

A Picture to Remember Sarah Scott-Malden

(Total word count: 9,876)

Summary

Cristina Rinaldi, a museum worker in Buenos Aires, Argentina, is asked by her director to help organise an exhibition of Impressionist paintings which will be on loan from a museum in Paris, France.

On her way to the gym on her motorbike that evening after work, Cristina is waiting at some traffic lights. She notices two men with a gun in the car next to her. One of the men has a tattoo of a poppy on his neck. Roberto and Carlos Bocuzzi have just robbed a bank and are planning what to do with the \$50,000. Suddenly, Cristina's motorbike is hit by a taxi. Cristina wakes up in a hospital bed, but she has no memory of the accident.

The Bocuzzi brothers are afraid that Cristina will identify them to the police, so they plan to kill her. Meanwhile, Cristina returns to work. After a few weeks she is fit enough to go back to the gym. Roberto and Carlos discover where Cristina works and start watching her to establish her daily routine.

Cristina starts to become disturbed by her favourite picture, a Monet painting of a field of red poppies, but she doesn't realise why. The next evening, Cristina is in the weights room at the gym when a weight falls on her, striking her arm. Daniel, the manager, rushes to her aid and takes her home. It is now revealed to the reader that Roberto Bocuzzi tried to kill Cristina in the gym.

Philippe Maudet, the director of the French museum lending the paintings for the exhibition, arrives in Buenos Aires.

Cristina greets him at the airport. They have lunch and are in meetings together all day. She begins to be attracted to him. The next day Cristina shows Philippe some of the sights, and then goes to the gym to talk to Daniel, who has been checking who was at the gym at the time of Cristina's 'accident'.

As Cristina and Philippe leave the gym, a car drives straight towards them, hitting Philippe. He is taken to hospital but fortunately is not seriously injured. Cristina now suspects that someone is trying to kill her and phones Daniel from the hospital to discuss the matter. Daniel offers his help and consults a policeman friend who advises him to drive Cristina home from the hospital. Carlos and Roberto observe Daniel meeting Cristina outside the hospital.

Cristina and Daniel leave the hospital, followed by Carlos and Roberto. This is what the police were hoping for. While they are waiting at traffic lights, Cristina sees the man with the red poppy tattoo, who is Roberto, and recalls everything that happened at the scene of her motorbike accident. She realises these are the men who are trying to kill her. A dramatic car chase follows, ending outside Cristina's flat. The Bocuzzi brothers are arrested.

The story concludes six months later, on the evening of the Impressionist exhibition at the museum. Cristina's feelings for Philippe haven't changed and she is delighted when he invites her back to France.

Worksheet answer key

BEFORE READING

3. a Chapter 2
b Chapter 3
c Chapter 5
d Chapter 1
e Chapter 4

CHECK YOUR READING

CHAPTER 1

1. d, e, b, a, f, c

CHAPTER 2

1. 1 c, 2 a, 3 b, 4 e, 5 d

CHAPTER 3

1. a Cristina
b Philippe
c the Monet picture
d Carlos
e Roberto
2. Student's own answer.

CHAPTER 4

1. a T, b F, c F, d F, e T

CHAPTER 5

1. 1 b, 2 c, 3 a
2. a Cristina
b the man on the plane
c students
d Philippe
e Roberto

CHAPTER 6

1. 1 d, 2 c, 3 e, 4 a, 5 b
2. Student's own answer.

CHAPTER 7

1. a, b, e, c, d

CHAPTER 8

1. 1 d, 2 c, 3 e, 4 b, 5 a

CHAPTER 9

1. a Daniel
b Cristina
c Daniel
d the museum director
e Philippe