

Officially Dead

The story step by step

1 Listen to Chapters 1 and 2 on your CD/download and decide if these sentences are true or false. Can you correct the false ones?

1 Colin Fenton was in an eastern suburb of London.

2 He went to close the window, then started to think about food and went for a walk.

3 Colin ate in a restaurant near a pub.

4 The other man thought they might actually be twin brothers.

5 Colin thought Linda Bentley was nice-looking.

6 John was angry with his wife for trying to seduce Colin.

7 John doesn't want to get involved in theft again.

8 Julie often worked at solving technical trouble; Colin didn't.

9 Mr Booker was at work but felt ill.

10 Colin and Julie's company had made losses the previous year.

11 Colin has savings at the bank.

12 Linda had found Colin's company's address on the internet.

13 Colin tore up the letter from Linda and threw it away.

Listen again to check.

2 Listen to Chapter 3 on your CD/download and complete the table with information about Linda Bentley. Include as many details as possible.

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Age | |
| Place of birth | |
| Appearance | |
| Job | |
| Family details | |
| Life before marriage | |
| Life after marriage | |
| Character | |

Listen again to check your answers.

3 Listen to Chapter 4 on your CD/download. Write down eleven more examples of the past continuous tense. Then decide which character in the story goes with each verb. Listen again to check.

Example

She was hurrying

Linda

| | | |
|----|-------|-------|
| 1 | _____ | _____ |
| 2 | _____ | _____ |
| 3 | _____ | _____ |
| 4 | _____ | _____ |
| 5 | _____ | _____ |
| 6 | _____ | _____ |
| 7 | _____ | _____ |
| 8 | _____ | _____ |
| 9 | _____ | _____ |
| 10 | _____ | _____ |
| 11 | _____ | _____ |

4 Listen to Chapters 5-7 on your CD/download and match the people to the actions.**A**

Julie Fenton

John Bentley

Linda Bentley

A policeman

A policewoman

Mark Ashwood

Maggie

The lorry driver

Colin Fenton

wondered why Colin hadn't phoned.

told Linda that her husband had died.

was dressed in black.

made tea.

ate some bread and cheese.

became extremely angry.

asked Julie if this was the first time Colin had not come home.

B

liked relaxing to classical music.

had a mobile phone.

said that a breakdown truck was on its way.

gave Mark his/her phone number.

spoke through a window.

took someone by the arm.

thought Colin might have children.

left his headlights full on.

said he/she normally booked Colin's hotel rooms.

- 5 Complete the sentences below using the words and phrases in the box, then put the sentences in order. Listen to Chapters 8 and 9 on your CD/download to check your answers.

ashes cancelled cremated crematorium crushed failure get rid of
identity make arrangements officially dead picked puzzled scattered
sympathize wasted

- 1 'Where are you going?' John did not want to be alone again.
'I'm going to _____ Fenton's car.'
- 2 She _____ one at random and put it into the machine. A blues song started to play.
- 3 I've already _____ the lease on this house.
- 4 Now that you're _____, your alibi is even better than before, isn't it?
- 5 She'd _____ two months' development work on that project.
- 6 The funeral took place at a _____ near Brentwood.
- 7 It had been _____ by the steering wheel in the accident.
- 8 Julie looked _____. 'He must have told you about our conversation,' Booker said.
- 9 Linda had asked for the _____ to be _____ in the garden...
- 10 He had no _____ now and he was a prisoner in his own home.
- 11 She had gone to identify the body of her 'husband' and then to _____ for his funeral.
- 12 Colin had run away from his business problems because he couldn't accept _____.
- 13 People had obviously been phoning to talk to Linda about John's accident and to _____ with her.
- 14 On the day that her husband was _____ near Brentwood as 'John Bentley', Julie went to work early.

- 6 This is an entry from Mark Ashwood's diary. There are 20 mistakes. Listen to Chapters 10 and 11 on your CD/download, and find and correct them.

Monday

Had quite a good weekend. Finished my report last Friday – research wasn't very interesting, though. I'd been very busy for three weeks since that accident, so it was good to get away to Wales and go climbing. Love it. Needs calmness and strength.

Monday was strange though. Finished work at lunchtime – seeing client again in 10 days' – then went to Brentwood. Didn't phone beforehand, didn't know what to say over the phone. Found the house, saw lights on and went to the door. Knocked, and the lights went off! I'm sure I heard sounds, but no one answered, so decided to go for a drink somewhere and try again later. Went back about 9 pm and met her outside her house. She didn't look surprised to see me, even though she didn't know me. I told her I had a message for her from her husband. We went inside. Then – weird! – someone shouted 'Linda? You home?' And I saw a man in the hall, but he disappeared into a back room. The woman said he was a friend. Strange. He called her Linda, not Julie! Anyway, we had tea and she told me she'd been happily married and her husband must've been confused about the name. I left.

At home, had a shower and went to bed. Woke up in the middle of the night, thinking about the mystery – and it IS a mystery. Something isn't right. Imagine, on Wednesday morning, I picked up the paper and saw an ad with a photo of the guy in the accident and the name and phone number of his wife, who's looking for him. A different wife! And a different name for the guy! This wife is called Julie...

So I called her and asked to meet. She thought her husband had left the country. I insisted and we arranged to meet at ten the next morning. She'd just finished breakfast when I arrived, and she gave me coffee. The place was a mess! I told her about the accident, but she didn't understand why the press hadn't said anything. I told her about the name confusion, and said the victim'd been carrying Bentley's passport. She told me her husband's BMW was OK and at Heathrow. But he was driving a blue Escort! Even weirder. I said I'd been to see Linda Bentley 3 days before, but she didn't believe my story. She asked me to leave. I had some business cards in my pocket, so I left one on the table. I really hope she calls me – I hope we can solve this awful mystery.

7 Listen to Chapter 12 on your CD/download. You will hear these words. What do you think each item is used for?

a sports bag

a coat

a car jack

a pair of rubber gloves

some adhesive tape

some keys

a large empty box

a piece of plastic explosive

The man also put another two items in his pockets. Which one did he use and what for?

Now listen to Chapter 12 and check.

8 These sentences are from Chapters 13 and 14. Try to complete them with *who*, *which*, *that* or *—*. Then listen to the chapters on your CD/ download to check your answers.

- 1 She began by picking up the newspapers and magazines _____ lay all over the house.
- 2 It was then _____ she saw something _____ gave her a bad shock.
- 3 What if Colin *had* been involved with this John Bentley – the man _____ Mark Ashwood had talked about?
- 4 She found it in the kitchen, among some letters _____ were lying on top of the fridge.
- 5 Mark looked at the sad woman _____ was sitting next to him.
- 6 She's the only person _____ can give me the answers _____ I need before I can start my new life.
- 7 All her other clothes, and everything else _____ she did not want to take with her, were in plastic bags...
- 9 She didn't notice the blue car _____ had parked on the other side of the street a few seconds earlier.
- 10 She was beginning to worry about the blue Volvo _____ was always behind her.

- 9 Mark has a good idea, which will help solve the company's problems. Listen to the first part of Chapter 15 on your CD/download. What is Mark's business plan? Try to write it down in as much detail as possible.

- 10 In what other ways has Mark brought about changes in Julie's life? Listen to the rest of Chapter 15 and write down another four ways.

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____
