Debra&John 4



Debra Newell, an interior designer in Southern California, meets John Meehan on an over-50 dating site. His profile looks exciting: Anesthesiologist, divorced, Christian. She falls in love fast. But her children dislike him and warn her that his stories don't add up. A psychologist advises Debra to set firmer boundaries with her kids, saying she has a right to be happy.

1. Reading

1) Look through the text quickly first. What happened?
2) Unjumble the questions at the end of the excerpt.
3) Read it out loud and ask questions for the "answers" in bold.

Thanksgiving was just around the corner. **Terra and her boyfriend** moved into the spare bedroom of the new Balboa Island rental for a few days. This made it hard for Debra **to maintain the illusion that John wasn't really living there**, though she tried.

Terra discovered the truth **the day before Thanksgiving**, when she opened a closet and found **a nursing certificate bearing John's name**. Her mom said she was getting his certificates framed, but Terra knew, and she did something uncharacteristic. She confronted her **loudly**.

Here came John, instantly transformed **by rage**.

/through his/Terra/why/stuff/snooping/was/? _____ ?

/trying to/from him/ was she/steal/ why/Debra/? _____ ?

/smacked for this/did/that kids/realize/should be/she/? _____?

Terra screamed at her mother: "could you/ guy talk/ like this/how/ to me/ let this/?!"

" _____ ?!"

Terra left, badly shaken, with the sickening feeling **that her mother was choosing John over her**.

2. Listen to the snippet and complete each phrase with one word. For some of the gaps you have prompts in brackets _____ :

John had _____ (*explain*) for her kids' _____ (*hostile*) to him:

they were _____ (*jealousy*),

they wanted her _____,

they were waiting for her to _____ (*death*),

so they could _____ .

LIVEWORKSHEETS

And he had an explanation for why he had a _____ (*nurse*) degree but called himself a doctor. He said he also had a PhD which earned him the right to the title, and he had advanced _____ (*train)* in anesthesiology.

3. Listen to the snippet and order the pieces _____

___ "He was quite excited as little more nervous and kept saying 'I can't wait to be married to you' and just 'I'm so in love with you' and so on.

___ I felt that this was an opportunity to love again."

___ Every day now he was begging her to marry him. She resisted. She loved him, but she knew her kids would be furious.

___ In early December, she was driving to Vegas on business and he was tagging along. Why not drop by the Courthouse while they were in town?



4.Listen to the snippet and mark the actions either with D for Debra or with J for John _____

couldn't be sure where her husband went all day ___

didn't press that hard to find out ___

would put on his faded blue surgical scrubs ___

kiss her goodbye ___

disappear in her Tesla ___

never saw him bring home a paycheck ___



was too busy running business to pay much attention ___

sometimes did off the books works ___

had never been happier with a man ___

doted on her endlessly ___

running her errands the way her paid assistant usually did ___

making sure her bills were paid ___

sitting beside her at doctors' appointments ___

would go get the cars washed, take the laundry in, go grocery shopping ___

LIVEWORKSHEETS

After an intruder appears in John and Debra's living room, John insists that they install security cameras. Debra begins to wonder whether he is spying on her. Her nephew, Shad, looks into John's background and confronts him with what he finds. Debra's vision of an idyllic marriage is shattered when she discovers a stash of paperwork in John's home office.



5.Listen to the clip and join the chunks _____

in the stacks	from ex-girlfriends
legal	arrests
multiple	papers
jail	for stealing drugs
multiple restraining orders	of documents
a prison stint	terms
tried to	and coerce his victims
a treacherous	intimidation
very manipulative	possession of a firearm
uses fear and	of stalking
as a means to control	swindle her
convicted	con
a felon in	person

LIVEWORKSHEETS

6. Read out the list of items. _____ Listen to this snippet and number all the things police found in the storage unit in Cathedral City in the order that you hear them

__ duct tape __ binoculars __ eight cyanide capsules

__ syringes __ machine gun __ a fake ID

__ a Colt 0.38 special __ a pocket saw __ GPS units

__ a bottle of cyanide powder __ handcuffs

__ heavy duty cable ties __ counterfeit money

Match the captions with pictures

duct tape heavy duty cable ties

a bottle of cyanide powder syringes









7. Listen to the snippet and fill in the gaps with numbers _____

He spent ___ months in state prison and got out in June _____ . And he spent a couple weeks in County jail that fall for violating order against another woman. He got out on October __th, _____ . He met Debra online on October __th, _____ – ___ days later.

It made Debra think about her first date with John in a new light. She remembered how he'd thrown himself on her mattress and raved about how comfortable it was.

Debra: And I like "It's just a mattress." I realize he'd been in prison like a few days before that. Of course it feels good.

LIVEWORKSHEETS