

OPERATION DELTA BRAVO



Introduction and chapter 1

Here is the second of D J Stutley's novels. It continues with the story of the Smith children, who are now in the custody of Detective Sergeant Scott Backer. It particularly concerns Keryn, one of the twins and her relationship with her guardian, Scott Backer. Doris Stutley is a local author who writes mystery thrillers for young people.

Look at the cover of the novel and write a sentence about what you think the book will be about.

Read chapter 1, and then answer the questions, using **full sentences**.

1. Who is Rusa? Describe Rusa and draw a quick sketch of what you think Rusa looked like.
2. What part does Rusa play in the story?
3. What do you think it means by *his eyes worked a quick zigzag pattern back towards the front yard?* (page 2)
4. What does the word *obscured* mean on page 2?
5. Who is Christy? Describe her and her situation. (pages 3 & 4)
6. On page 6, what happens that intrudes on Rick comforting Christy?
7. Why do the twins call on Rick at this time?
8. What is meant by: *And because of who they were, it would be better if they didn't know about Christy?* (page 7)
9. Write a short paragraph on Rick. What sort of a person do you think he is? Why?
10. By the end of chapter 1, the reader is able to learn a great deal. Outline what you know by the end of the chapter.
11. What questions are still unanswered at the end of chapter 1?

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Chapter 2

1. Since the twins would not leave Rick's house, what did he ask Keryn to do for him? (page 10)
2. How did Rick persuade Christy to let Keryn help her in the bath? (page 11)
3. What questions do Keryn and Aaron want answered?
4. On page 12, what does Keryn suggest they do?
5. Why do you think Keryn suggested this?
6. How did Rusa help with the bath? (page 12)
7. What does it mean by *Rusa maintained her position beside the bath, clearly under the impression that Christy was her responsibility?* (page 13)
8. Describe Christy after her bath, or you may prefer to draw a picture of her. (page 13 , 14)
9. How does the author give the reader some background information about the twins? (page 15)
10. Why does Rick think that the twins *could keep their mouths shut?* (page 14)
11. Why do you think that Rick has not turned Christy over to Scott Backer?
12. How do you feel about Rick keeping Christy a secret? What would you have done in a situation like this?

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Chapter 3



1. What do you think of Rick? Outline what sort of person he is and why is he concerned about Christy?
2. Why does Keryn look at Aaron in disbelief? (page 16)
3. Why does Rick want Keryn to ring Belinda and ask her to come over as soon as she can? (page 17)
4. Why had Tori and Scott extended the house? (pages 17, 18)
5. From the description of the extension on pages 17 and 18, draw a plan of the extensions.
6. Who is Scott's stepfather and why were the teenagers *a little intimidated* by him? You will need to explain what the word intimidated means. (page 18)
7. How does Scott know that Keryn is hiding something from him? (page 19, 20)
8. How does Keryn try to keep Scott from finding Aaron in the studio? (page 21)
9. Explain the phone conversation Rick has with Andrea (see pages 23 and 24)
10. Why is Rick so angry with the Family and Children's Services? (pages 23 & 24)
11. What is Rick's real name? Why doesn't he use it?
12. Why does Rick say *That should stir up the hornet's nest*? (page 24)
13. What did Rick plan to do when Christy woke up? (page 24)

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Chapter 4

1. Describe Belinda. What is meant by *Trust Belinda to arrive in typically Belinda fashion?* (page 30) Perhaps draw a sketch of Belinda here.
2. Belinda reminds Rick about something on page 27. What is it?
3. Belinda thought Christy should not stay the night at Rick's. What changed Belinda's mind? (page 28)
4. Why did Belinda take Christy's clothes and Rick's shirt home? (page 29)
5. Why was Scott *disappointed that they* (the twins) *didn't feel free to come and talk to him?*
6. On page 30, we find that *Keryn's heart lurched fearfully*. Write this statement in your own words.
7. Why did Keryn think that *they were really in for it now?* (page 30)
8. Scott has become very suspicious. List at least two things that do not add up for Scott and which have made him believe that the twins are up to something. You will find these on pages 19 - 21, as well as 29 - 30.
9. How did Scott use his detective skills to try to find out what the twins were up to? (page 31)

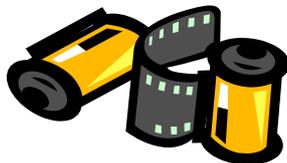


10. The author uses an analogy (comparing two different things) when she writes, *Getting to know the children was like watching his hand get better. A little at a time and hardly noticeable*. What does Scott mean by these statements? (page 32)

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Chapters 5 & 6

1. Give examples to back up the fact that Rick really cares about Christy. See page 33 in particular.
2. Why does Rick say that he will not return Christy yet? (page 35)
3. When does Rick say that he will send her back to her parents? (page 35, 36)
4. What is Rick's plan for keeping Christy a secret from his parents? (page 36)
5. Belinda comes up with a plan of her own. What is it? (page 37)
6. Give another word for *rummaged* on page 37.
7. Scott *was fascinated by their* (the twin's) *ability to communicate without words.* Why? (page 38)
8. Aaron is really worried on page 41. Why is he so concerned?
9. What pictures are referred to on page 42?
10. How did Scott and Andrew (his partner) find the photos? (pages 46 – 48)
11. On page 47, we find that *Andrew acknowledged begrudgingly.* What does this statement mean.
12. How is Scott going to have the torn photos put back together? (page 48)
13. What was the purpose of the roster that Belinda had started. How many girls were on the roster? (page 49)
14. Why is Rick so frustrated by Andrea every time he rings the Family and Children's Services? (page 50)
15. *Rick felt a thrill of pleasure.* Why? (page 51)



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Chapter 7

1. What was to be the new roster at Rick's home? (page 52) Why?
2. Find a word on page 53 that means that they did not speak smoothly.
3. On page 53, find a word that means hanging around.
4. What does it mean when it says *He'd noticed the guarded looks between the twins?* (page 53)
5. At the top of page 54, Keryn answers Scott's question with a half-truth. Explain.
6. Why did Keryn find it so difficult when Scott was so nice to her? (page 54)
7. What does it mean when it says *Keryn struggled to keep her composure?* (page 54)
8. Keryn has become quite deceitful with Scott. Give examples of her deceptive behaviour. (see page 55)
9. Do you think that this sort of behaviour is right, even though Keryn is trying to protect a little girl from abuse? Why or why not?
10. *Suddenly the front door clicked shut and pure adrenaline shot through him.* Explain what is meant here. What is adrenaline? (page 56)
11. This sort of behaviour was out of character for Keryn. What sort of a person was Keryn really? (page 57)
12. How did Scott know that Aaron and Doug obviously knew nothing about Keryn's plan to go out at night on her own? (page 57)
13. Keryn was really shaken up when Scott grabbed her. Write a half page story of an incident when you have felt really startled and scared by something or somebody. You may make up an incident if you cannot think of a real one. Describe how you felt and what you did. Use some really good descriptive words and make use of suspense in your writing, just as Stutley does in this section of her book (page 58)
14. What is the meaning of *concealed* on page 58.

15. Why did Scott feel he had to ask Keryn questions about what she had been doing? (page 60) What is the role of a guardian?
16. How do you feel about the way he handles this situation with Keryn at this stage in the book?

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Chapters 8 & 9

1. What were the sensors going to be used for now that Scott had discovered that Keryn had visited someone at night? (pages 61 – 62)
2. What was so interesting about Kettle Close coming up on both lists? (pages 45, & 63)
3. What is meant by *a withering look* on page 64?
4. Explain how Scott discovered Belinda's house. (pages 62 & 66)
5. How do you feel about Scott using the latest police technology to find out what Keryn is up to? Explain your feelings here.
6. Briefly describe how the babysitting system worked. (pages 68 – 69)
7. What does Her stomach tightened sickeningly mean? (page 69)
8. What was it that really hurt Keryn on page 71?
9. Keryn tells Scott that she took clothes to Belinda's place. Is she telling Scott the truth or is it only half the truth? (page 72 – 73)
10. How do you know that Scott knew that Keryn was lying to him? (page 73)
11. Scott had taped his conversation with Keryn. Why? (page 74)

12. What does African-American mean? (page 74)
13. If Scott was going to write a report on Keryn, write briefly what he would include about his findings up to this point. (In other words, what does Scott know about what Keryn is doing and where she is going?)
14. What effect does lying have on the relationship between Keryn and Scott? Do you consider that Keryn is feeling relaxed and happy at this point in the story? Explain.
15. Why do you think the Bible instructs us to always tell the truth?

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Chapters 10

1. Why didn't Keryn sleep well? (page 75)
2. On page 76, Keryn is faced with a moral dilemma. What is it?
3. What does *no one will be able to say that you ratted on them* mean? (page 76)
4. Scott tells Keryn a story about when he was an angry teenager. Why does he do this? (pages 77 – 79)
5. Scott says to Keryn on page 79: *You see, doing something wrong for the right reason doesn't make it right.* What is he referring to here?
6. What does he ask Keryn to promise on page 79?
7. Keryn is *relieved that it was all over.* What was all over? (pages 79)
8. Draw up a missing persons poster for Christine Anne Tracket. See page 4 & 81

9. Why does Scott suggest that Andrew needs to move in for a while? (page 82)
10. Write an email to Christine's grandmother in Wagin regarding the whereabouts of her granddaughter. You will need to make up an email address for the grandmother and for yourself as well.

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Chapters 11

1. Why is Christine's grandmother very concerned about her? (page 83)
2. How does Scott figure out that Rod goes to a school close by? (page 84, 85)
3. Scott gives Rod a phone number. It is a closed line. What does this mean? (page 86)
4. What does Campbell Shepherdson find out about Rod from the tapes? (page 88, 89)
5. It took a long time for Doug to trust Scott and now he is trying to get through to Keryn. Scott is feeling a little worried. Why? (page 90)
6. Keryn was very interested in watching the news. Why? (page 91)
7. What mood is created by the statement that Scott *was standing in the shadows*? (page 91)
8. Why do you think that Keryn is concerned that Andrew has moved back into the house? (page 91)

9. Why do you suppose Keryn had a headache and went off to bed early? (page 91)
10. Scott is really worried about Christine. He even thinks that she could be dead. He is really trying to find her. Draw up a missing persons poster of Christine, using the description in chapter 1. Use a piece of white or coloured A4 paper. You may use a computer for this exercise if you wish.

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Chapters 13 & 14

1. Keryn was really determined to speak to Scott. Why do you think it was so important to her? (page 100 – 101)
2. Why do you believe Keryn had such a bad headache? (page 100)
3. On page 101 you find that Scott asked a question *non-committally*. What do you think this means?
4. What sort of a mood is Rod in when he rings Scott about Christy? (page 102 – 103)
5. There is another example of Keryn telling a half-truth on page 104. What is it?
6. Why is Andrew suspicious about Keryn's story about why she was out of the school ground at lunchtime? (page 106)
7. What is a forensic lab? How is the forensic lab helping Scott and Andrew with their investigations of Christy? (page 106)

8. How does Andrew know that Keryn had not been to Belinda's house in Kettle Close? (page 108)
9. How does Keryn's sports bag help the detectives with their investigations? (page 109 – 111)
10. How much had the girls spent on Christy's clothing? (page 111)
11. How had Rick and Belinda tricked Rick's parents into having Christy and Belinda stay over for the night? (page 113)

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Chapters 15

1. Why did Scott wake at 3.13 in the morning? (page 114)
2. Why does it say *This was turning into a regular party*? (115)
3. What did Doug say about her headaches that made Keryn upset? (page 116)
4. Describe the situation on page 117 in your own words.
5. How did Scott know that Doug had still not gone back to bed? (page 118)
6. Why does Scott believe that it was hard for Doug now? (page 119)
7. How does Scott calm Doug down on page 120?
8. How many people had actually been up in the house at about 3.13 am that morning?
9. Do you think that Doug will leave the incident involving his sister alone? Why or why not?

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Chapters 17 & 18

1. Keryn makes a discovery that really worries her. What is it? (pages 131-132)
2. What is meant by a *warrant*? (page 133)
3. Find a sentence that tells you that Scott is really frustrated in his investigations about Christy. (page 134)
4. Why did Scott go to the school? (page 134)
5. What happened when he arrived at the school? (page 143)
6. After looking at the roll, what did Scott and Mr White discover about the absences during the week? (page 135)
7. What is meant by *truancy*? (page 137)
8. What is meant by *They were loyal to the point of being a danger to themselves*? (page 139)
9. How did Scott manage to find Keryn? (page 140 – 141)
10. Describe how Keryn felt when she was eventually caught? (page 141 – 142)
11. What does it mean to *interrogate* someone? (page 143)
12. How did Scott find out that Christy was all right? (page 145)
13. Things start to happen quickly from here on. Scott has questions he wants answered and so does Doug. List some of these questions. (pages 145-146)



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Chapters 19 & 20

1. What did the forensic lab find out in relation to Christy? (page 149-150)
2. How did Scott eventually find out the Rod was really Rick, one of the twins' friends? (pages 151 – 153)
3. Belinda's father was the lawyer working for the Trackets who had turned themselves in to the police. Why does it say that there was a *conflict of interests*? (page 154)
4. What is going to happen to Christine now? (page 157)
5. *Christine's grandmother is the well-known and respected matriarch of a prominent Aboriginal family.* What is a matriarch? Write this sentence in your own words. (page 157)
6. Rick suddenly thought about how much trouble he was now in on page 157. What do you think this trouble might be? (page 157)
7. What was Scott's biggest problem when he gathered together the teenagers who had looked after Christy and their parents? (page 160)
8. Why do you think that Scott and Jack Woods explained that the Trackets needed *help, not punishment*? (page 160-161)
9. Do you agree with Scott that the kids should not get away with what they did? (page 161)
10. How was a decision reached for the teenagers' punishment? (page 161)
11. Do you think the solution reached for punishing the young people was appropriate?

12. Do you believe that you should pay the consequences for your actions?
13. What do you think of the concept of not 'ratting' on your friends?
14. On page 79, Scott says *doing something wrong for a right reason doesn't make it right*. How can you see that this applies to this particular story?
15. How is Scott finding being guardian to four young adult children?
16. What do you consider to be the climax of the story?
17. Write an email to a friend who has left the district, telling the story of ***Operation Delta Bravo*** by D J Stutley.
18. Write you own sequel to this book. Follow little Christy perhaps or the twins and the other teenagers as they do their community service.

or

Alternatively you could write your own mystery thriller, choosing a situation where you find something wrong and you try to fix the situation yourself.

For either of these activities in Question 18, you will need to have at least four chapters in your novel. Present it as a book, with a suitable cover and contents page. Happy writing!!

