

CAMBRIDGE

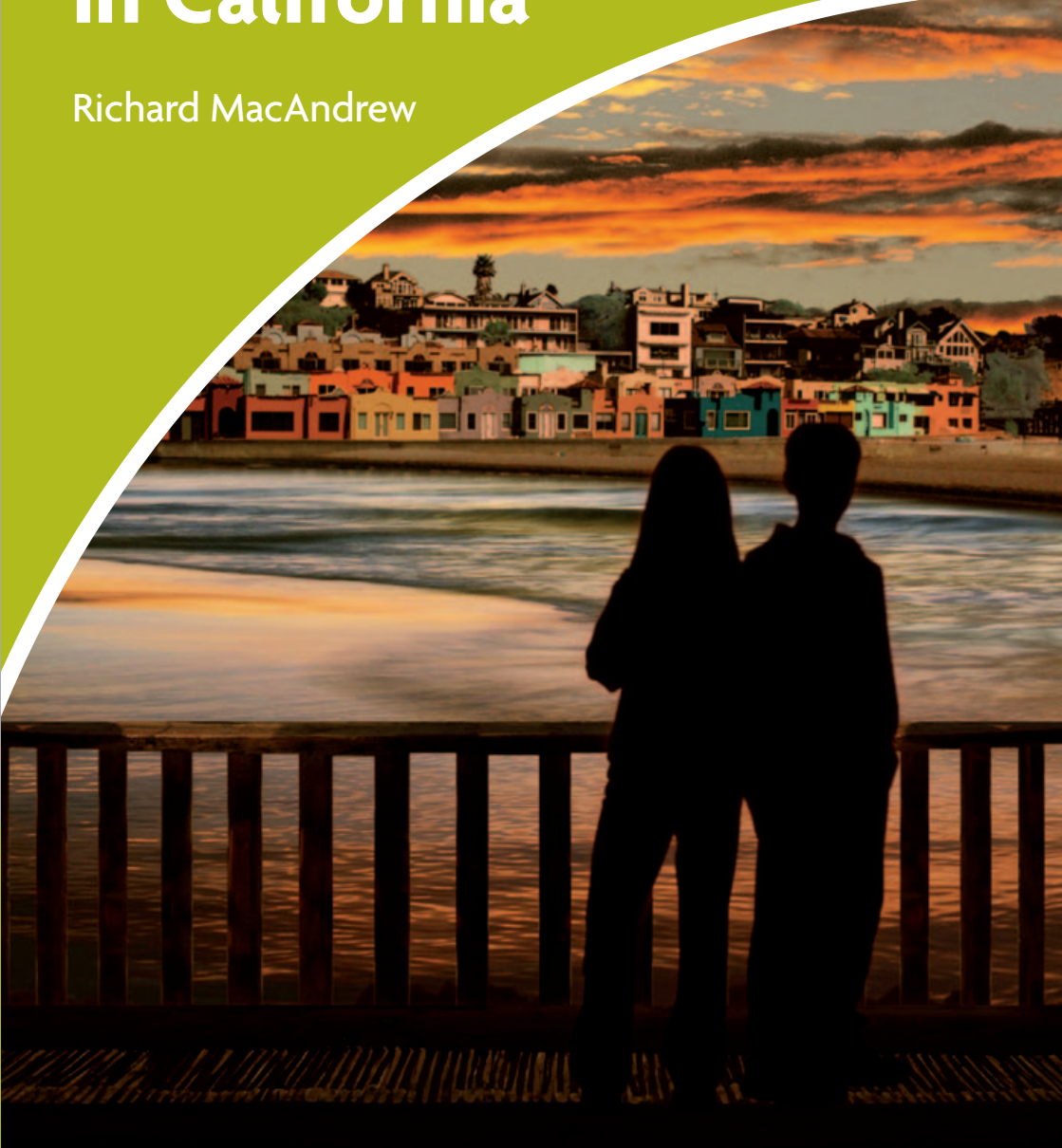
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Richard MacAndrew
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CAMBRIDGE



A Little Trouble in California

Richard MacAndrew



People in the story

Mary Lawson: a thirteen-year-old girl

Andy Lawson: a thirteen-year-old boy

David Lawson: Andy and Mary's father

Ellen Lawson: Andy and Mary's mother

Darryl: a man on the beach

Officer McMahon: a police officer

BEFORE YOU READ



- 1 Look at the pictures in Chapter 1. What do you think?

Answer the questions.

- 1 The Lawson family go for a walk. Where do they go?

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- 2 Do they know the man there?

.....

Chapter 1

Andy and Mary's birthday



'Happy Birthday, Mary! Happy Birthday, Andy!' say David and Ellen Lawson.

'Thirteen!' says Ellen Lawson. 'You're teenagers now!'

David gives Andy his present. Ellen gives Mary her present.

'Thanks, Mum. Thanks, Dad,' say Mary and Andy. Quickly they open their presents.

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‘Thank you very much!’ says Mary. She looks at her new camera.

‘An MP3 player!’ says Andy. ‘Wow! Thank you!’



Today is Andy and Mary Lawson’s birthday. They are twins¹. Andy is thirteen and Mary is thirteen too. They are on holiday with their parents in Capitola, a small town in California.

‘Can we go out?’ asks Mary. ‘Now? I want to take some photos.’

‘In a minute,’ laugh her parents.

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At eleven o'clock the Lawson family leave their holiday house and go to the beach. They see the funny Capitola Venetian hotel. Some rooms are red, some are green, some are yellow and some are blue. Mary takes lots of photos.

David and Ellen sit on the beach. Mary and Andy walk to the wharf².

A man comes out from under the wharf. He has long grey hair and a grey beard. His clothes are dirty. His face and hands look dirty too.

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‘He’s very dirty,’ thinks Mary, ‘but he has friendly blue eyes.’

‘Hello,’ she says. ‘What’s your name?’

Andy looks at Mary.

‘Why *is* she talking to *him*?’ he thinks.



‘My name’s Darryl,’ says the man, but he doesn’t smile.

He looks at Andy, then at Mary.

‘What are you doing here?’ he asks.

‘We’re on holiday,’ answers Mary. ‘We’re from England.’

‘Well, I’m from here,’ says Darryl. ‘And this is *my* beach.’

Then he walks away.

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‘Well, that isn’t very friendly,’ says Mary to Andy.
‘And it isn’t *his* beach. It’s everyone’s beach.’

Then she looks under the wharf.

‘What do you think?’ she asks Andy. ‘Does he live there? Under the wharf?’

Andy starts to say something, but then they hear their father.



‘Andy! Mary!’ shouts David Lawson. ‘Come on! It’s lunchtime.’

The teenagers run back to their parents.

‘Who’s that?’ asks David Lawson.

Darryl is sitting under the wharf now.

‘His name’s Darryl,’ answers Andy.

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‘He looks very dirty,’ says Ellen.

‘He is,’ says Mary. ‘I think he lives there. He isn’t very friendly.’

‘Well, don’t talk to him,’ says Ellen.

‘But, Mum—’ says Mary.

‘No “buts”,’ says David. ‘Don’t talk to him again. Don’t talk to strangers³.’

LOOKING BACK

- 1 Check your answers to *Before you read* on page 4.

ACTIVITIES

- 2 Complete the sentences with the names in the box.

Mary and Andy (x2)	Mary (x2)	Andy (x2)	Darryl
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- 1 It's Mary and Andy's birthday.
 - 2 gets a camera.
 - 3 gets an MP3 player.
 - 4 go to the wharf.
 - 5 has dirty clothes.
 - 6 talks to a man at the wharf.
 - 7 doesn't want to talk to Darryl.
- 3 Who do the underlined words refer to in these lines from the text?
- 1 Quickly they open their presents. (page 6) Mary and Andy.
 - 2 They see the funny Capitola Venetian hotel.
(page 8)
 - 3 'Why is she talking to him?' he thinks.
(page 9)
 - 4 Then he walks away. (page 9)
 - 5 And it isn't his beach. (page 10)
 - 6 Then she looks under the wharf. (page 10)
 - 7 'He is,' says Mary. (page 11)

4 Underline the correct words in each sentence.

- 1 It's Andy and Mary's / David and Ellen's birthday.
- 2 Andy and Mary go to school / are on holiday in Capitola.
- 3 The Lawson family go to the beach / wharf.
- 4 The man at the wharf is very dirty / friendly.
- 5 Darryl is / isn't from England.
- 6 Darryl thinks it's everyone's / his beach.

5 Match the questions with the answers.

- 1 What does Darryl want to know? d
 - 2 Where do the Lawson family live?
 - 3 Why does Mary think Darryl isn't friendly?
 - 4 Why do Mary and Andy leave the wharf?
 - 5 Who thinks Darryl lives under the wharf?
- a Because it's lunchtime.
b Mary.
c Because he stops talking to them and leaves.
d What they're doing at the wharf.
e England.

LOOKING FORWARD

.....

6 Tick (✓) what you think happens in Chapter 2.

- 1 Mary and Andy see Darryl on the beach.
- 2 Mary and Andy don't see Darryl again.