

Founding Editor: John Milne

The Macmillan Readers provide a choice of enjoyable reading materials for learners of English. The series is published at six levels – Starter, Beginner, Elementary, Pre-intermediate, Intermediate and Upper.

Level control

Information, structure and vocabulary are controlled to suit the students' ability at each level.

The number of words at each level:

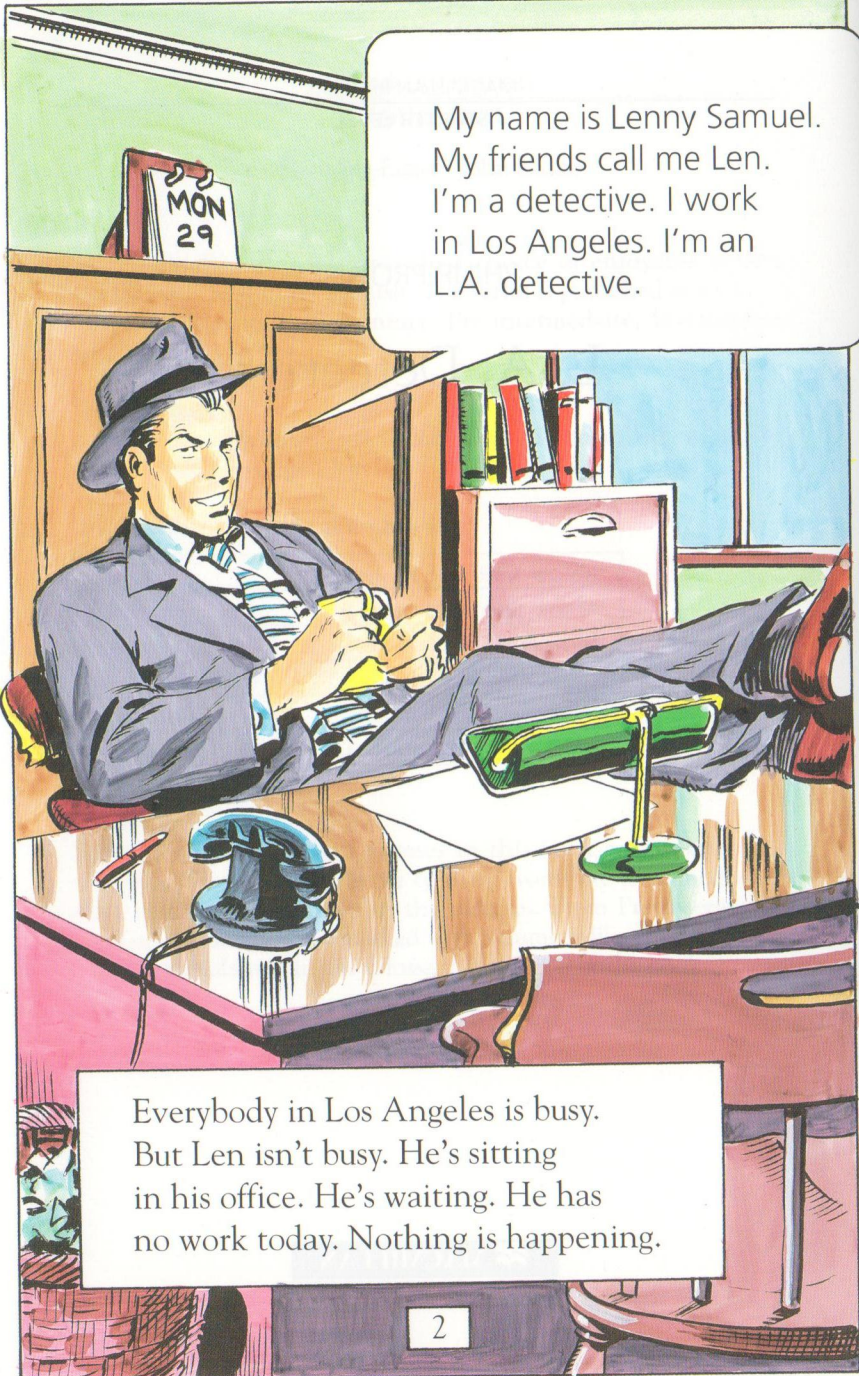
Starter	about 300 basic words
Beginner	about 600 basic words
Elementary	about 1100 basic words
Pre-intermediate	about 1400 basic words
Intermediate	about 1600 basic words
Upper	about 2200 basic words

Vocabulary

Some difficult words and phrases in this book are important for understanding the story. Some of these words are explained in the story and some are shown in the pictures. From Pre-intermediate level upwards, words are marked with a number like this: ...³. These words are explained in the Glossary at the end of the book.

PHILIP PROWSE


L. A. Detective

A man in a grey suit and hat is sitting at a desk in an office. He is holding a yellow mug. On the desk, there is a rotary phone, a green lamp, and some papers. In the background, there is a bookshelf with books and a calendar showing 'MON 29'.

My name is Lenny Samuel.
My friends call me Len.
I'm a detective. I work
in Los Angeles. I'm an
L.A. detective.

Everybody in Los Angeles is busy.
But Len isn't busy. He's sitting
in his office. He's waiting. He has
no work today. Nothing is happening.

2

A man in a tan suit and hat is entering an office. He is holding a handgun. He is looking towards the man in the grey suit. The man in the grey suit is sitting at a desk, looking at the man in the tan suit. The man in the tan suit is pointing the gun at the man in the grey suit.

Then a man comes into the office.
Len doesn't know him. The man
is short and dark. He's about
forty years old. He's wearing a suit.

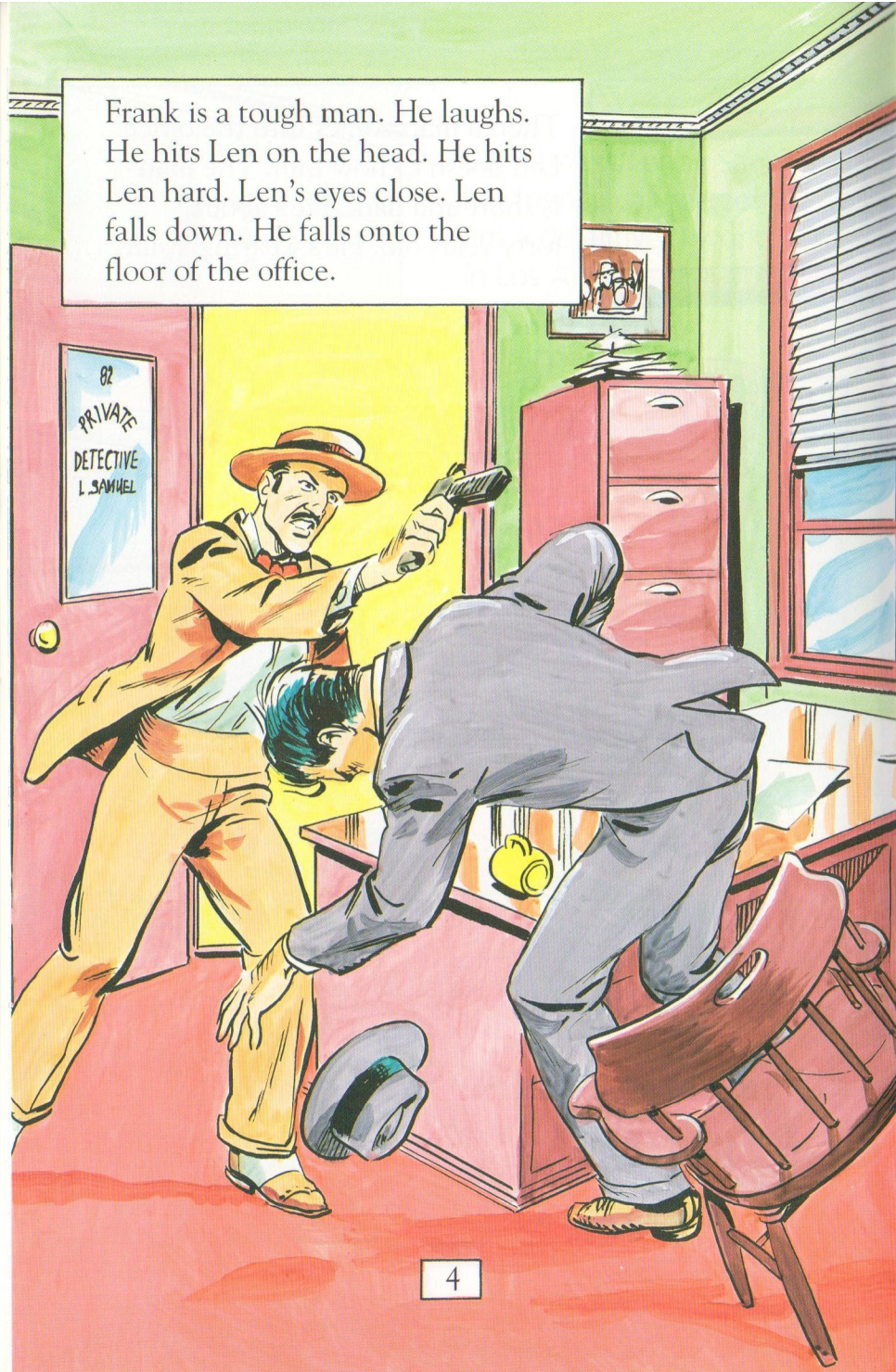
The man is holding a gun.
The gun is pointing at Len.

I'm Frank. Come with me.
Mr Blane wants to speak
to you.

I won't go with you, Frank.
I don't like Mr Blane.
I don't want to speak to him.

3

Frank is a tough man. He laughs. He hits Len on the head. He hits Len hard. Len's eyes close. Len falls down. He falls onto the floor of the office.

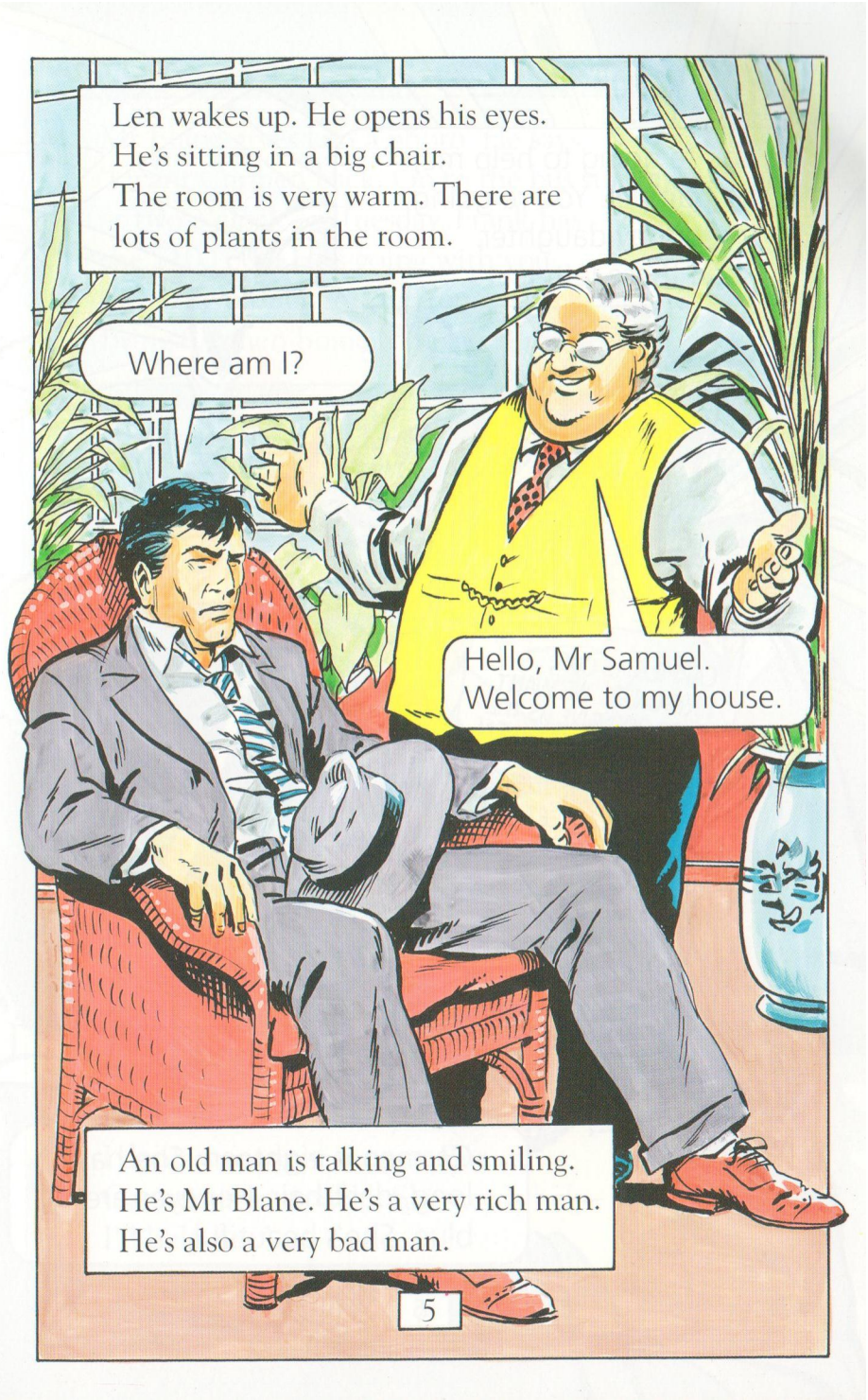


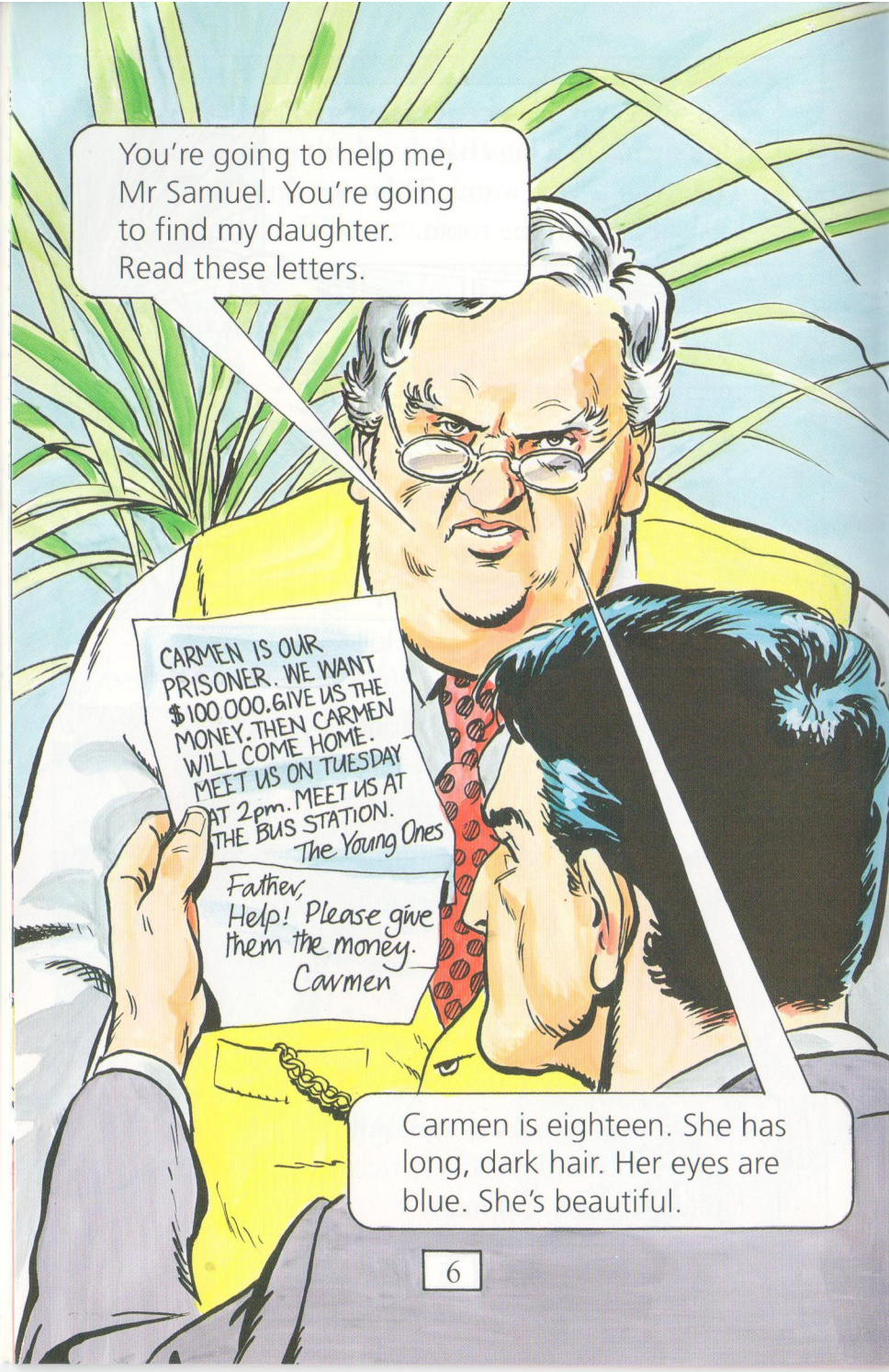
Len wakes up. He opens his eyes. He's sitting in a big chair. The room is very warm. There are lots of plants in the room.

Where am I?

Hello, Mr Samuel. Welcome to my house.

An old man is talking and smiling. He's Mr Blane. He's a very rich man. He's also a very bad man.



A close-up illustration of Mr. Blane, an older man with glasses and a yellow jacket, speaking to Len. Len is seen from the back, looking at a letter. The background shows green foliage.

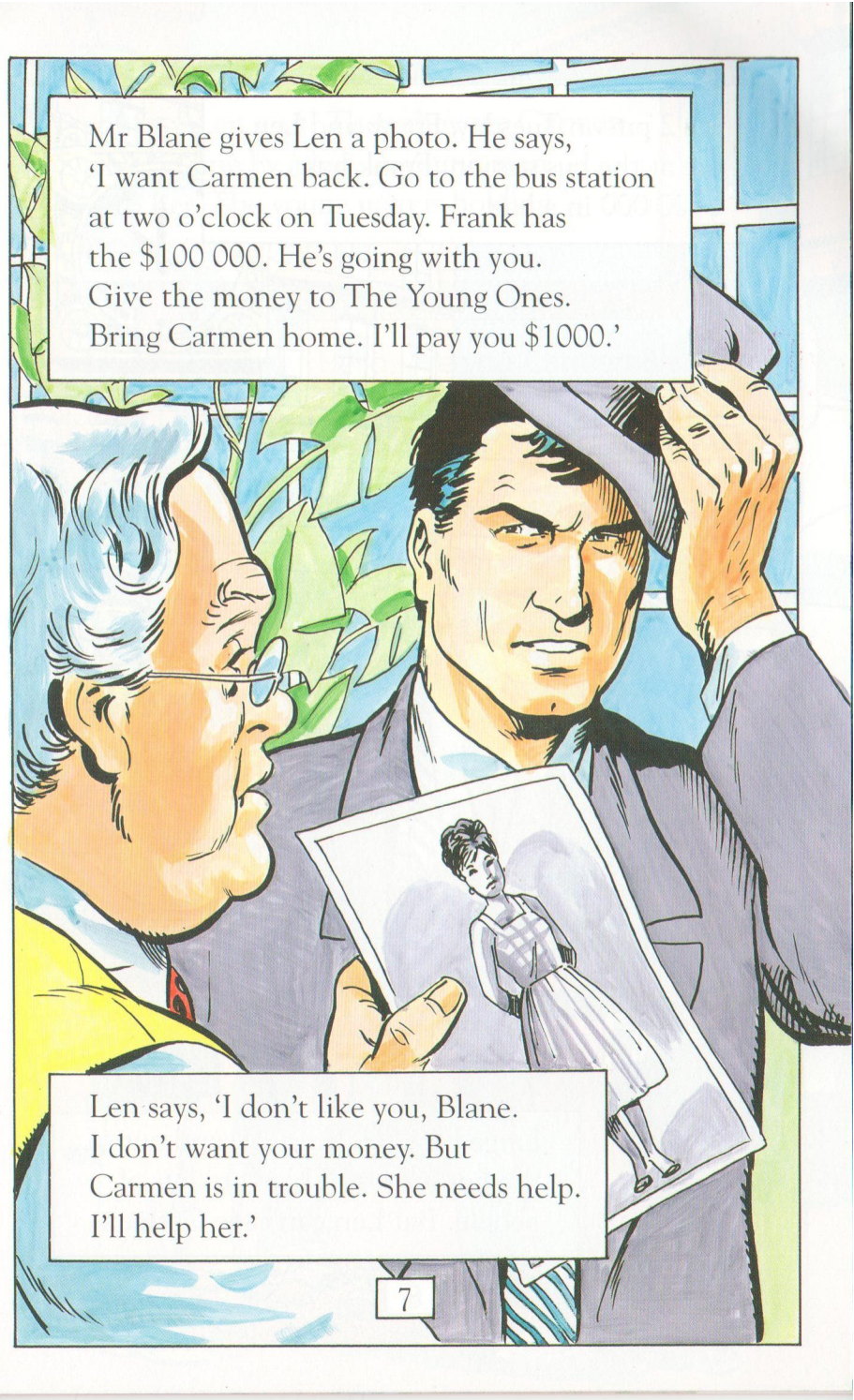
You're going to help me, Mr Samuel. You're going to find my daughter. Read these letters.

CARMEN IS OUR PRISONER. WE WANT \$100 000. GIVE US THE MONEY. THEN CARMEN WILL COME HOME. MEET US ON TUESDAY AT 2pm. MEET US AT THE BUS STATION.
The Young Ones

Father,
Help! Please give them the money.
Carmen

Carmen is eighteen. She has long, dark hair. Her eyes are blue. She's beautiful.

6

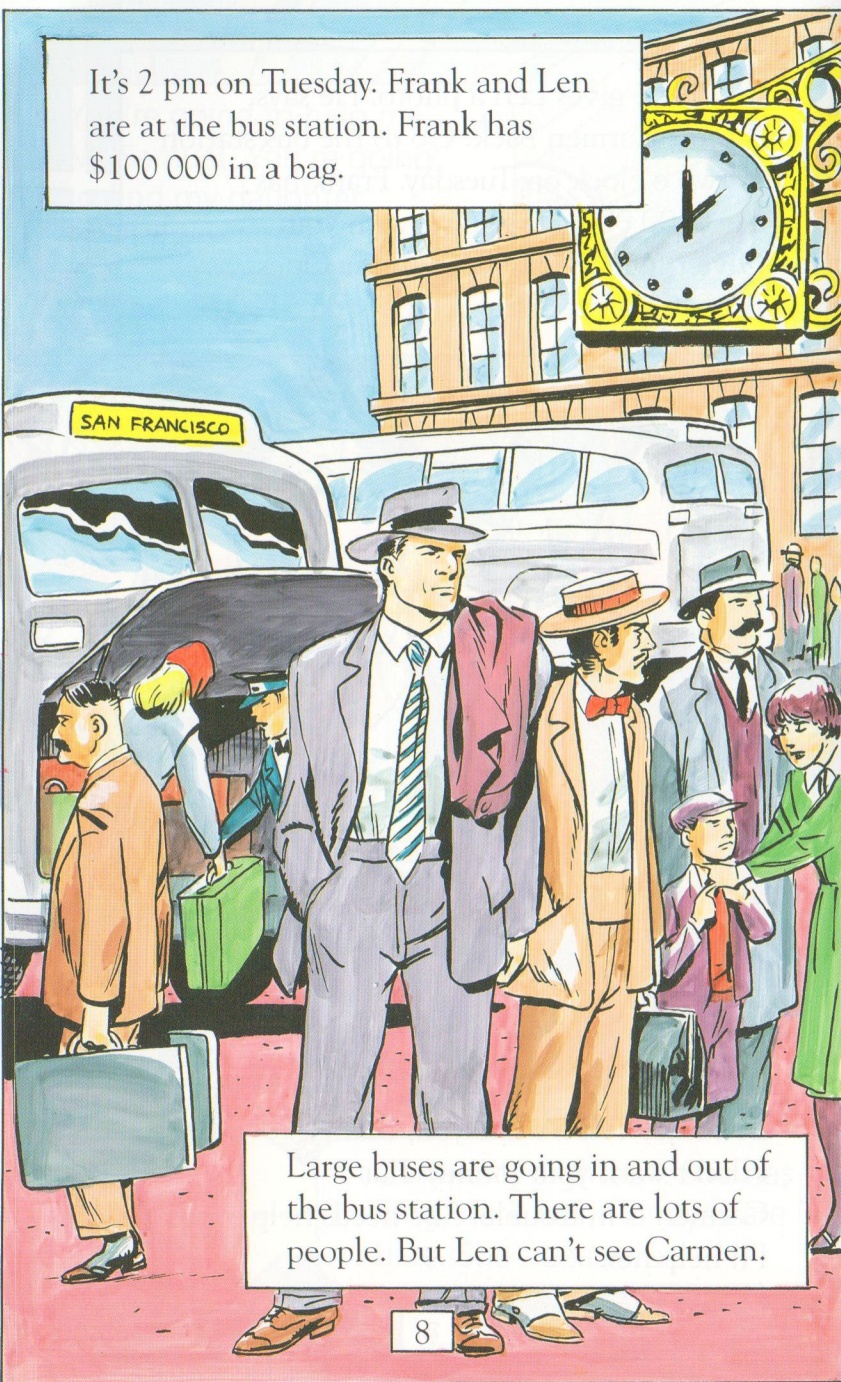
Mr. Blane is shown in profile, holding a photograph of a young woman (Carmen) and showing it to Len. Len is adjusting his hat. The background is a window with green plants.

Mr Blane gives Len a photo. He says, 'I want Carmen back. Go to the bus station at two o'clock on Tuesday. Frank has the \$100 000. He's going with you. Give the money to The Young Ones. Bring Carmen home. I'll pay you \$1000.'

Len says, 'I don't like you, Blane. I don't want your money. But Carmen is in trouble. She needs help. I'll help her.'

7

It's 2 pm on Tuesday. Frank and Len are at the bus station. Frank has \$100 000 in a bag.



Large buses are going in and out of the bus station. There are lots of people. But Len can't see Carmen.

8

Frank and Len wait. Then they see Carmen. She's standing by a bus. A young man is with her. The young man is holding Carmen's arm.

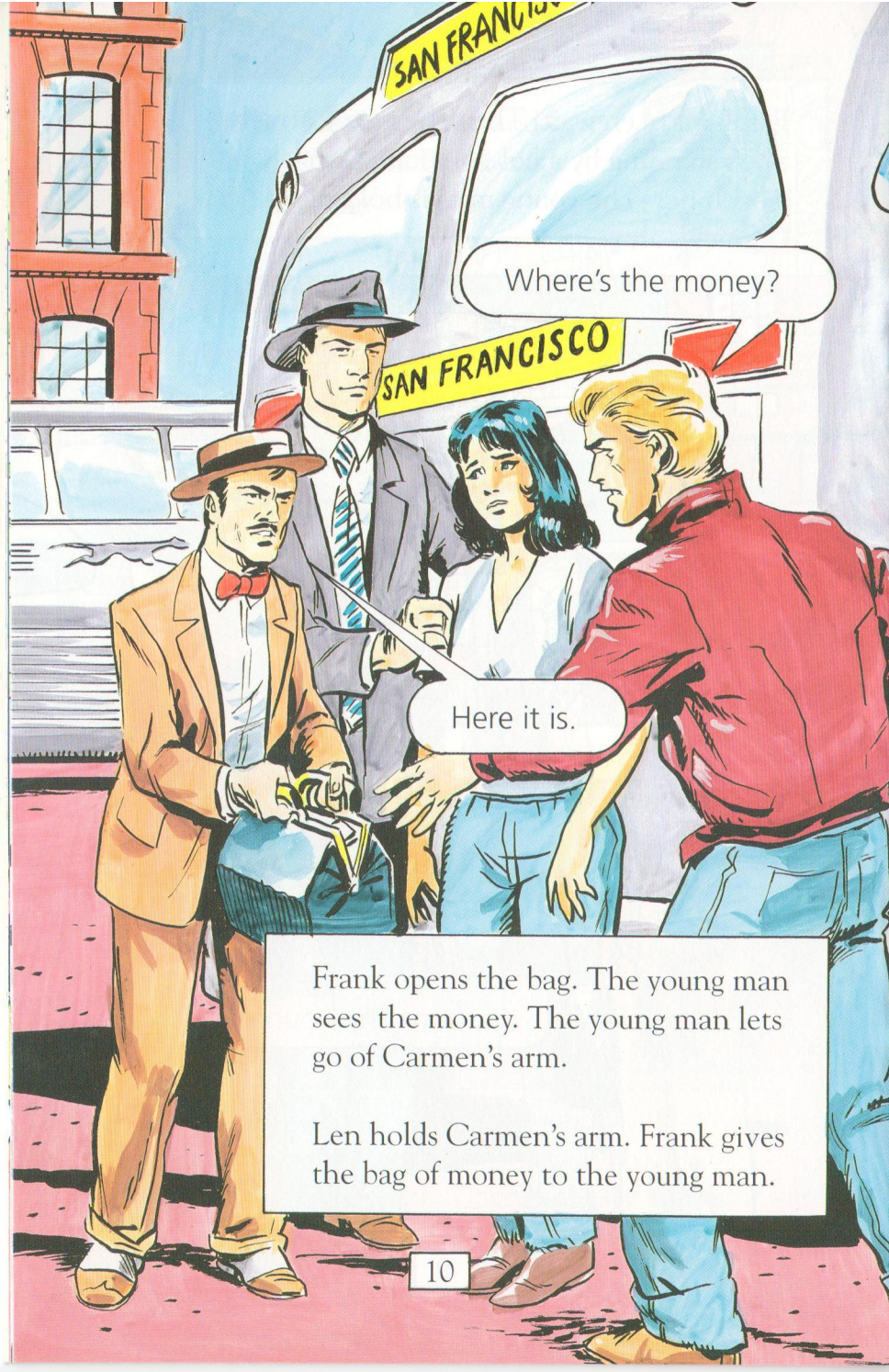


Hello. Are you Carmen Blane?
I'm working for your father.

Who are you?

I'm from The Young Ones.

9



Where's the money?

Here it is.

Frank opens the bag. The young man sees the money. The young man lets go of Carmen's arm.

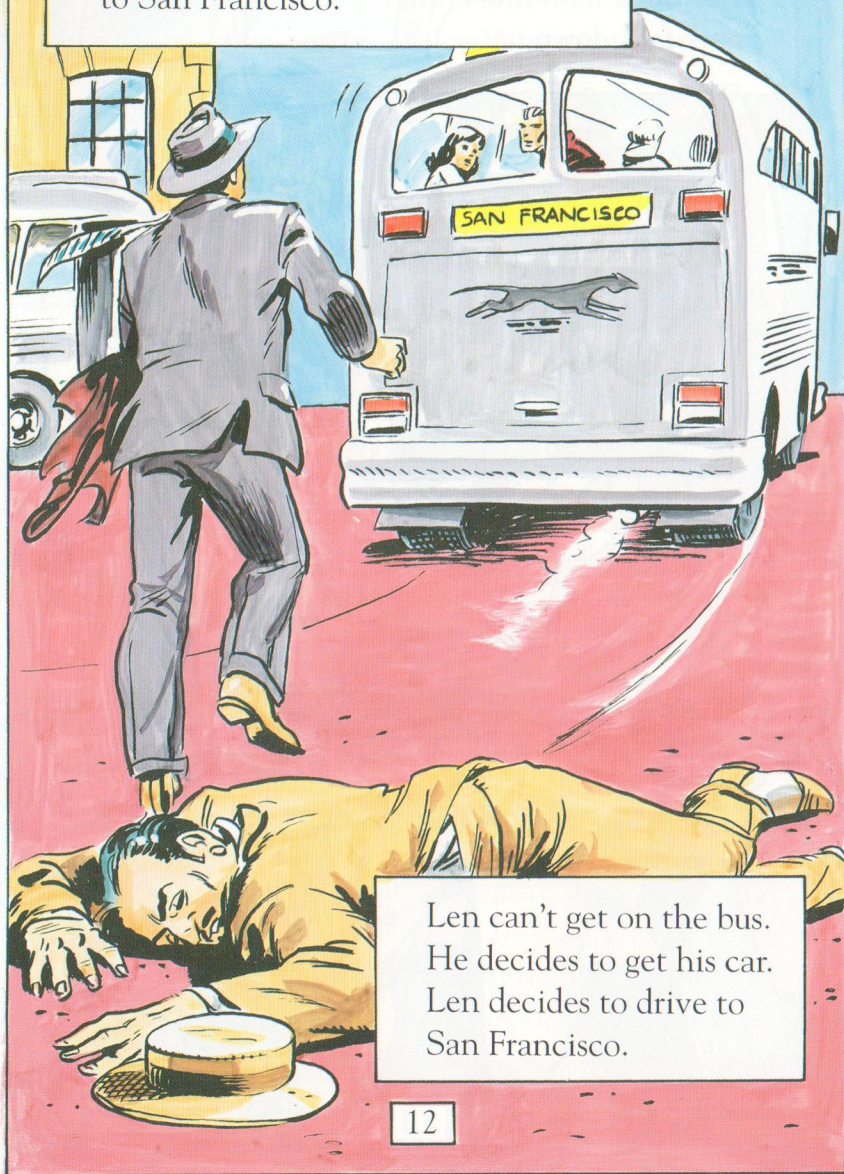
Len holds Carmen's arm. Frank gives the bag of money to the young man.



Suddenly, Carmen bites Len's hand. Len lets go of Carmen's arm.

The young man hits Frank. Frank falls down.

Carmen and the young man jump onto the bus. The door of the bus closes. The bus drives off. It's going to San Francisco.



Len can't get on the bus. He decides to get his car. Len decides to drive to San Francisco.

Len is in his car. He's driving to San Francisco. He's going to find Carmen.



Why is Carmen going to San Francisco? Who is the young man?

It's Thursday. Len is in San Francisco. San Francisco is a big city. Len can't find Carmen.

Suddenly, Len sees a sign on a building.

The sign says: The Young Ones. The building is a school for poor children. Carmen is playing with the children.

Len stops his car. He goes to speak to Carmen.

THE
YOUNG ONES

SCHOOL

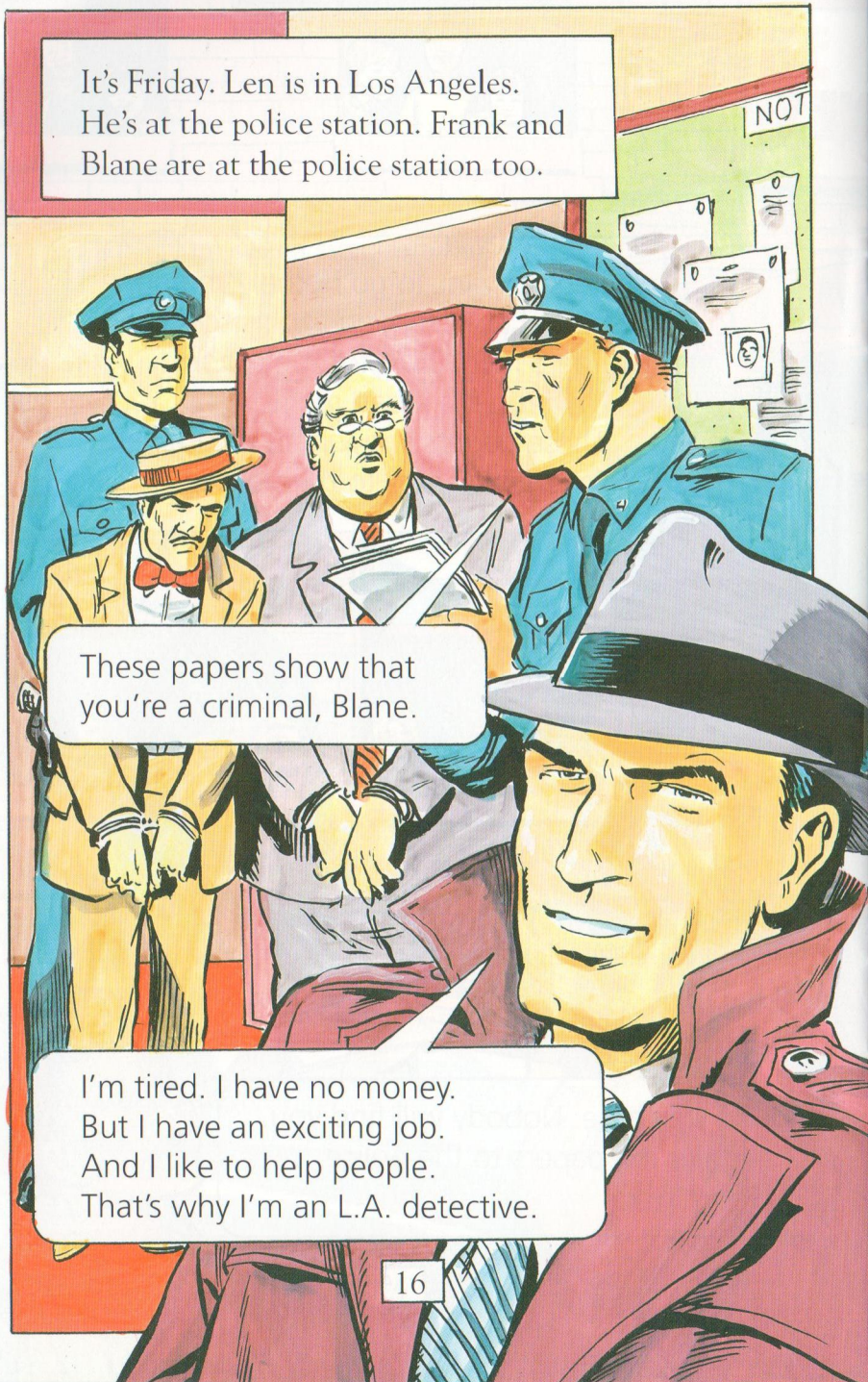
I don't want to go home. I'm happy here. I like working at this school. The \$100 000 is for the school. My father is a bad man. These papers show he is a criminal. Take the papers to the police.

You stay here. Nobody will find you. I'll take the papers to the police. Good luck.

It's Friday. Len is in Los Angeles.
He's at the police station. Frank and
Blane are at the police station too.

These papers show that
you're a criminal, Blane.

I'm tired. I have no money.
But I have an exciting job.
And I like to help people.
That's why I'm an L.A. detective.



L. A. Detective
Philip Prowse

Alissa
C. J. Moore

Blue Fins
Sarah Axten

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