



Kate Grant is fifteen and comes from Canada. She is visiting the Netherlands with her mother and father. On June 8th, the Grants are at a museum in The Hague. “This is very good,” Mr. Grant says. He is looking at a picture of an old man.

“Yes,” Mrs. Grant says. “What do you think, Kate?”

“It’s OK,” Kate says. She looks at her watch. It is 4.45.



Two minutes later she sees a picture of a young girl with an ear-ring. Kate smiles. She loves ear-rings. She looks at the girl's face.

"Who are you?" she thinks. "What are you looking at?"

"That's a very famous picture," Mrs. Grant says.

A sign next to it says, "Girl with a Pearl Ear-ring."

"It's beautiful," Kate says.



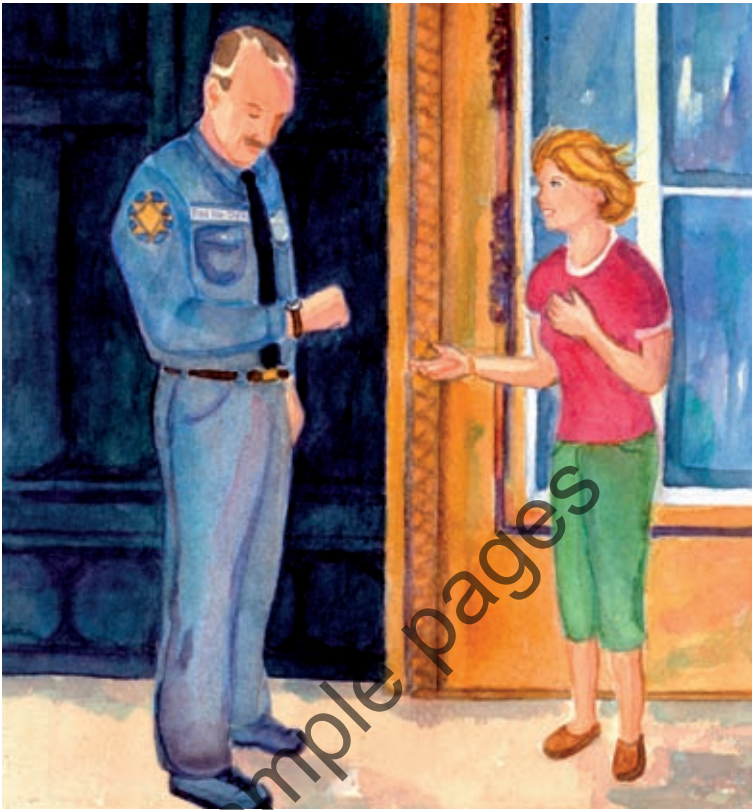
At 4.58 the Grants are drinking coffee near the museum.

“Julia, do you have the guide book?” Mr. Grant asks.

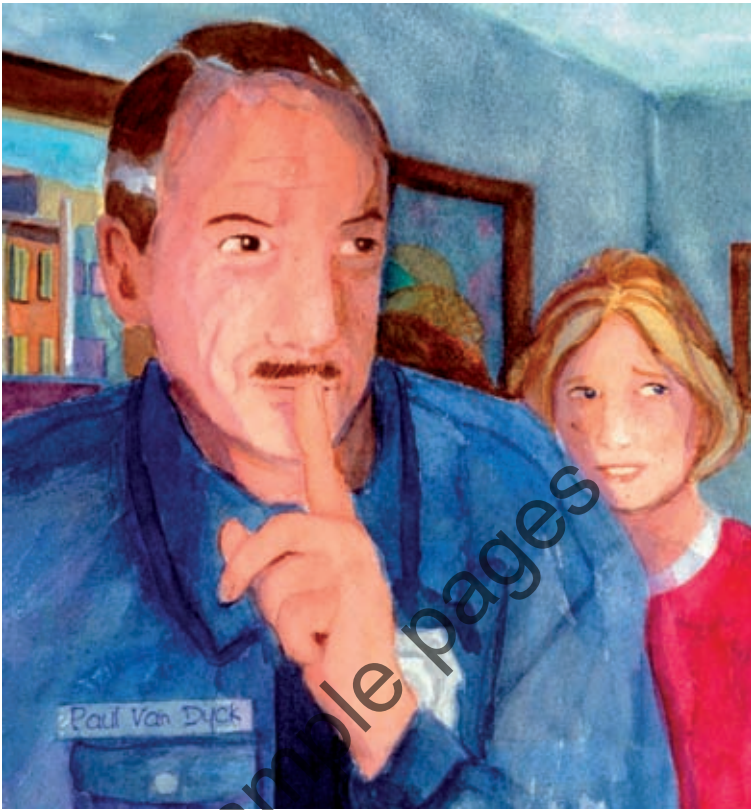
“No, Carl. You have it,” Mrs. Grant says.

They look for the guide book in their bags, then Mr. Grant says, “Oh no, I remember now. It’s on a chair near ‘Girl with a Pearl Ear-ring’. My *passport* is in that book!”

Kate gets up quickly. “Stay here,” she says. “I can find it.”



Kate runs to the museum. A guard is closing the door.
“Stop!” Kate says. “My father’s passport is in the museum.”
“I’m sorry, but we close at five o’clock,” the guard says.
A sign on his shirt says, “Paul Van Dyck.”
“Please,” Kate says. “It’s very important.”
The guard looks at his watch, then at Kate.
“OK,” he says and smiles. “Come with me.”



Kate goes into the museum with Paul Van Dyck. It is dark and there aren't any people in the rooms.

“Where is the passport?” Paul asks. “Do you know?”

“Yes. It's on a chair near that picture of a girl with an ear-ring,” Kate says.

They walk for a minute, then Paul Van Dyck stops.

“Sshh!” he says. “I can hear voices.”