




Marcel is a French mouse who is a very fine secret detective. Thieves steal the famous White Star diamond ring which belongs to the opera singer, Zaza Dupont. But Marcel is determined to return it to her.

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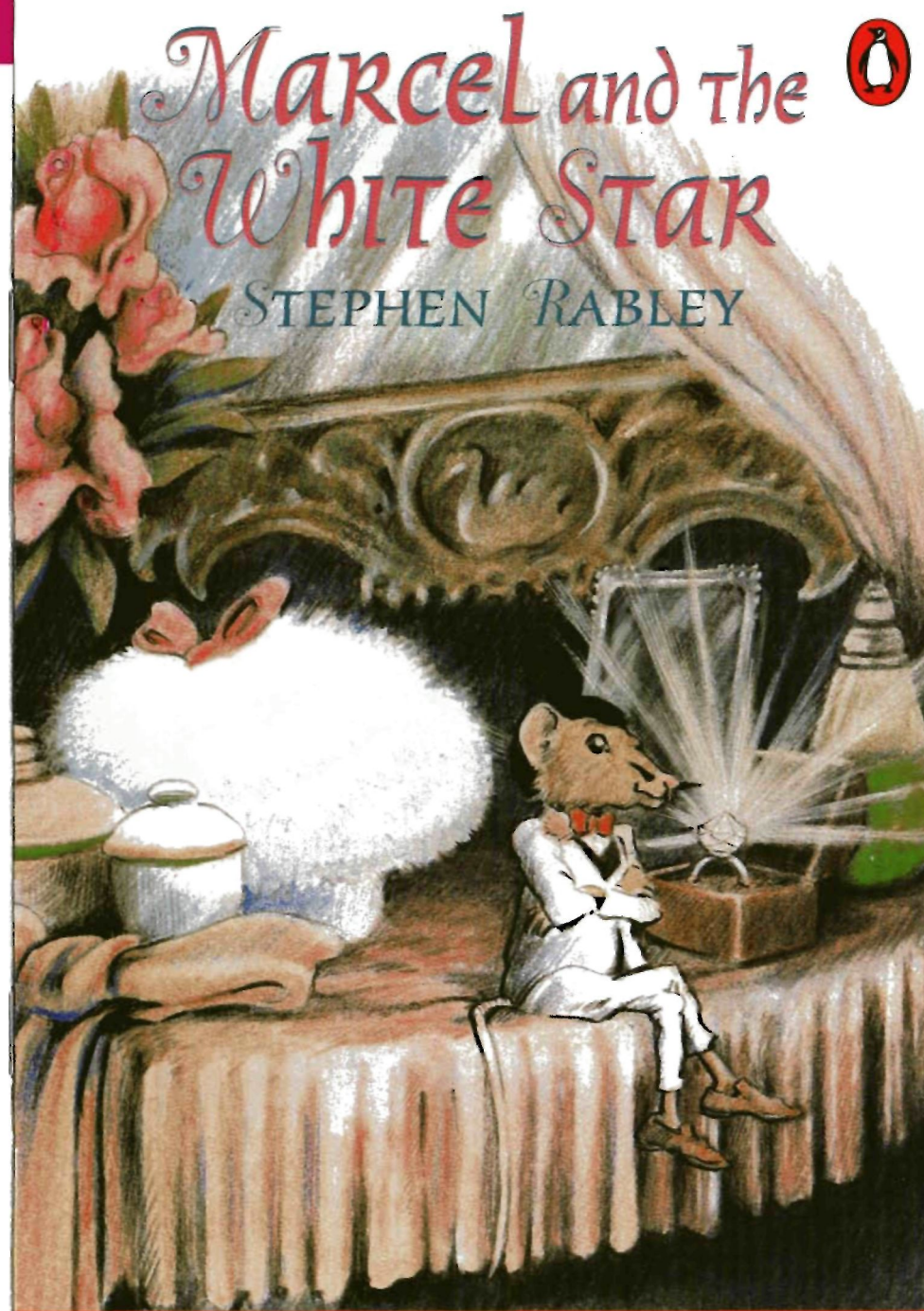
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Marcel and the White Star

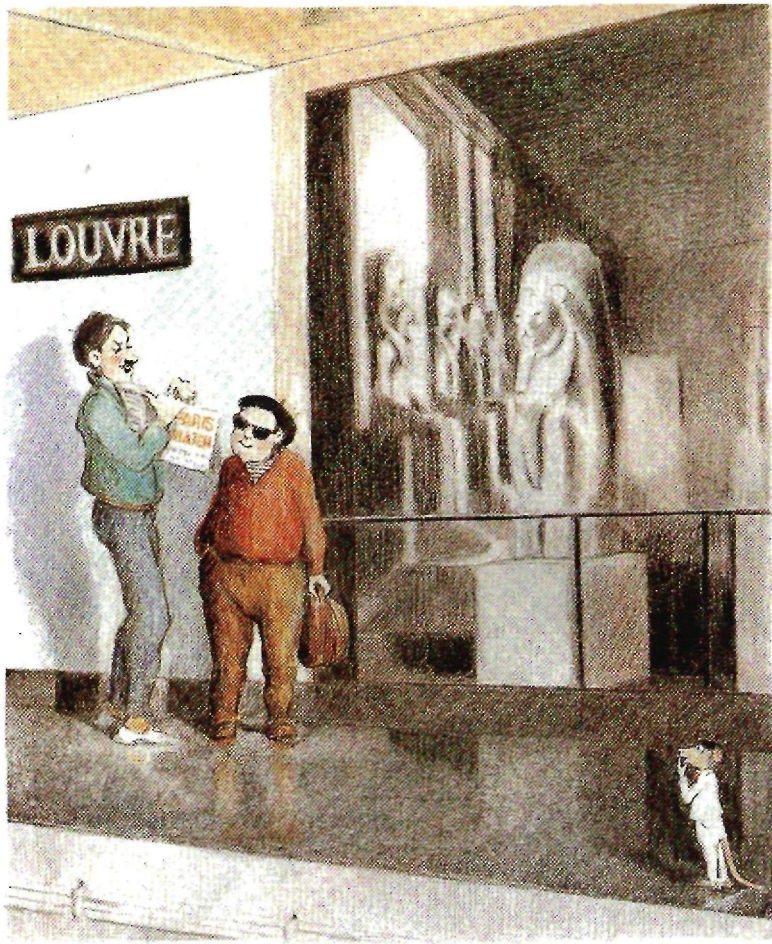
STEPHEN RABLEY





Marcel is a French mouse. He lives on a beautiful old boat in Paris. (His home is under the kitchen floor.) He likes books, restaurants and old films. He likes the opera, too.

One evening in June, Marcel finishes a detective story. Then he goes to have dinner with some friends. They live in the metro station at the *Louvre*.



After dinner, Marcel waits at the station. He sees two men standing next to him. The tall one is reading a magazine, “Look,” he says, “here she is: *‘Opera star Miss Zaza Dupont with her beautiful one million pound diamond ring — the White Star.’*”

“*‘Her’* beautiful diamond ring?” The short man looks at the photo and laughs. “Not after tonight,” he says.

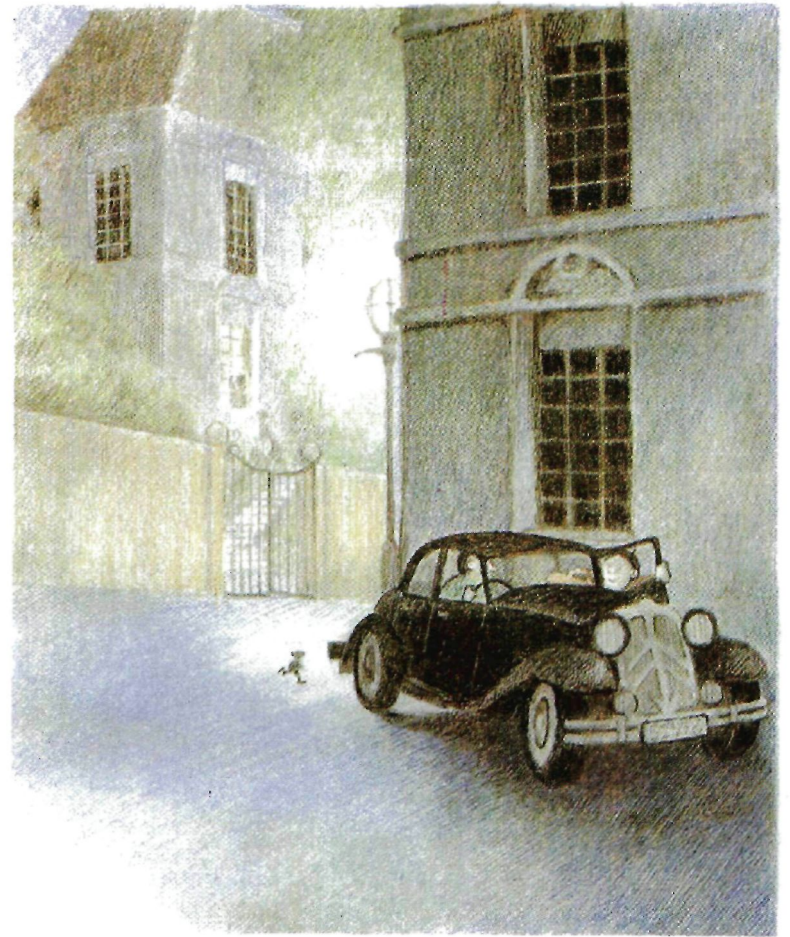


Marcel’s mouth opens. “What?! Are the men going to *steal* Zaza Dupont’s diamond?”

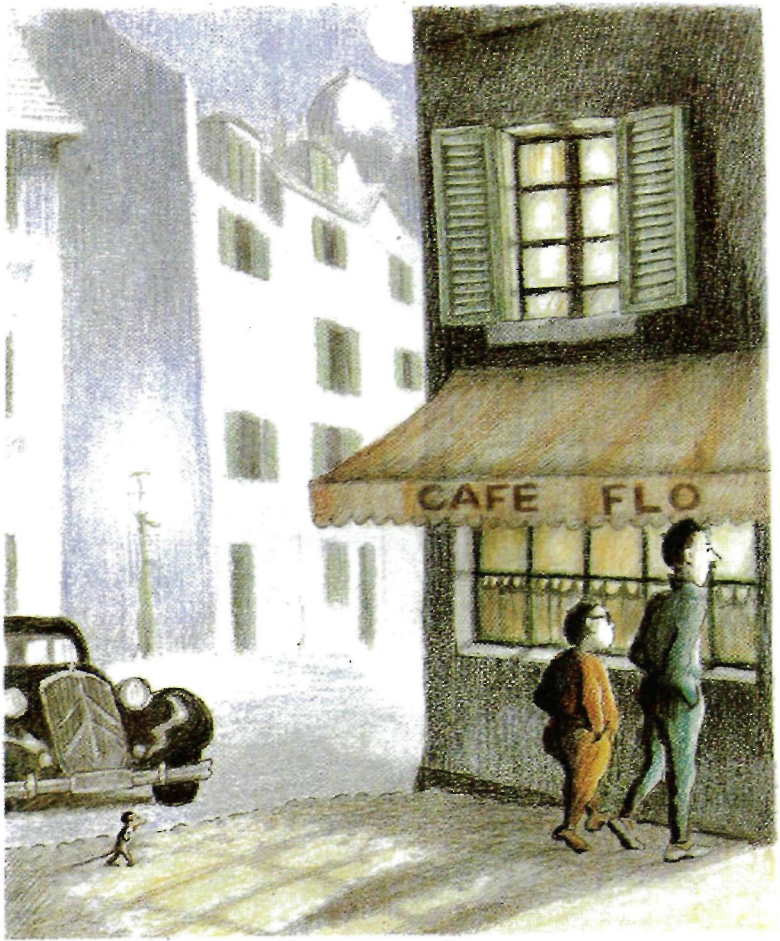
He remembers an evening at the opera two weeks before. Zaza’s green dress. The music. The beautiful White Star on her finger. No! They *can’t* steal it! The train comes and the men get on. Marcel pulls down his hat and follows them.



Half an hour later he gets off again at *La Mouette* station. But there are hundreds of people, and Marcel loses the two men. Then he sees an old mouse. “Excuse me,” he says. “Do you know where Zaza Dupont lives?” But when Marcel finds Zaza’s house, it is too late. “Yes — two men,” she is telling the police on the telephone. “And they've got the White Star.”



At that moment Marcel hears a motor start. “Where’s that coming from?” he thinks. Then he sees something at the end of the road. It's them! It's the thieves and they're stealing a car! He runs across Zaza’s garden and down the street. He can see the car’s number-plate. It’s near. Very near. “Can I ...?” he thinks, and he jumps.

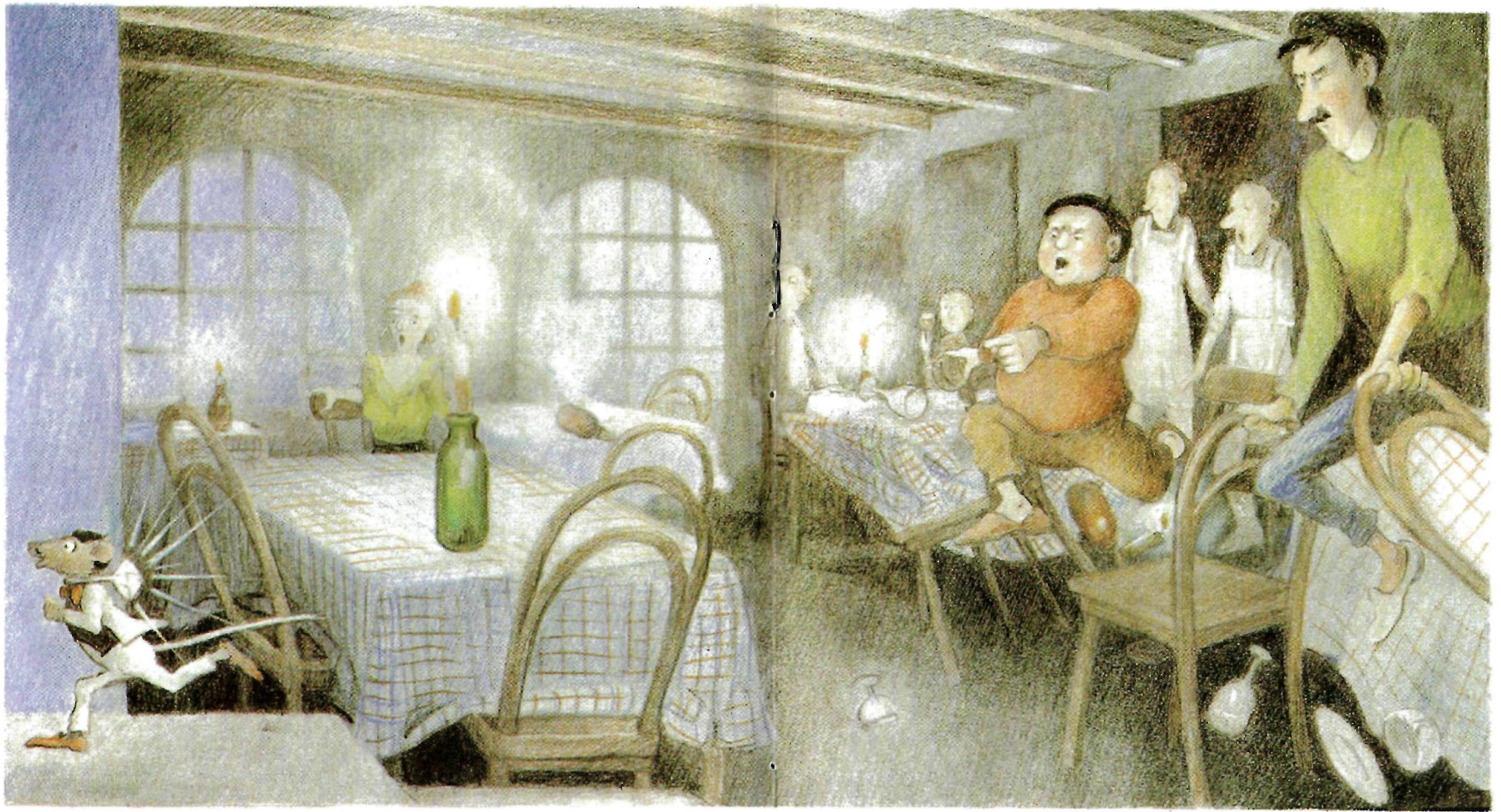


Yes!! Marcel sits on the number-plate. “Good,” he thinks. Then, after a second or two... “But what happens now?”

The thieves drive across Paris very fast. Marcel can hear them in the car. They are laughing and talking. But Marcel is not laughing. He is very, *very* angry. After half an hour the car stops next to a cafe.



It is late and the cafe is quiet. In one corner there is a woman. The thieves sit at her table. Marcel sits *under* the table and listens. “Have you got it?” the woman asks. The tall man takes a box from his jacket. Then he opens it. “Look,” he says. “Ahhh!” The woman puts a hand to her mouth. “What a *beautiful* diamond!” “This is it,” thinks Marcel. “This is the moment.”



He bites the tall man's leg very hard. "Aiiiee!" The tall man throws up his arms. The box and the White Star fly across the room. "What's that on the floor?" one waiter asks. "I don't know," says another. "Is it ... ? No, it can't be a diam..." But before he can finish, Marcel runs across the room. He puts the White Star around his neck. Then he runs to the door.

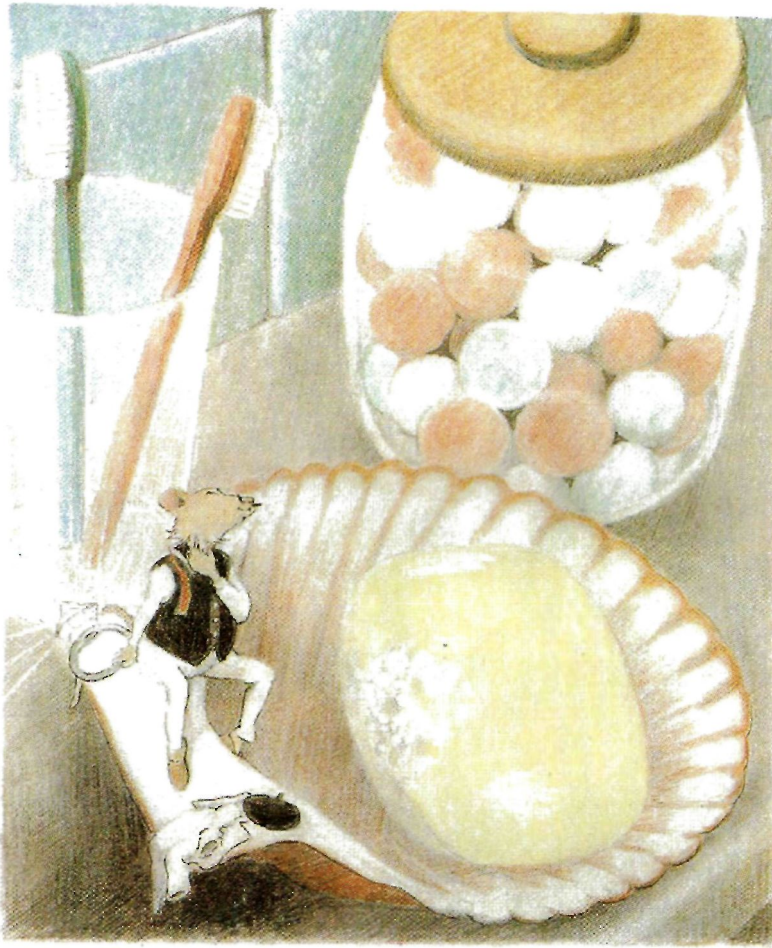
The thieves jump up and follow him. Suddenly there are tables and chairs everywhere. "What's happening?" an old man asks. "I don't know," his wife answers. "Who can understand young people these days?" "Stop that mouse!" says the tall man. "Shut the door!" says the short one. But they are too late. Marcel runs out of the cafe and does not look back.



After ten minutes he stops. There is nobody following him, but... where is he? Marcel looks right and left. Then he sees a big, white church. "Ah! — the Sacré Coeur," he thinks. "Now I know where I am." It is late and there are no metro trains, but Marcel is not tired. He walks back to Zaza's house. When he gets there, she is asleep in bed.



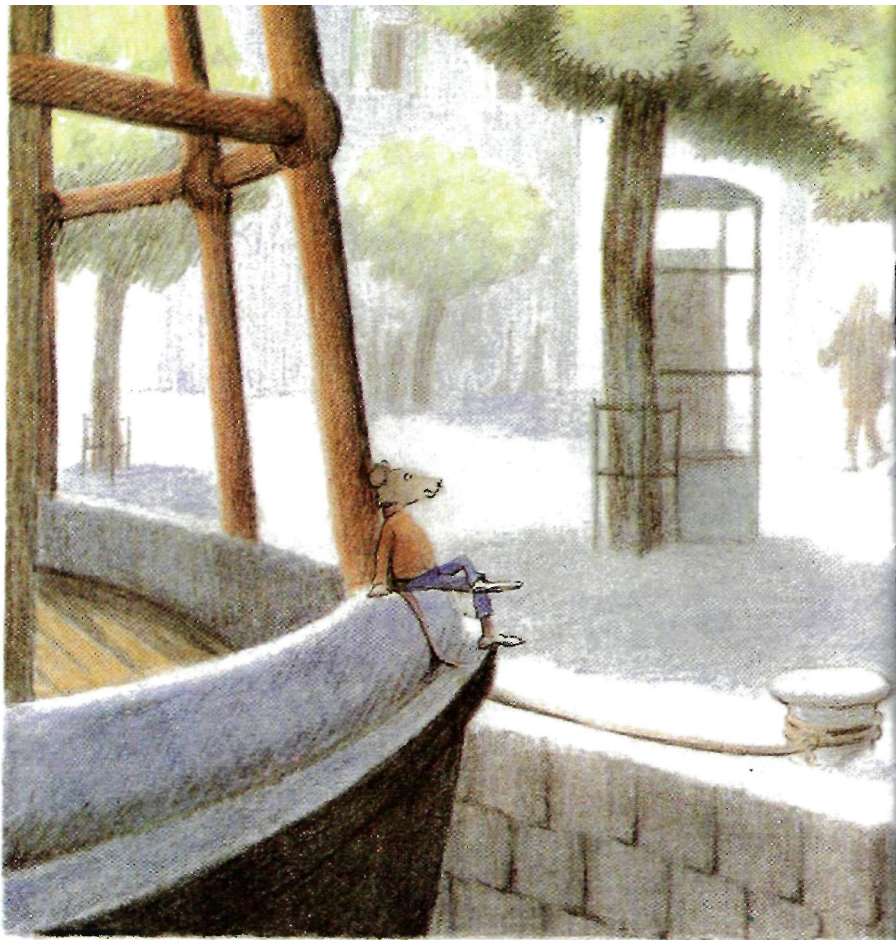
There is a table next to the window. On it Marcel can see lots of photographs, boxes and perfume bottles. He runs across the floor and up one leg of the table. "Now..." he thinks, "...it's time to take off the White Star. In the morning Zaza is going to be very..." Then Marcel stops. Oh, no! He cannot take the ring off. He pulls and pulls, but nothing happens.



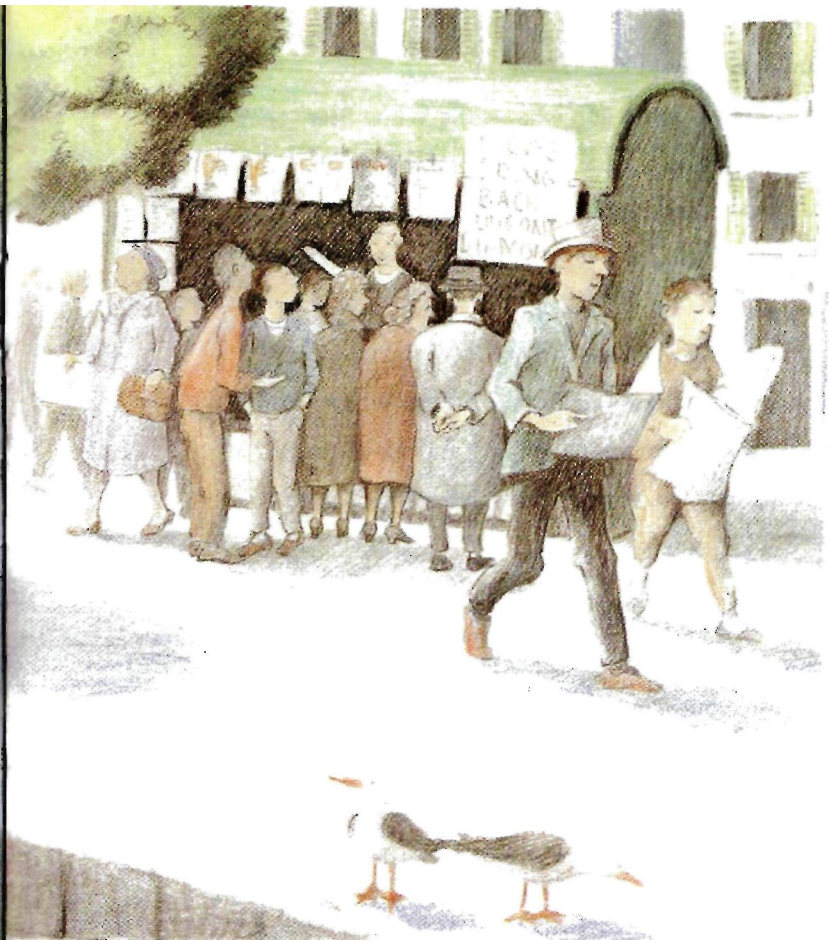
“Now what?” he thinks. Then... “Of course! Some soap!” He runs down the table leg and across the floor. Zaza’s bathroom door is open. Marcel goes in and looks up. A soap-dish is above his head. Ten seconds later he is sitting in it. He puts some soap on his neck. Then he closes his eyes and pulls again. Yes! This time the diamond ring comes off!



In the morning Zaza finds the White Star. It is on her bedroom table between two perfume bottles. “But... I don’t understand,” she says. “Thieves don’t bring things back. How...?” She looks at the ring. Then she looks at her face in the mirror. Then she looks at the ring again. “And why is there soap on it?” She telephones the police.



Next day, Zaza's story is in all the newspapers.
'OPERA STAR'S £1,000,000 RING IS SAFE' says one.
'THIEVES BRING BACK DUPONT DIAMOND' says another.
'NOW POLICE ASK, "WHY?"'
And there are lots of photos of Zaza with the White Star. At home. At the opera house. Standing in front of the Eiffel Tower. She looks very happy in all of them.



Marcel is happy, too. Back on his boat he reads the newspaper stories. Then he looks in the mirror. There is a thin, red line on his neck. "What a night!" he says. After that, he washes, has breakfast and opens the window. It is a beautiful, warm morning. Marcel looks up at the blue sky and smiles. "Now..." he thinks, "what's going to happen today?"

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Marcel and the White Star

Photocopiable

While reading

Pages 1–7

1 Write the names in the right place.

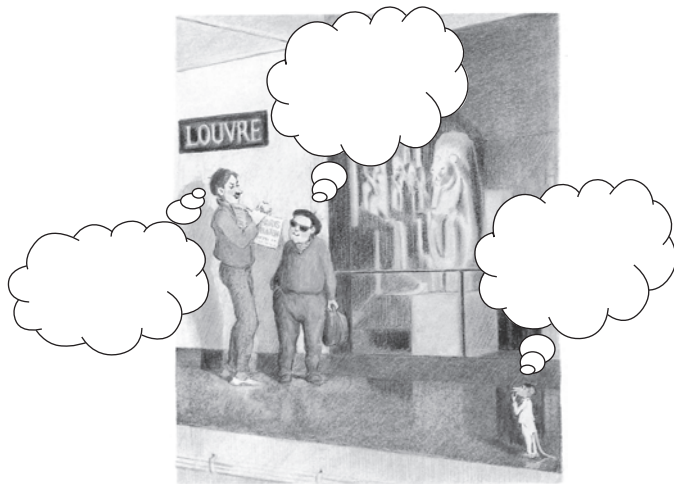
Zaza Marcel The woman The tall man
The short man

- a is having dinner with friends.
- b has got a diamond ring.
- c puts a hand to her mouth.
- d likes old films.
- e opens a box.
- f looks at a photo and laughs.
- g is talking to the police.

2 Put a word on the left with a word on the right.

| | |
|-------|--------|
| old | slow |
| tall | closes |
| opens | new |
| loses | early |
| late | short |
| fast | finds |

3 What are they thinking? Write their words.



Pages 8–15

4 Finish the story sentences with the right words.

comes looks flies pulls puts reads
runs walks

- a The ring across the room.
- b Marcel to Zaza's house.
- c The tall man after Marcel.
- d Marcel the ring around his neck.
- e Marcel the ring, but nothing happens.
- f The ring off.
- g Zaza at her face in the mirror.
- h Marcel about the ring in the newspaper.

5 Put the underlined letters in the right place to make a word.

- a Marcel puts the White Star around his cnke
- b The ehevsit jump up and follow Marcel.
- c Marcel sees a big, white ucchrh
- d Zaza is lapsee in bed.
- e Marcel can see lots of photographs, boxes and femuerp bottles.
- f Zaza's story is in all the wpesrpensa

6 Underline the wrong word and put the right one.

- a The White Star is on the table in the café.
- b There is a chair next the window in Zaza's room.
- c Marcel puts some water on his neck.
- d Zaza finds the White Star in the afternoon.
- e Zaza's bathroom door is closed.
- f Marcel has a thin white line on his neck.
- g Marcel looks up at the red sky and smiles.

After reading

7 Look at the pictures in the book. Write the name of one thing. You have the first letter of the word.

- a (p. 1) b.....
- b (p. 2) m.....
- c (p. 3) d.....
- d (p. 4) b.....
- e (p. 5) c.....
- f (p. 6) w.....
- g (p. 7) t.....
- h (p. 8) d.....
- i (p. 9) c.....
- j (p. 11) m.....
- k (p. 12) s.....
- l (p. 13) s.....
- m (p. 14) t.....
- n (p. 15) n.....



Marcel and the White Star

Photocopiable

1 What is first in the book? Number the sentences 1–10.

- a Zaza finds the White Star on her bedroom table.
- b Marcel bites the man's leg very hard.
- c Marcel finishes a detective story.
- d A story about the White Star is in the newspapers.
- e Marcel goes into Zaza's bathroom.
- f Marcel has dinner in the metro station.
- g Two men steal the diamond.
- h Marcel puts some soap on his neck.
- i Marcel sits on the number plate of a car.
- j Marcel puts the White Star round his neck.

2 Finish the sentences with the right word.

beautiful friends mirror white magazine
men train mouse door bathroom

- a Marcel lives on a boat.
- b His live in a metro station at the *Louvre*.
- c Marcel sees two at the station.
- d A tall man is reading a
- e The two men get on a
- f Marcel talks to an old
- g The short man says, "Shut the"
- h Zaza looks at her face in the
- i Marcel sees a big, church.
- j Marcel goes into Zaza's

3 Put the right answers with the questions.

- a Where is Marcel from?
- b Who does Marcel have dinner with?
- c What does Marcel like?
- d Where does Marcel see an old mouse?
- e What is the White Star?
- f What is Zaza's job?
- g When does Zaza find the White Star?
- h Who looks at her face in the mirror?
- i What colour is the line on Marcel's neck?
- j Where does Marcel read the newspaper stories?
 - 1) A diamond ring.
 - 2) On his boat.
 - 3) Red.
 - 4) In the morning
 - 5) His friends.

- 6) Paris, France.
- 7) She's an opera singer.
- 8) At *La Mouette* metro station.
- 9) Books, restaurants, old films and the opera.
- 10) Zaza.

4 Circle the right words.

- a Marcel hears *a motor start / children / music*.
- b Marcel sees *the thieves / a boy / a girl*.
- c Zaza is talking to *her friend / the police / Marcel*.
- d Marcel sits *on the number plate / under the car / in the car*.
- e In the car, Marcel is *unhappy / angry / happy*.
- f The thieves get to the café and *talk to a woman / talk to a man / drink a coffee*.
- g Marcel bites the man's *hand / leg / foot*.
- h It is late and Marcel *walks / gets on a metro train / gets on a bus* to Zaza's house.
- i Zaza finds the White Star *behind / in front of / between* two perfume bottles.
- j The newspaper says, "Opera star's *100,000 / 1,000,000 / 10,000* pound ring is safe."

5 Are the following right (✓) or wrong (X)?

- a Marcel lives under the kitchen floor.
- b The thieves steal a bicycle.
- c The tall thief takes a box from his bag.
- d Marcel puts the ring on his head.
- e Marcel sees the Sacré Coeur church.
- f Zaza finds the White Star on her bed.
- g Marcel phones the police.
- h There are photos of Zaza standing in front of the Eiffel Tower.
- i Marcel reads the newspaper stories at a metro station.
- j Marcel reads the newspaper stories and he is happy.

6 Finish the sentence.

- a Marcel finishes a detective story and then he goes to
- b At the metro station there are hundreds of people and Marcel
- c When Marcel finds Zaza's house it
- d The next day, Zaza's story is
- e Marcel bites the