



OPERATION ROMEO SIERRA

Chapter 1

1. What questions do you have at the beginning of this chapter? Pages 2 - 5
2. Explain how Andrew feels at the mention of them taking his computer and mobile phone. Pages 5 - 7
3. Why do you think Andrew trusts Scott even though he is really puzzled about what the police are after?

Chapter 2

1. *Never in his wildest dreams had he ever thought he would be on the receiving end of this procedure.* Explain what is meant by the above statement on page 11.
2. What is being put under surveillance? Why is it done?
3. *If she didn't leave a note, something could have happened to her.* Page 19. Why does Andrew say this?

Chapter 3

1. Find evidence in this chapter that Sam is really brave.
2. What else have you discovered in the novel so far, about Sam's character? What is she like?
3. Why had Andrew given Sam a spanking previously? Page 24 – 26

Chapter 4

1. What did Sam do that had caused a problem for Andrew on pages 30 – 31.
2. *It was a good thing that she'd been just a little bit too late – she was still free.* Page 32. Explain what was meant by this statement.
3. How is Andrew feeling at the end of this chapter? Be specific and try to give reasons for your answer.

Chapter 5

1. In paragraphs 1 & 2, as well as in previous pages, what sort of a person is Sam?
2. Why is it necessary for Andrew to be out of the house for a while?
3. What is a flashback? Why do you think Andrew has a flashback as he enters the house on page 44?

Chapter 6

1. What else have you discovered about Sam from this chapter?
2. On page 54 they talk about "hush money". What does this mean and what was the implication for Andrew?
3. On pages 55 & 56, what is Sam trying to "pull off"?

Chapter 7

1. Give evidence from the text that Sam really loved and cared about Andrew.
2. How does Sam know the Smith children's names?
3. What items does Sam leave at Scott's house?
4. How does the ant bite help Andrew to get the docket from Sam?

Chapter 8

1. What is the Colter unit?
2. *Ironic, isn't it? I deal with missing kids and I'm not allowed to look for one.* Explain what it meant by ironic.
3. Why do you think Kat wrote, *She is MY daughter – not yours?* From what you have read, what sort of a person is Kat?

Chapter 9

1. Explain how Andrew must have been feeling on pages 78 – 79.
2. Why does Andrew decide to go out for breakfast after all?
3. What do you think the shopping docket is meant to tell Andrew?
4. When referring to the photographs, why do you think Sam wrote *It is too risky to carry them now?*

Chapter 10

1. What things don't add up for Andrew, when the police officer tells him about their fears for Sam's safety?
2. What does Andrew mean by *there is nothing former about it. She will always be my daughter in every way that counts.* (page 96)
3. Bobby says *I'm all that stands between you and a prison cell* on page 97. What does he mean? Explain fully.

Chapter 11

1. What does Sam's appendix operation have to do with the photos Kat is using to cause problems for Andrew?
2. Andrew sends an email to Sam asking her to contact Crime Stoppers. How will Sam know the message is from him and not someone else?
3. Why is Sam at Coles in Gosnells?

Chapter 12

1. Why did Andrew threaten to cuff Sam to the shopping trolley on page 109?
2. Why does Andrew make a sudden rush for his room when he remembered the statement about *the sugar aisle?* (page 110)

Chapter 13

1. Scott's knowledge of Andrew is a problem for him in this chapter, especially pages 116-117. Comment on this statement.
2. Explain how Sam is feeling towards the end of this chapter?

Chapter 14

1. On page 122, D J Stutley uses the expression *barrelling around the corner of the building.* Why has she chosen the word *barrelling* on this occasion? Look at the word used on page 120 to describe the way in which the train travelled to Armadale Station. Why was it used? What other verbs could have been used in this position to give the same effect?
2. Explain the scene in paragraph 3 on page 123. List all of the things, in sequence, that Sam does to avoid detection?

3. Write a paragraph describing how Sam is feeling at this time.
4. How does Scott ensure that the kids will probably cooperate with him when he confronts the children about what has been happening since Doug gave the docket to Andrew?
5. Justify the statement: Sam was certainly clever and calculating. Refer to instances in chapter 14.

Chapter 15

1. Can you find any evidence in this chapter that Andrew is extremely fond of Sam and cares about her well-being? Explain fully.
2. Why is Andrew so upset about the thought of the police sending Samantha back to her mother?
3. What are the 2 clues that Scott has found on the shopping docket?

Chapter 16

1. What is meant by, *I am all that stands between that prison door and his daughter Sam?*
2. What is the effect of having the notes Tony had made inserted into the narrative?
3. Tony took a big risk in taking Sam to Perth. Why do you think he decided to do this and not hand her over to the police in Penong?
4. Why is Sam so desperate to speak to her dad?

Chapter 17

1. What has happened to enable the police to arrest Kat on pages 147 and 148?
2. Why did Andrew ask them to wait half an hour before they took him shopping?
3. Explain how the meeting between Sam and Andrew has been arranged?
4. Both Sam and Andrew have been surprised by the events that have unfolded when they each entered the Coles store. Explain fully what is meant by *they had both been caught in the same trap*. (page 154)
5. Where is the money Sam had in the backpack?

Chapter 18

1. Explain why Sam is staying with Scott for the moment.
2. Why was Sam's mother so desperate to have Sam back home with her?
3. On page 158, what evidence is there that Samantha is extremely clever and is able to think things through thoroughly?
4. Comment on how the novel ends. Would you have wanted to see it end any other way? Explain.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES ON *OPERATION ROMEO SIERRA*

1. Explain the title of the novel.
2. Comment on the cover of the novel. How appropriate do you think it is? Why?
3. From Sam's point of view, create a diary of the events since she left home 4 days earlier.
4. Why is there a picture of a backpack separating the sections of each chapter?
5. Comment on the technology that has been used to arrange the meeting between Andrew and Samantha at the end of the novel.
6. Using some of the themes from this novel, write one or two paragraphs on:
 - Honesty.
 - The unlawful use of photos in the wrong hands.
 - Jealousy
 - The need to seek appropriate help when it is needed.
7. Write character sketches of Samantha and Kat.
8. What was your favourite part of the story? Why?
9. Which is your favourite character? Why?
10. Write a book review.
11. Write your own ending to the novel.
12. Write a sequel to this novel. What will happen to Andrew and Sam? Will Kat ever have a good relationship with her daughter again?

Some Essay questions:

- Mothers will generally not go to the lengths that Kat does in this novel, to lead people to doubt a child's mental state. Give reasons for her extreme behaviour.
- Scott has once again been responsible for rescuing another teenager, who has found herself in a very difficult situation. Discuss how this has come about in this novel.
- Sam is a very capable, intelligent teenage girl who has gone to extreme lengths to find the one person she knows she can trust. Discuss.

- Scott and Andrew are partners in the police force, but are also close friends. Discuss how the incidences in the novel have really tested their friendship.
- Andrew could easily have gone to prison for what looked like a criminal offence. Discuss.
- How effective is the use of flashbacks in the novel *Operation Romeo Sierra*?