

Chapter One

The man who walked into the dark room looked around nervously. He pushed his glasses higher up his nose. He was called Sparrow, and he'd never been so frightened in all his life.

Seven or eight people were looking at him. At last one of them spoke: 'Who is this? How can *he* help us?'



Everybody turned to a big man whose name was Cooger.

Cooger smiled, but the look in his eyes was cold and hard. 'Professor Sparrow is a scientist,' he said quietly. 'And he's going to make us very, *very* rich.'



Cooger turned to the scientist. ‘Tell them,’ he said.

‘Thank you,’ Sparrow said. He looked around the room. ‘Imagine a van that can go anywhere in the world in just moments.’

‘What are you talking about?’ laughed one of the men.

To answer, Sparrow turned on a computer that was connected to a projector. Everyone sat silently as they watched a video of a van. At first it looked like any other van. But suddenly there were lights all around it ... and then it disappeared.

‘Where’s it gone?’ someone asked.

Sparrow gave a little smile. ‘*Anywhere.*’





Activities for pages 4–5

1 Choose and write the correct words.

a projector a scientist silent nervous to disappear

- 1 This is a person who studies the world. a scientist
- 2 When something suddenly can't be seen. _____
- 3 This means the same as quiet. _____
- 4 This can be connected to a computer to make the pictures on the screen much bigger. _____
- 5 This means the same as worried. _____

2 Write *yes* or *no*.

- 1 Professor Sparrow is a scientist. yes
- 2 When he walked into the dark room, Sparrow felt happy. _____
- 3 Lots of men were looking at Sparrow. _____
- 4 Cooger wanted Sparrow to make them all famous. _____
- 5 Sparrow showed the men an amazing van on a screen. _____
- 6 The van could go anywhere in the world very quickly. _____



**Who do you think made the amazing van?
Tell a friend your ideas.**