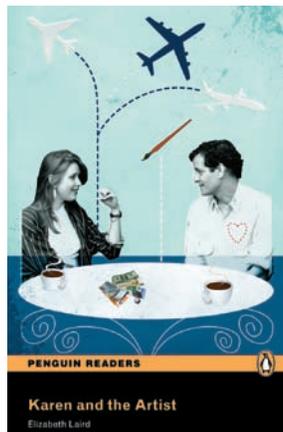




Karen and the Artist

Elizabeth Laird



Summary

Karen is a flight attendant, who loves art. One day she sees some wonderful paintings in Rome, Italy.

Pages 1–7: Karen is busy flying around Europe for her work. When she comes back to her father's house in London, they talk about art. Her father, who's currently writing a book on art, says Karen understands art. When she was in a café in Rome, she sees a lot of wonderful paintings on the wall. She finds out that the artist is poor and gives his paintings as payment for the food he eats in the café. The artist, Antonio Brunetti, doesn't care very much about money; he wants to paint Karen. Karen decides to help him out by selling his paintings in art galleries.

Pages 8–15: Karen shows her father Antonio's pictures, and he says they're very good. However, her father thinks it'll be difficult to sell since the artist is unknown. Karen's first attempt was unsuccessful, but she uses her wits and manages to sell Antonio's paintings in London, Paris and Amsterdam. When she goes back to Rome, Antonio is ill. Karen tells him that she has sold his paintings and starts giving him money. The money falls on to the floor because Antonio wants to take Karen's hands instead. Antonio's friend, Giorgio, suggests that they work together: Antonio paints, and Karen sells. Karen agrees to do so.

Background and themes

Artists and money: Antonio's pictures are superb and worth a lot of money, but he doesn't know how to sell them. Many artists use an agent. In this story, it seems that Karen will be Antonio's agent.

Selling techniques: Karen fails to sell Antonio's picture at the first art gallery she tries, but she listens carefully to a

man who successfully sells an artist's picture even though the woman at the gallery doesn't know the artist. She tries the same strategy at the next art gallery. 'The Leonardo' is the café in Rome, but who cares? It is true that many pictures of Antonio's are in the café.

Potential relationship: There's an implication of a potential relationship as Antonio says that Karen will stay in Rome one day and Karen's response is 'Who knows?'

Discussion activities

Pages 1–7

Before reading

- Guess:** Have students look at the front cover. Elicit the answers to the following questions:
 - *What's the title of the book? Can you see Karen and the artist in the picture?*
 - *Where are they?*
 - *What are they talking about?*
 - *Why is there a heart on the man's shirt? What do you think?*

After reading

- Discuss:** Bring in a world map. Have students imagine that they are a flight attendant like Karen. Students look at the map and find the cities that they would like fly to. Ask some students to report to the class. Ask them if they can give the class some information about the cities they've chosen.
- Discuss:** Have a whole class discussion by asking the following questions: *Why does Karen want to sell Antonio's pictures? Is it because the pictures are wonderful? Is it because she likes him? Why does Antonio want to paint Karen? What's going on between Karen and Antonio? What do you think?*

Pages 8–15

Before reading

- Retell:** Put students into small groups. Have them take turns to look at the pictures on pages 1–7 and retell the story for each page. When they are ready, ask some students to retell the story in front of the class.

After reading

- Role play:** Put students into pairs. First, have them act out the conversation between Karen and the people at the art galleries in London and Paris. Then, have them think about the conversation between Karen and the person at the art gallery in Amsterdam. Ask some pairs to act out the conversation.

Vocabulary activities

For the Word List and vocabulary activities, go to www.penguinreaders.com.

Karen P. Thomas is the Artistic Director and Conductor of Seattle Pro Musica and Director of Music at University Unitarian Church. [http://www.uuchurch.org/our church/bio/karen p thomas Karen P. Thomas | University] Wikipedia. Karen Lawrence is an American singer and songwriter who has worked with The LA Jets, , Karen Lawrence and the Pinz and Blue by Nature. Karen Zoid (born Karen Louise Greeff) is a female South African rock artist with both vocal and guitar talent. On 3 May, 2008 she won one of the top 5 most prestigious music awards in South Africa the South African Music Awards SAMA for Best Female Solo. Wikipedia. Karen's job takes her to many places. She loves art, and in Rome she sees some beautiful pictures. But the artist can't sell them and he has no money. Karen likes the young man. Can she sell his pictures for him? Pearson Graded Readers have the largest collection of graded reader titles in the world. Titles range but are not limited to the classics, biographies, fairy tales, and works of non-fiction. Pearson Graded Readers are ideal as class readers, as part of a class library, or as part of a school library. With a wide range of titles, subjects, and levels, there is always a perfect