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Richard MacAndrew
Excerpt
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Chapter 1

Funny money



“Isn’t it beautiful?” said Andy Lawson to his sister Kim.

“No,” replied Kim. “It’s not beautiful, and it’s not interesting.”

Andrew Lawson, always called Andy, looked at his sister. She was 13 and he was 13. They were twins¹ – but they were not the same. He was 170 centimeters tall

with short red hair and blue eyes. She was only 160 centimeters tall with long dark hair and big brown eyes. They didn't look the same, and they didn't think the same.

"Kim," said Andy. "Look at it. It's over a thousand years old. Half a million people come here every year. They want to see this because it is very old and very famous."

Andy and Kim were in the city of Dublin in Ireland. Actually, they were in Trinity College in Dublin, and in front of them was the *Book of Kells*, 680 pages of words and pictures, and over a thousand years old.

"Well, I don't think it's beautiful," said Kim. "I'm going to the museum shop." And she walked away.

The shop was in the next room. Kim looked around. There were books and CDs about the *Book of Kells*, and there were Trinity College T-shirts. Kim looked at the T-shirts.

"I like these," she thought. "And they're not too expensive." She took down a red T-shirt and got out some money. Kim waited with the money in her hand. In front of her was a big man with a green Ireland soccer shirt. The shirt was much too small for him, and Kim saw his stomach. Yuck! The man bought a postcard.

"I'm sorry," he said to the salesperson. "I know the postcards are just 75 cents, but I've only got this." There was a 20-euro bill in his hand.

"That's OK," replied the salesperson.

Kim looked at the money in her hand. It was a 50-euro bill and a kind of orange color. In the United States, of course, the money was not the same – dollars not euros.

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The man walked away. Kim gave the T-shirt to the salesperson.

“That’s €14.95, please,” said the salesperson.

Kim gave her the 50-euro bill. The salesperson put the T-shirt in a bag and gave it to Kim. Then she gave her €35.05. Kim looked at the bills. The 20-euro bill was blue, the 10-euro bill was red, and the five-euro bill was gray. She put the money in her backpack².

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Then Andy came into the shop.

“You know, it is beautiful and interesting,” he said with a smile on his face, “but not for very long. Come on. I want some ice cream. We’ve got time. We’re meeting Ms. O’Brien at five o’clock, and it’s only three now.”

Andy and Kim were in Dublin with students from their school in the United States. Their science teacher, Ms. O’Brien, was from Ireland, but she lived in the United States. Every year she took 12 students to Dublin at the start of the summer. The students enjoyed seeing a new city: Dublin is small and friendly, and there is a lot to do. And Ms. O’Brien enjoyed seeing her family.

Andy and Kim walked to Grafton Street, one of Dublin’s important shopping streets, and found an ice cream shop. Andy asked for chocolate ice cream. Kim wanted strawberry. Kim gave the salesperson €20, and he looked at the bill. Then he turned the bill over and looked at it again.



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“I can’t take this,” he said.

“Why not?” asked Kim.

“It’s not real money. It’s forged.” He took another 20-euro bill and put it on the shop window. Then he put Kim’s bill next to it.

“Look on the left,” the salesperson told Kim. “You can see a kind of window on the real money, but there isn’t one on yours. Yours is forged. Here.”



He gave Kim her bill.

“But –” Kim started to speak.

“Have you got any other money for your ice cream?” the man asked.

Kim found some more money.

“The police say there’s a lot of this forged money in the city right now,” the salesperson told Kim. “You need to take that one to the police station.”

LOOKING BACK

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

ACTIVITIES

- 2 Complete the sentences with either *Andy* or *Kim*.

- 1 Andy thinks the *Book of Kells* is beautiful.
- 2 has long dark hair and big brown eyes.
- 3 knows how old the *Book of Kells* is.
- 4 goes to the museum shop next door.
- 5 likes the Trinity College T-shirts.
- 6 thinks they've got time for ice cream.
- 7 wants strawberry ice cream.
- 8 gives the salesperson a 20-euro bill.

- 3 Underline the correct words in each sentence.

- 1 *Andy / Kim* doesn't think the *Book of Kells* is interesting.
- 2 Andy and Kim *look / don't look* the same.
- 3 Andy and Kim *think / don't think* the same.
- 4 Kim is *160 / 170* centimeters tall.
- 5 *Over a million / Half a million* people visit the *Book of Kells* every year.
- 6 The man with the green Ireland soccer shirt gives the salesperson a *20-euro / 50-euro* bill.
- 7 Kim buys a *Trinity College T-shirt / a CD about the Book of Kells*.
- 8 Kim's *50-euro / 20-euro* bill is forged.

4 Who or what do the underlined words refer to?

the salesperson the *Book of Kells* (x2)
Andy and Kim a 20-euro bill Trinity College T-shirts

- 1 "Isn't it beautiful?" (page 5) *the Book of Kells*
- 2 Look at it. (page 6)
- 3 "And they're not too expensive." (page 6)
- 4 Actually, they were in Trinity College in Dublin (page 6)
.....
- 5 Then he turned the bill over and looked at it again.
(page 8)
- 6 Then he put Kim's bill next to it. (page 9)

5 Match the questions with the answers.

- 1 What is very old and very famous? ☒ b
- 2 What does the man with the green shirt buy? ☐
- 3 Who does Kim give the forged bill to? ☐
- 4 What does Kim need to take to the police station? ☐
 - a The 20-euro bill.
 - ~~b~~ The *Book of Kells*.
 - c The ice cream salesperson.
 - d A postcard.

LOOKING FORWARD

6 Check (✓) the things you think are true in Chapters 2 and 3.

- 1 Andy and Kim take the forged bill to the police station. ☐
- 2 Andy and Kim see the man from the Trinity College museum shop again and go after him. ☐

Chapter 2

The man with the forged bills

Out in the street, Kim was angry. She ate some ice cream, then took out the 20-euro bill and looked at it.

“A forged bill!” she said. “Not real! How can I use it now?”

“Listen,” said Andy. “Why don’t we go and tell Ms. O’Brien about it?”

“Good thinking,” replied Kim, and they started walking back to their hotel on Fleet Street.

They got to the hotel at about a quarter to four. They found Ms. O’Brien and told her about the forged bill.



Ms. O’Brien looked at it. Then she looked at Kim’s face. It was half angry, half sad.

“Oh, Kim,” she said and put a hand on her shoulder.

“It’s €20,” said Kim. “That’s a lot of money to me, and now I can’t buy anything with it.”

“That’s all right,” said Ms. O’Brien. She found her purse³ and opened it.

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“Here,” she said, giving Kim a new 20-euro bill. “You have this. I can call the police.” She put Kim’s forged bill on the table in front of her.

“Oh, thank you, Ms. O’Brien,” said Kim happily. “That is kind of you.”

“That’s all right,” replied Ms. O’Brien. “Now, are you coming to the movies this evening?”

“Yes,” answered Kim.

“I don’t know,” said Andy.

Ms. O’Brien smiled. “Well, we’re meeting in the hotel restaurant at five o’clock.”

Andy and Kim went to their room and watched TV for half an hour. But Kim didn’t really⁴ watch. She thought about the forged bill . . . and the Trinity College shop . . . and the man with the green Ireland soccer shirt.

“Yes!” shouted Kim. She turned off the TV.

“Hey,” said Andy. “I’m watching that.”

“Listen,” Kim told him. “The man in the Trinity College shop –”



“What about him?” asked Andy.

“He gave the salesperson a 20-euro bill. The forged 20-euro bill,” answered Kim.

“You don’t know that,” said Andy.

“Yes, I do,” replied Kim. “He said, ‘This is all I’ve got’ or something like that.”

Andy said nothing.

“And he’s a fat man, with a green shirt,” said Kim. “And the shirt was too small. I saw his stomach.”

“Yuck!” said Kim and Andy at the same time. They laughed.

Then Andy said, “OK. The forged bill came from a man in a green shirt, but . . . how many people are there in Dublin? You’re not going to find him.”

“You’re right,” replied Kim. She looked angry again. “There are lots of people – but I’d like to find him.”

Andy gave her a funny look and turned the TV back on.

At a quarter to five, Kim asked, “Are you coming to the movies, Andy? Come on. Don’t watch TV all night.”

“Oh! All right,” said Andy and turned off the TV. “Which movie are we going to see?”

They went down to the hotel restaurant, and Kim told Andy a little about the movie. Kim stopped near the restaurant. She put her hand on Andy’s arm.

“Stop!” she said. “Look!”

At the front of the hotel was a fat man in a green shirt.

“That’s him,” said Kim quietly⁵. “Mr. Green Shirt.”