

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-68333-3- Dirty Money: Sue Leather
Philip Prowse
Excerpt
[More information](#)

Chapter 1 *A noise*



‘Canada is beautiful,’ thinks Joe. He’s looking out of the window of his house. He can see water and mountains. On the water he can see a little white boat. In the big blue sky he can see an eagle. He can hear ... nothing.

Joe thinks about England. It’s small and dirty, he thinks. And the noise! Joe smiles. He sits and looks at the beautiful water and mountains.

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‘Happy, love?’

Joe’s wife, Sandy, comes in with a cup of tea.

‘Mmm,’ says Joe, ‘very happy.’ He takes the tea and he drinks.

Sandy sits down too and they talk about their beautiful house. They’re far from England and far from the city. Here in the little town of Murray there’s no dirt and no noise. Canada is a new start for Joe and Sandy. They have new jobs too. Joe works for a newspaper, the *Murray Echo*. Sandy works at the hospital; she’s a doctor.

‘Tomorrow,’ says Joe, ‘we can have lunch by the water.’

‘Mmm.’ Sandy smiles.

Joe looks at Sandy and smiles too. ‘Thank you for the tea,’ he says.

Then Joe hears a noise.

‘What’s that?’ he asks.



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‘What?’ Sandy asks.

‘Listen,’ Joe says.

Sandy listens.

Drrrr! Drrrr!

‘Is it Dan? Is he working on his house?’ asks Sandy. Dan lives in the next house.

‘No, that isn’t Dan,’ says Joe. He walks over to the window. He sees nothing. Just the mountains and the flat blue water. But he can hear the noise. A new noise.

Drrrr! Drrrr!

Joe looks up. He looks around. He looks up again. Then he sees it. On the mountain near his house he sees a big machine. It’s making a noise: Drrrr! Drrrr! The machine is taking trees down. Behind it there’s another big machine. It’s digging a hole in the ground.

‘Look at this!’ Joe says to Sandy.

‘What?’ asks Sandy.

Near the machines is a big white sign. On the sign it says PAN GLOBAL.



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‘What is it?’ asks Sandy.

‘I don’t know, but I’m going to look,’ says Joe. He opens the door and runs to the mountain.

Joe stands in front of one of the big machines. The driver sees him and stops.

‘What do you want?’ the driver asks.

‘What’s this?’ asks Joe. He looks at the big hole in the ground. ‘What’s Pan Global?’

The man smiles. ‘It’s a mine,’ he says. ‘There are diamonds under here!’



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Chapter 2 *Help!*

Joe goes back to his house and tells Sandy about the mine.

Ten minutes later there's someone at the door. It's Dan, Joe and Sandy's neighbour.

'Joe,' asks Dan, 'what's that noise?'

'It's a mine,' Joe says. 'We must tell everyone. This is a very bad thing.'

'The noise! The dirt!' says Dan. 'You must write about it in the newspaper.'



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There's another neighbour at Joe and Sandy's door. It's Gloria Makeba. 'This noise!' she says. 'You write for the newspaper,' she says to Joe. 'You must help us!'

Joe hears the phone. It's another neighbour. 'And what about all the birds? They're going to leave!' Then another. 'The noise!' And another. 'What about the beautiful trees? They're taking down all the trees!'

All the neighbours are very angry. They all say the same thing to Joe: 'Help!'

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Chapter 3 *Monday*

It's Monday and Joe is at work at the *Murray Echo*. He's writing about the mine. He looks on the internet and reads about Pan Global. There's a photo of Karl Johnson, the boss.

Joe phones Karl Johnson.



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‘Mr Johnson,’ says Joe, ‘my name is Joe Brennan and I work for the *Murray Echo*. I want to talk to you about the mine ...’

‘What do you want to know?’ asks Karl Johnson.

‘Why are you mining near houses and people?’ asks Joe.

‘Because there are diamonds there!’ Johnson says. ‘We can sell them in Canada, in the US, in Europe. We can sell them all over the world. They’re very expensive! And lots of people in Murray can work at the mine!’

Joe puts the phone down and starts to write.

‘What do we know about Pan Global,’ he writes, ‘and why can they start mining near our houses?’

‘What are you writing?’

Joe looks up. It’s Cameron Grady, Joe’s boss.



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'I'm writing about the mine ...' Joe says.

'The mine?' says Grady.

'Yes, the mine,' says Joe. 'Pan Global say there are diamonds there.'

'Mmm, really?' says Grady. 'But you must write about the tennis tournament. It's big news in Murray.'

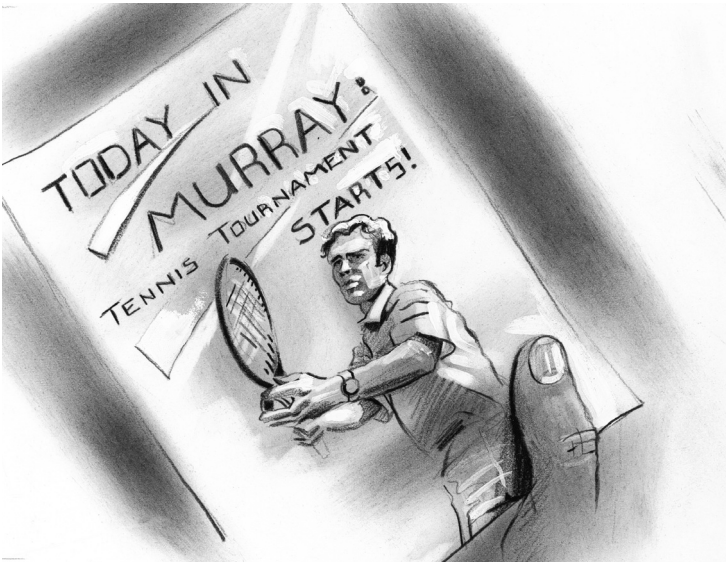
'But what about the mine?' asks Joe.

'Well, it's important,' says Grady, 'but right now the tennis is more important.'

'But everybody in the town is angry,' says Joe. '*Everybody* wants to read about the mine!'

Grady smiles. 'Listen, Joe,' he says. 'It's just a mine. There are a lot of mines in Canada. The tennis is more important.'

Grady gives Joe a piece of paper. On the paper it says, 'Today in Murray: tennis tournament starts!'



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Chapter 4 *Night drive*



Beep! Beep! Beep!

Joe looks at the alarm clock. It's three o'clock in the morning.

'What is it?' asks Sandy. 'It's only three o'clock!'

'I'm going to have a good look at the mine!' Joe says.

'Why now?' says Sandy. She closes her eyes.