

Officially Dead by Richard Prescott**1**

- 1 Because he has seen a man in the bar who looks very like him.
- 2 *Student's own answer. The student might say that perhaps the Bentleys are criminals, and perhaps Linda thinks that they can use the similarity between Colin and John to help them commit a crime.*

2

Colin had found Linda Bentley very attractive. He wants to meet her again because he is attracted to her, but he does not want his wife to know this.

3

- 1 Colin thinks that the only way someone can earn £10 000 for one evening's easy work is by gambling – by winning a lottery, for example. He is saying that he doesn't gamble.
- 2 He thinks that Linda had always intended to spend the night with him, because she wanted him to help her and John.
- 3 *Student's own answer. The student might say that Linda wants to use Colin, to help her husband commit a crime, and that she doesn't really care about him.*

4

Because there are technical details of the software to discuss. She is the software developer, and Colin does not understand the technical details.

5

Because the traffic on the motorways is moving very slowly, and he thinks that he will get to Manchester faster if he drives towards Birmingham on smaller roads.

6

Student's own answer. The student might say that Linda thinks that the robbery will be easier for her husband to commit if the police think that he is dead. The police will not connect him with the crime.

7

She knew that Colin was a thoughtless person, so she wasn't surprised when he hadn't phoned her on Tuesday night, though she had been angry about it. And she thought that Colin might have been delayed at another client's office on Wednesday, and hadn't remembered to phone her or Jackman's office. Only on Wednesday night did she start to think that something terrible might have happened.

8

- 1 (a) That she is a person who likes money. She thinks that she will be able to sell Colin's gold ring. The other things are broken and worthless, so she throws them away.
(b) *Student's own answer.*

- 2 He has to pretend that he doesn't exist. He can't let anybody who he knows see him, or realize that he is still alive.

9

She was beginning to understand that Colin might have run away because the company was in debt, and would go out of business. He couldn't accept failure.

10

- 1 Because she doesn't seem to be upset about the death of her husband, and she has another man staying in her house.
- 2 Because there is a photograph of a missing man with the advertisement. It is the man who died in the crash, but the missing man's name is not John Bentley. Mark is starting to believe that Bentley is not dead, and that Linda lied to him. He is starting to believe that the dead man was Colin Fenton.

11

She is thinking that Mark is wrong and that it was John Bentley who had died in the accident. *The student might say that she is thinking that Mark is crazy.*

12

He bends the bars of the metal grill below the skylight with a car jack, and he smashes the skylight glass. He does this because he wants the police to think that the robbers got in through the skylight. He destroys the lock on the strong-room door with plastic explosive. He wants the police to think that the robbers did not know the combination. Then he smashes the glass of the display cabinets in the shop, after he has removed the jewellery from them. Before he leaves, he resets the alarm, so that the bells will ring.

13

She has found Colin's passport, so she knows that he hasn't left the country. She knows that he was seen at a service area on the M4, near where the crash happened. And Mark has told her that the man who he saw at Linda Bentley's house looked very like Colin. Now she believes Mark's idea – that the two men exchanged identities before the accident.

14

80 bundles. Frankie keeps £100 000 and gives Linda £400 000, in bundles of £5000.

15

Colin is dead and John Bentley is alive. But Colin's body was cremated as John Bentley's body, so no one knew that Colin was dead. But now everyone will know that Colin is dead. The person who died in the crash will be remembered as Colin, not as John Bentley. So Colin will have his own name again.