'



Naylor speaks again: 'You're going to meet two policemen, Lee and Abdullah, in Penang. They're not "friends" of Sergio.'

'OK,' says Munro. 'And what about Sergio? What do you want me to do with him?'

'I want you to give him to Lee and Abdullah,' says Naylor slowly. 'But he must have his gun. And he must be going to kill the Prince. Then the police can put him away for a long time.'