Dominoes
SERIES EDITORS: BILL BOWLER AND SUE PARMINTER

A Pretty Face

JOHN ESCOTT

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STARTER LEVEL  ■  250 HEADWORDS

John Escott has written many books for readers of all ages, and particularly enjoys writing crime and mystery thrillers. He was born in the west of England, but now lives on the South Coast. When he is not writing, he visits second-hand bookshops, watches videos of old Hollywood movies, and takes long walks along empty beaches. He has also written The Wild West and retold William Tell and Other Stories for Dominoes.
1 Zoe is angry

Zoe is seventeen years old. She works in a bookstore, in the little town of Newport. Zoe likes books and she likes her work. But after work she likes to act in plays with the Newport Players.

The Newport Players do six plays every year, and Zoe is in most of them. Some plays are exciting, and some plays are famous. This week, the play is Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare.

‘A lot of people are coming to see it,’ Zoe thinks. ‘I must act well.’

2 Some of the people in this story become friends. Who makes friends with who?
Mike is eighteen years old. He is a student at Newport College and he likes writing. One day he wants to write plays for the theatre and for television.

‘One day I want to be famous,’ he thinks.

Newport has a newspaper. The Newport Weekly News is its name, and Mike’s Aunt Peggy is the editor. One morning, she phones Mike.

‘Do you want to write a review of Romeo and Juliet for the newspaper, Mike?’ she asks him. ‘The Newport Players are doing the play tonight at the Little Theatre.’

‘Yes, please, Aunt Peggy!’ Mike says. ‘Thanks for asking me.’

That evening, he goes to Newport’s Little Theatre to see the play.

Mike goes into the theatre and sits at the front. He gets out his notebook and pen, ready to write notes for his review. There are a lot of people in the audience.

Five minutes later, the play begins.

Zoe acts the part of Juliet’s mother. She knows all her words and speaks them well.

Mike is watching her.

‘She’s very pretty and she’s doing her best,’ he thinks. ‘But it’s not easy to act the part of an older woman. She’s only sixteen or seventeen years old, and we all know it.’

He begins to write in his notebook.
Two hours later, the play ends and the audience leaves the theatre. Mike goes home and writes his review for the newspaper. He doesn’t feel very happy.

‘It was a good play, but what can I say about the girl acting the part of Juliet’s mother?’ he thinks. ‘I want to be kind but I must be honest, too.’

At the bookstore on Friday, Zoe reads Mike’s review of the play in the Newport Weekly News.

Zoe Baker acts the part of Juliet’s mother. She has a pretty face and she speaks her words well. But she is a young girl in an older woman’s costume, and we all know it. She can never make me believe differently.

and Zoe Baker acts the part of Juliet’s mother. She has a pretty face and she speaks her words well. But she is a young girl in an older woman’s costume, and we all know it. She can never make me believe differently.

Zoe is angry. She looks at the name under the review: Mike Morrison.

‘Who is this Mike Morrison?’ she thinks. ‘What does he know about acting?’
READING CHECK
Choose the correct pictures.

1. ... works in a bookstore in Newport.
2. ... is a student at Newport College.
3. ... is the editor of the Newport Weekly News.

WORD WORK
1. These words don’t match the pictures. Correct them.

a. newspaper
b. audience
c. college
d. notebook
e. costume
f. theatre

2. Use words from Chapter 1 to complete the sentences.

a. Aunt Peggy is the editor of the Newport Weekly News.
b. Romeo and Juliet is a ______ by Shakespeare.
c. Agatha Christie is a ______ English writer.
d. Zoe Baker likes to ______ in her free time.
e. Zoe has an important ______ in this week’s play – she is Juliet’s mother.
f. Mike thinks Zoe has a ______ face.
g. Mike must write a ______ of Romeo and Juliet for Aunt Peggy’s newspaper.
h. Do you ______ that Zoe can act well?
i. Do you like my new shoes? Please be ______.

GUESS WHAT
What happens in the next chapter? Tick two boxes.

a. Zoe sees Mike.
b. Zoe talks to Mike.
c. Zoe hits Mike.
d. Zoe talks to a friend about Mike.
2 Zoe has an idea

On Tuesday evening the next week, Zoe and her friend Annie are drinking coffee in the Newport Café. Annie is a student at Newport College and sometimes in the evenings she and Zoe meet at the café.

Suddenly, Zoe sees a boy sitting at a table across the room. ‘Who’s that boy?’ she asks Annie.

Annie laughs. ‘Do you like him? He has a nice face,’ she says. ‘His name’s Mike. I often see him at the college.’

‘Mike?’ Zoe says. ‘Mike who?’

‘Mike Morrison,’ Annie says.

‘That’s Mike Morrison?’ Zoe says. She is furious.

‘Yes, why?’ Annie asks.

‘He writes reviews for the Newport Weekly News,’ Zoe says.

‘That’s right,’ Annie says. ‘His aunt is the editor. He . . . oh!’ She stops suddenly and looks at Zoe. ‘The review of Romeo and Juliet—’

‘Right!’ Zoe says. ‘Do you remember it? “Zoe Baker acts the part of Juliet’s mother. She has a pretty face and she speaks her words well. But she is a young girl in an older woman’s costume, and we all know it.” Nice face or no nice face, I hate him!’
Zoe thinks for a minute or two. 'That’s very interesting,' she says at last.

'Is it?' Annie says. She looks across at Mike Morrison, then at Zoe. 'Why is it interesting? What are you thinking of doing?'

'Tell me, am I a good actress?' Zoe asks.

'Yes, you are,' Annie says. 'But—'

'OK,' Zoe says. 'I’m a good actress and I want to prove it to Mr Mike-Nice-Face-Morrison.'

'How do you want to do that?' Annie asks.

'Zoe smiles and begins to tell Annie about her idea . . .

Annie laughs. 'OK, go and tell him,' she says. 'Go and say, “I hate you, Mike Morrison. You write stupid reviews for the newspaper.” Go on.'

But Zoe isn’t laughing. 'Yes, all right!' she says furiously, and she begins to get up from her chair. Then she stops, suddenly.

'What’s wrong?' Annie asks. 'Are you afraid?'

'No,' Zoe says. 'I have a better idea. Does he come into this café often?'

'Every Tuesday and Thursday evening, I think,' Annie says. 'He has a writing class at the college, and he comes here after it finishes.'
READING CHECK
Put these sentences in the correct order. Number them 1–8.

a Zoe gets very angry.
b Zoe sees a boy across the room.
c Annie remembers the review of Romeo and Juliet.
d Zoe starts to get up to speak to Mike.
e Zoe and Annie meet at the Newport Café.
f In the end Zoe wants to do something and she tells Annie about it.
g Then Zoe sits down again.
h Annie says the boy’s name is Mike Morrison.

WORD WORK
1 Find nine more words from Chapter 2 in the computer.

2 Use the words from Activity 1 to complete these sentences.

a Zoe’s a good .......... and she wants to p .......... it.
b My father loves drinking .......... in the morning, but I h .......... it.
c At my college we have an English .......... every week.
d Zoe doesn’t like Mike Morrison’s review – she thinks it’s a .......... review and she is f .......... with him!
e At the end of the chapter, Zoe has an i ..........; she wants to do something.
f A .......... is a good place to meet friends.

g GUESS WHAT
What happens in the next chapter? Tick one box.

a Someone phones Aunt Peggy.
b Mike meets a famous writer.
c Mike meets an editor.
d Zoe meets a famous actress.
3 A difficult interview

On Thursday, Mike comes to the Newport Café after his writing class.

He asks for a cup of coffee, then starts to read one of his books. Some minutes later, a woman comes into the café. She is carrying a magazine under her arm.

At first, Mike does not see the woman. Then she comes across to his table.

‘Hello,’ she says. ‘Are you Mike Morrison?’

Mike is surprised. ‘Yes,’ he says. ‘That’s me.’

The woman smiles. ‘Can I sit at this table?’ she asks.

‘Yes, of course,’ Mike says.

‘My name is Kate Lawson,’ the woman says. ‘I’m the editor of Yes! magazine. Do you know it?’

She sits down and puts the magazine on the table in front of Mike.

‘Yes, I know it,’ Mike says. ‘It’s a magazine about famous people.’

‘That’s right,’ Kate says. ‘Do you want to write something for it? Can you do an interview for me?’
‘An interview?’ Mike says, surprised. ‘Why are you asking me?’
‘You sometimes write theatre reviews for the Newport weekly newspaper,’ she says. ‘Is that right?’
‘Yes, I do,’ he says. ‘I want to write plays one day, and—’
‘Well, do this interview for my magazine then,’ she says.
‘It’s with a famous playwright. He lives in Newport.’
‘Todd Marin is the only famous playwright in Newport,’ Mike says. ‘He lives quietly and doesn’t go out very often. And he’s famous for not talking to reporters from . . . gossip magazines. He throws them out of his house!’

Kate laughs. ‘Are you afraid?’ she says. ‘Good reporters aren’t afraid to do difficult interviews. You want to write plays, don’t you? Well, perhaps he can tell you something about play-writing.’
Mike thinks. ‘She’s right. Perhaps I can learn something from Todd Marin.’
‘OK!’ he says. ‘When can I do it?’
‘Tomorrow morning,’ Kate says. ‘You must tell Marin, “This interview is for Yes! magazine.” But tell him after you get into the house. OK?’
‘OK,’ Mike says.
READING CHECK

Match the first and second parts of these sentences.

1. a Mike is... into the café.
   b A woman comes... the editor of Yes! magazine.
   c She comes across... drinking a cup of coffee at the Newport Café.
   d First she says... ‘Can you write something for Yes!’?
   e Then she says... ‘yes’.
   f She puts a magazine... to Mike’s table and sits down.
   g She asks Mike... with Todd Marin, the famous playwright.
   h Mike must do an interview... on the table in front of Mike.
   i Mike says... ‘My name is Kate Lawson.’

WORD WORK

1. Find words from Chapter 3 in the coffee cups.
   a carry
   b... sp... f...
   c... pr... g...e... r
   d... g... h... i

2. Use the words from Activity 1 to complete the sentences.
   a Shakespeare is a famous English playwright.
   b Newsweek is a famous American...
   c I’d like to be a... and write for a newspaper.
   d It’s... to be a good writer.
   e Mike must do an... with Todd Marin tomorrow.
   f Mike is... when Kate Lawson says his name.
   g Some magazines have a lot of... about famous people in them.

GUESS WHAT

What happens in the next chapter? Read the sentences and write Yes or No.

a Zoe phones Annie... b Zoe phones Kate... c Mike meets Todd Marin... d Todd throws Mike out...
Later that evening, Zoe is speaking to Annie on the phone.

'T... so I say to him, "I'm the editor of Yes! magazine and can you interview Todd Marin?" Zoe tells Annie.

'Todd Marin!' Annie says. 'But he throws gossip magazine reporters out of his house!'

'I know!' Zoe says, laughing. 'And I want to stand outside his house and watch Todd Marin throw Mike Morrison out!'
Zoe follows Mike to Todd Marin’s house. She is careful and she follows Mike very quietly. Zoe is acting the part of Kate Lawson again. She has a black wig over her hair and she is wearing glasses.

She hides behind one of the bushes in front of Todd Marin’s house and watches Mike go to the front door. It is a big, dark house.

‘This is funny,’ she thinks, smiling.

When Todd Marin opens the door of his house, Mike begins to talk quickly.

‘Hello, Mr Marin,’ he says. ‘I’m Mike Morrison. I’m a student at Newport College, and I want to write plays.’

‘Do you?’ Todd Marin says.

‘And I write reviews in the Newport Weekly News,’ Mike tells him.

‘What do you want from me?’ Todd Marin asks.

‘Can I ask you some questions?’ Mike says.

‘Why?’ Marin asks. ‘Is it for the Newport Weekly News?’

‘That’s a difficult question. What do I do now?’ Mike thinks. ‘Do I tell him a lie, or do I tell him the truth?’ Then, after a second or two, he says, ‘It . . . it’s for Yes! magazine. Listen, I know it’s a stupid magazine, but . . .’

‘Come into the house,’ Todd Marin says suddenly.
READING CHECK

Correct six more mistakes in the story.

Zoe speaks to Mike on the phone that evening. She tells her friend about Kate Lawson and she cries. The next morning, Mike goes to Todd Marin’s office. Mike likes Yes! magazine, but the interview with Todd Marin is important; he knows that. Zoe watches Mike go to the front door. She is acting the part of Juliet’s mother. Mike and Todd talk at the front door. Mike says, “I’m writing for the Newport Weekly News.” Todd says to Mike, “Go away!”

WORD WORK

Complete the sentences with words from Chapter 4.

a. It’s a bad idea to tell a lie.

b. Zoe hides behind a tree.

c. My grandmother has white hair; she’s wearing a hat.

d. I like this play. It’s

e. When you can’t remember things, it’s good to write a

f. My dogs walk me to school every day.

g. I can look for me, and you can look for me.

GUESS WHAT

What happens in the next chapter? Tick the boxes.

Todd Marin
1. throws Mike out of his house.
2. talks to Mike in his study.
3. gives Mike a play to read.

Todd Marin says yes
1. to an interview for Yes! magazine.
2. to an interview for the Newport Weekly News.
3. to reading Mike’s play.

Zoe waits
1. for more than an hour.
2. in her car.
3. in Todd Marin’s house.

Todd Marin and Mike talk about
1. Todd’s plays.
2. Mike’s play.
3. gossip magazines.
Zoe waits

Zoe is watching Mike and Todd Marin from behind a bush. She can see them but she cannot hear them speaking. She sees Todd Marin open the door, and she sees Mike follow him into the house.

Zoe smiles. ‘Right. He’s in the house,’ she thinks. ‘Now let’s wait for Todd Marin to throw him out!’

Todd Marin takes Mike to his study. There are hundreds of books in the room, and a big desk. Todd goes and sits behind the desk.

‘Thank you for telling me the truth,’ he says to Mike. ‘I can see you’re an honest young man. You can ask your questions. But not for Yes! magazine. You’re right. It is a stupid magazine. I hate gossip magazines. Why do people write for them?’

‘Because they pay a lot of money, I believe,’ Mike says.

Todd Marin laughs. ‘Yes, you’re right again,’ he says. ‘But you can write about me for the Newport Weekly News. Is that OK?’

‘Yes, that’s OK,’ Mike says, and he smiles at Todd Marin happily.

‘I like to help young writers with ideas when I can,’ Todd says kindly. ‘Sit down.’

Mike sits down, puts his notebook on Todd’s desk, and opens it.

‘I read your reviews in the newspaper sometimes,’ Todd says. ‘They’re very good.’

‘Well, I think they’re OK,’ Mike says. ‘But I want to write for the theatre, for TV, and for movies. I’m writing a play now.’

‘Are you? Tell me about it,’ Todd says.

‘Can I?’ Mike asks. ‘Well, it’s about a boy and a girl.’

‘A boy and a girl?’

‘That’s right. They . . .’

Todd Marin sits back in his chair to listen and Mike tells him the plot of his play. Mike is very nervous, but Todd Marin does not speak. He smiles at Mike and he listens to him very carefully.
Zoe stays behind the bush and waits. An hour goes by and nothing happens. She is getting **impatient**.

‘What are they doing in there?’ she thinks. ‘Todd Marin never gives interviews to gossip magazines, so what are they talking about?’

She remembers Mike Morrison’s review of *Romeo and Juliet* in the newspaper. She remembers his words about her acting – and she wants to see his face when Todd Marin throws him out of the house.

‘How long must I wait?’ she thinks impatiently.

When at last Mike stops speaking, Todd says, ‘Thank you. That’s very interesting. It’s a good story, and it’s funny too. But there are one or two things you can do to make it better. To begin with . . .’
READING CHECK
1 Correct the mistakes.
   a Zoe watches Mike and Todd Marin from behind a car.
   b Todd Marin takes Mike to the café.
   c Todd Marin likes gossip magazines.
   d Todd Marin likes to help old writers.
   e Mike photographs Todd Marin for the Newport Weekly News.
   f Todd Marin asks Mike about his friends.
   g Zoe waits in front of Todd Marin’s study for more than an hour.
   h Zoe remembers Mike’s review of Antony and Cleopatra.

2 Are these sentences true or false? Tick the boxes.
   a Zoe can hear Mike and Todd Marin talking. ☑
   b Todd Marin likes Mike because he is honest. ☐
   c Mike is going to write about Todd Marin for Yes! magazine. ☐
   d Mike is writing a play about a boy and a girl. ☐
   e Todd Marin throws Mike out of the house. ☑

WORD WORK
Use the words from the front door to complete the sentences.
   a I’m not happy about speaking in front of lots of people. I’m usually very nervous.
   b This is my study. I do all my writing in this room.
   c He has a big desk with a computer on it.
   d This book has a very interesting plot. It’s about a man going back in time.
   e People sometimes get impatient when they are waiting for the bus.
   f ‘You don’t have any money! That’s OK. I can pay for our coffees.’
   g Mike is writing a play, but he wants to write for TV and movies too.

GUESS WHAT
What happens in the next chapter? Tick three boxes.
   a Zoe is tired of waiting and she goes home.
   b Mike leaves Todd Marin’s house with a smile on his face.
   c Kate Lawson is angry with Mike.
   d Mike writes a play for the Newport Players to perform.
   e Mike and Zoe make friends.
   f Annie tells Mike the truth about Kate Lawson.
6 Telling the truth

After an hour and a half, Mike Morrison leaves Todd Marin’s study and comes out of the house. He and the playwright are smiling, and Mike is saying ‘Thank you.’

They talk for two or three minutes and Zoe watches them from behind the bush. She is amazed.

‘What’s happening?’ she thinks. ‘Why are they so friendly?’

After a minute or two more, they shake hands. Then Todd Marin goes back into the house and Mike Morrison walks away.

Mike sees Kate Lawson waiting for him.

‘Oh, hello,’ he says nervously. He is surprised to see her so soon. ‘Are you waiting for me?’

‘Yes,’ she says impatiently. ‘I’m waiting for your interview.’

‘Look, I can’t lie to you,’ he replies. ‘There’s no interview for Yes! magazine. Mr Marin always refuses to talk to reporters from gossip magazines.’

‘But what—?’ Kate begins.

‘What can two people talk about for an hour and a half?’ Mike says, laughing. ‘About writing, about characters and about plot. Nothing for Yes! magazine, I’m afraid.'
Oh, I have my list of questions and Mr Marin's answers, but my interview is for the Newport Weekly News. And I know a lot more about writing plays now. He's very interested in my play.'

'Your play?' Kate says furiously.

'Yes, I'm writing a play for TV,' Mike says. 'And Mr Marin wants to read it. He can help me with the characters and the plot.'

'Well, that's nice,' she says. 'Say hello to Mike Morrison, the famous playwright! He writes stupid reviews for the Newport Weekly News but his plays are OK.'

'You're angry,' Mike says. 'Listen, I'm sorry about the interview for Yes!' Kate laughs. 'No, it's OK,' she says. 'I'm not angry.' And then she does something very strange.

She takes off her hair.
'She's wearing a wig!' Mike thinks, amazed.

Next, she takes off her glasses and she smiles at Mike. And now he knows her.

He begins to laugh. 'You're not Kate Lawson!' he says. 'You're—'
‘That’s right,’ Zoe says. ‘I’m a seventeen-year-old girl in an older woman’s costume, Mr Mike Morrison, review writer for the Newport Weekly News!’

Mike’s face is very red now. He feels embarrassed. ‘What a trick! So there is no Kate Lawson, editor of Yes! magazine,’ he says.

‘No, there isn’t,’ Zoe says, laughing. ‘What do you think now? Does this prove something? Am I a good actress?’

‘Yes, you are a good actress,’ Mike says, laughing with her. ‘And I’m going to put that in the Newport Weekly News.’

‘Are you?’ Zoe says.

‘Yes, and thanks for making me go and see Todd Marin,’ Mike tells her. He doesn’t feel embarrassed any more.

‘Now I can get help with my play,’ he says. ‘Come on, let’s get a cup of coffee. And I’m paying!’

‘Well, I can’t refuse a free coffee!’ Zoe says, and she laughs.
**READING CHECK**

Write sentences about Chapter 6.

a. After an hour and a half, Mike leaves Todd Marin's house.

b. Mike and Todd Marin are

c. Mike sees Kate waiting in front of Todd Marin's

d. Mike tells her about Marin helping him with his

e. Takes off her and

f. Mike is now talking to — not

g. In the end Mike and Zoe are friends and they go for a

**WORD WORK**

Use the words in the glasses to complete the sentences.

a. Romeo is an important character in Shakespeare's play *Romeo and Juliet*.

b. You don't need to pay for this ticket. It's

c. Zoe puts on a wig and glasses to play a character on Mike Morrison.

d. Mike is embarrassed when Kate takes off her hair and he sees it's a wig.

e. Todd Marin refuses to give interviews for gossip magazines.

f. Mike is amazed and his face is red when he thinks about his review of *Romeo and Juliet*.

**GUESSED WHAT**

What happens after the story ends? Choose from these ideas or add your own.

a. Todd Marin helps Mike with his play.

b. Mike writes a play for Zoe.

c. Mike visits Zoe in her bookstore every day.

d. Aunt Peggy meets Todd Marin and likes him a lot.

e. Annie and Zoe stop being friends.

f. Mike is talking to

g. In the end Mike and Zoe are friends and they go for a
1. Correct the underlined words in this newspaper report.

Zoe Baker works in a supermarket in Newport. She acts in plays with the Newport Players too. This week she acts the part of Romeo's mother in Romeo and Juliet at the Big Theatre, Newport. She says, 'I like acting in plays, and I like acting younger characters. I'm only seven years old.'

2. Put these words in order to write more of the report.

a. Zoe Baker puts on a wig and glasses.

b. She's under her arm carrying.

c. She's the editor.

d. My name's.

e. 'Can you do an interview?' asks Mike Morrison.

3. Put these sentences in order to finish the report. Number them 1-7.

a. She watches Mike and Todd Marin from behind a bush.

b. The next morning Mike Morrison goes to Todd Marin's house.

c. Mike comes out of Todd Marin's house and he sees Kate Lawson.

d. Mike remembers his review of Romeo and Juliet and he feels embarrassed.

e. Zoe acts the part of Kate Lawson and follows Mike.

f. Zoe takes off her wig and glasses.

g. Now Mike Morrison says, 'You're a good actress, Zoe Baker!'
2. Use Mike’s words to complete this scene from Chapter 4.

At Todd Marin’s House

Mike is standing in front of the house. Todd Marin opens the door.

MIKE (excitedly) (a)

TODD (interested) Do you?

MIKE (b)

TODD What do you want from me?

MIKE (nervously) (c)

TODD Why? Is it for the Newport Weekly News?

MIKE (after a second or two) (d)

Todd Marin looks furiously at Mike and begins to close the door.

MIKE (quickly) (e)

Todd Marin opens the door again.

TODD (suddenly) Come into the house.

3. Act out the scenes on page 42 and 45 before you look at page 44.
Look at four more scenes from the story. Write one scene and act it out.

**Scene 1**
In the newspaper office

**Scene 2**
On the phone

**Scene 5**
In Todd Marin's study

**Scene 6**
In Newport Café
A Pretty Face

Zoe Baker works in a bookstore. She also likes acting, and she has a part in the play Romeo and Juliet. Mike Morrison writes about the play for the newspaper. What does he write about Zoe? Is Zoe a good actress . . . or is she just ‘a pretty face’?

What does Zoe think when she reads the newspaper? What does she do?

Illustrated by Kanako Damerum and Yuzuru Takasaki

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