

# Island for Sale

Anne Collins

British English

*Original*

Duncan McTavish and his dog, Jock, live in a castle on a Scottish island. One day, Duncan gets a letter from the electricity company. They want £5,000. But Duncan doesn't have the money. He can do only one thing: sell his island. Is a famous rock star going to buy it?

*Number of words (excluding activities): 1,664*

Series Editors: Jocelyn Potter and Andy Hopkins

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PENGUIN ACTIVE READING

LEVEL 1

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Level 1

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1.1 What's the book about?

- Look at the picture on the front of this book. What country is this story about?
  - Italy • Japan • Mexico • Scotland • India • Russia
- Talk about the people in the pictures. What do they like? What do you think? Put ticks (✓) under A or B.



	A	B
lot of money	✓	
big new houses		
old castles		
expensive cars		
long holidays		
quiet evenings		
shopping		
walking		

1.2 What happens first?

Look at the words at the bottom of page 1. What are they in your language? Then look at the pictures. What do you think? Put the right words in these sentences.

- Lana is ..... a town a country an island
- Duncan lives in an old ..... house hotel castle
- Jock is Duncan's ..... friend boat dog
- Duncan likes ..... running fishing reading
- The things in the castle are very ..... new old expensive



There are many **islands** in the sea near Scotland. This story is about one of these islands. The name of the island is Lana. Lana isn't big, but it's very beautiful. It's very quiet, too. There are no houses or roads or cars on Lana. But there's a **castle**. The castle is very old.

A young Scotsman lives in the castle. The Scotsman's name is Duncan McTavish. Duncan lives in the castle with his **dog**, Jock.

Duncan is very happy on his island. He likes going for walks with Jock. He likes swimming and **fishing** in his little boat.

There are many big rooms in Duncan's castle. They have a lot of old things in them – pictures and heavy tables, chairs and beds.

In winter the castle is very cold and dark. Duncan puts on a lot of **electric** lights in all the rooms.



- sale** /seɪl/ (n) This boat is for *sale*. Do you want to buy it?
- island** /'aɪlənd/ (n) There are a lot of *islands* in the North Sea.
- castle** /'kɑːsl/ (n) In the afternoon, we are going to visit Windsor *Castle*.
- dog** /dɒg/ (n) Who is going to take the *dog* for a walk?
- fish** /fɪʃ/ (v/n) He likes *fishing* in the river at weekends.
- electric** /ɪ'lektrɪk/ (adj) There are no *electric* lights in the house; there is no *electricity* here.



One Monday morning in April, Duncan gets a letter.  
‘What’s this?’ he asks.

He opens the letter. It’s from the electricity **company**. Duncan reads,

*Electricity from October to March: £5,000.*

‘Oh,’ Duncan says. ‘I haven’t got £5,000. What can I do?’ He’s very unhappy. ‘I can do only one thing: **sell** my island and my castle.’



Duncan telephones a man in London. The man’s name is Mr Moneybags. Mr Moneybags sells houses and castles.

‘I want to sell my island and my castle,’ Duncan says.

‘OK,’ Mr Moneybags says.

Two days later, he telephones Duncan.  
‘**Leaping** Larry wants to buy your island,’ he says.

‘Leaping . . . who?’ Duncan asks.

‘Leaping Larry. You know – the famous American **music star**. He wants to buy your island for his friend.’

‘A music star,’ Duncan says. ‘Oh.’

‘He wants to see the island tomorrow afternoon,’ Mr Moneybags says. ‘Is that OK?’

‘Er . . . yes,’ Duncan says. ‘Yes, of course.’

Leaping Larry and his friend are coming to the island by **helicopter**. They’re very late. Duncan and Jock wait a long time.

Then the helicopter arrives. A tall man with long dark hair gets down from it. He’s about forty-five years old. There’s a girl with him. She’s about twenty and has long yellow hair. There’s a small animal with her. The animal has long white hair.

‘Hi,’ the man says. ‘I’m Leaping Larry. And this is my friend, Roxanne.’



**leap** /li:p/ (v) Can you *leap* across that river?

**rock star** /'rɒk stɑː/ (n) *Rock stars* can make a lot of money from their music.

**helicopter** /'helɪkɒptə/ (n) The police *helicopter* is looking for a small child.

**company** /'kʌmpəni/ (n) I have a small taxi *company* with ten drivers.

**sell** /sel/ (v) I *sell* my photographs to newspapers.



'Hi,' Roxanne says. 'This is my dog, Bobo.'

Larry looks at the castle.

'Look at that old castle, Roxanne,' he says. 'Don't you love it, **honey**?'

Roxanne doesn't smile. It's only an old castle.

Leaping Larry and Roxanne go into the castle. It's very dark.

Leaping Larry can't see. He falls down.

'Where are the lights?' he asks.

'I'm sorry,' Duncan says. 'There isn't any light. The company stopped my electricity this morning.'

'I want some hot food,' Roxanne says.

'I'm sorry,' Duncan says, 'but I can't make hot food. I haven't got any electricity. But there is some cold food.'

'Cold food!' Roxanne says. 'No, thank you! I'm going to bed. But first I want a hot **bath**. And Bobo wants a bath, too.'

'I'm very sorry,' Duncan says. 'But there's no hot water.'

'No lights! No food! No hot water!'

Roxanne says. 'I don't like this place!'

'Now, honey . . . ' Leaping Larry says.

'Don't **call** me "honey"!' Roxanne says. 'Let's go, Bobo!'



**honey** /'hani/ (n) I have fruit and *honey* every morning.

**bath** /bʌ:θ/ (n) have a *bath* and then go to bed.  
**call** /kɔ:l/ (v) I don't *call* that colour green – it's blue!

Roxanne and Bobo go to bed. Larry and Duncan eat cold food and talk. Jock watches them.

Suddenly Roxanne **screams**. Duncan, Larry and Jock run to her room. Roxanne is in bed with Bobo.

'Honey, what's wrong?' Larry asks.

'There was a noise in the room,' Roxanne says. 'What was it?'

Duncan starts to smile.

'Why are you smiling?' Roxanne says. She's very angry.

'Look at Jock,' Duncan says.

Jock is under the bed. He has a **mouse** in his mouth.

'A mouse!' Roxanne says. She screams again.



**scream** /skri:m/ (v) The child is *screaming* because he wants a drink.  
**mouse** /maʊs/ (n) There is a *mouse* under your chair!



In the morning, Duncan and Leaping Larry are waiting. Roxanne and Bobo are late. They get up at eleven o'clock.

'Good morning,' Duncan says.

Roxanne doesn't answer. She says to Larry, 'Larry, I don't like this place. I want to go home.'

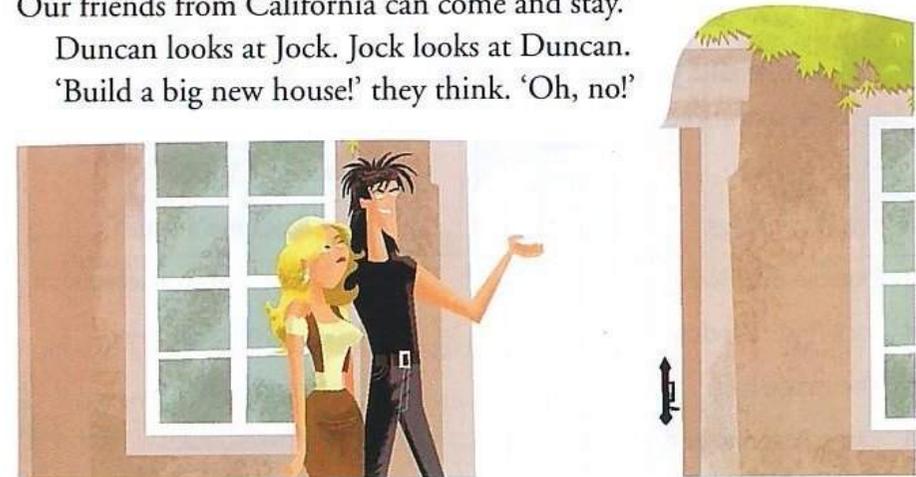
'But, honey . . . ' Larry says.

'Don't call me "honey"!' Roxanne says. 'This castle is old, dark and very cold. There's no electricity, no food and no hot water. And I don't like it. Do you understand?'

'Listen, honey,' Larry says. 'We can build a big new house here. Our friends from California can come and stay.'

Duncan looks at Jock. Jock looks at Duncan.

'Build a big new house!' they think. 'Oh, no!'



**2.1 Were you right?**

Look at your answers to Activities 1.1 and 1.2 on page ii. Are your answers right? Then answer these questions. Write the people's names.



- 1 Who is a music star? ..... Larry
- 2 Who is from California? .....
- 3 Who has a small dog? .....
- 4 Who wants to buy an island? .....
- 5 Who has money problems? .....
- 6 Who likes beautiful women? .....
- 7 Who likes big hats? .....
- 8 Who has a small boat? .....
- 9 Who has a helicopter? .....

**2.2 What more did you learn?**

Finish the sentences with words on the right.

- |                           |                              |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Leaping Larry           | wants £5000.                 |
| 2 Mr Moneybags            | in Roxanne's room.           |
| 3 Duncan likes living     | no hot water or electricity. |
| 4 Jock finds a mouse      | has a lot of money.          |
| 5 The castle has          | have long hair.              |
| 6 Larry, Roxanne and Bobo | on the island.               |
| 7 Bobo and Roxanne        | sells houses and castles.    |
| 8 The electricity company | get out of the helicopter.   |

**2.3 Language in use**

Look at the sentence on the right. Then put these words in the sentences.

Duncan and Jock live **on** the island of Lana.

at to from by  
with for on in

- 1 There is only one building ..... Lana.
- 2 Duncan likes going for walks ..... Jock.
- 3 Duncan gets a letter ..... the electricity company.
- 4 Mr Moneybags works ..... London.
- 5 Larry wants to buy the island ..... Roxanne.
- 6 Larry and Roxanne arrive ..... helicopter.
- 7 Roxanne and Bobo go ..... bed.
- 8 Roxanne and Bobo get up ..... eleven o'clock.

**2.4 What's next?**

Who is thinking? Write the letters, A–D.



- 1 'I don't like this island. I want to go back to California.' .....
- 2 'I haven't got any money for the electricity company. I don't want to sell my island.' .....
- 3 'I like this island. I want to bring film companies here.' .....
- 4 'I want to catch rabbits. I love swimming in the sea!' .....

Leaping Larry says, 'We want to see the island.'

'OK,' Duncan says. 'We can go in my boat.'

Duncan, Larry and Roxanne get into Duncan's boat. Jock gets in, too. Bobo is with Roxanne.

It's a beautiful day, but Roxanne isn't happy.



'What do you do all day?' she asks Duncan.

'I go for walks,' Duncan says. 'Sometimes I swim. And sometimes I catch fish.'

'Oh,' Roxanne says. 'That isn't very interesting.'

'Listen, honey,' Larry says. 'We can make the island interesting. I know people with film companies. They can come here and make films. Hundreds of films!'

Duncan looks at Jock. Jock looks at Duncan.

'Film companies!' they think. 'Oh, no!'

Duncan is very unhappy. He doesn't want to sell his island and his castle to Larry. He doesn't want film companies or Larry's friends on the island.

But what can Duncan do? The electricity company wants £5,000. He has no money. He can't stay in his castle.





Duncan, Larry and Roxanne are all sitting in Duncan's boat. Jock and Bobo are with them. Suddenly, Jock sees a **rabbit** on the island. Jock loves catching rabbits. He **jumps** into the sea and starts to swim to the island.

Bobo thinks, 'This is interesting!' And he jumps in, too.

'Bobo is in the water!' Roxanne screams. 'Jump into the sea, Larry! Get Bobo!'

But Larry doesn't move.

'Why are you waiting?' Roxanne says. 'Jump in!'

'But, honey,' Larry says, 'I can't swim.'

'Can't swim!' Roxanne says. She is very angry.

**rabbit** /'ræbɪt/ (n) Rabbits often come into our garden.  
**jump** /dʒʌmp/ (v) He *jumped* down from the chair onto the floor.

'Look!' Duncan says. 'Bobo is OK. He's having a good time.'

Bobo is swimming in the water with Jock. But Roxanne is very angry with Larry.

'You don't love me!' she says.

'And you don't love *me*,' Larry says. 'You only love Bobo.'

'You're right,' Roxanne says.

She stands in the boat and starts to hit Larry.

'Don't do that!' Duncan says.

The boat moves. Roxanne falls into the water. She starts to scream. Roxanne is making a lot of noise. Jock sees Roxanne in the water with Bobo. What are they doing? Are they playing a new game? Jock wants to play, too. He swims to Bobo.

'Go away!' Roxanne screams.

Duncan brings the boat near Roxanne. Roxanne gets into the boat. Then Bobo gets into the boat.

Roxanne is very angry.

'Take me back to California . . . NOW!' she says to Larry.



**3.1 Were you right?**

Look at your answers to Activity 2.4 on page 9. Are your answers right? Then answer these questions.

- Roxanne isn't happy because *she doesn't like the island*  
*She wants to go back to California*
- Duncan isn't happy because .....
- Leaping Larry is happy because .....
- Jock is happy because .....

**3.2 What more did you learn?**

Put these sentences in the right order. Write the numbers, 1–8.

- A Roxanne and Larry get into Duncan's boat.  1
- B Roxanne falls into the water.
- C Jock sees a rabbit on the island.
- D Roxanne stands in the boat.
- E Bobo jumps into the sea.
- F Duncan brings the boat near Roxanne.
- G Jock jumps into the sea.
- H Roxanne is angry with Larry.

**3.3 Language in use**

Look at the sentence on the right. Then write sentences about the pictures.

Bobo is **swimming** in the water.



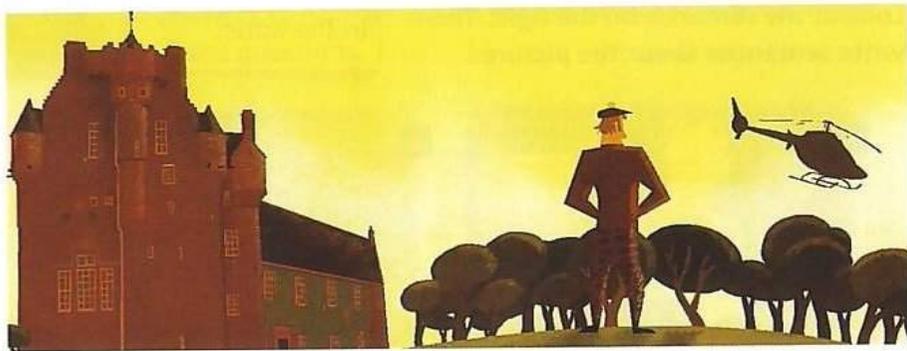
- Jock ..... the water.
- Jock and Bobo ..... the sea.
- Roxanne ..... the boat.
- Larry ..... the boat.

- jump
- swim
- get
- sit

**3.4 What's next?**

What are the people in the story going to do now? Look at the pictures on pages 16 and 17. What do you think? Circle the right words.

- Larry and Roxanne are going to go from the island by *aeroplane* / helicopter / boat.
- Mr Moneybags is going to be very *angry* / happy / unhappy.
- Duncan is going to go for a walk with *Bobo* / Jock.
- He is going to see *an old man* / a girl / a little boy.
- She is *fishing* / swimming / painting a picture.



Later Larry, Roxanne and Bobo get into their helicopter.

'Goodbye,' Duncan says.

Larry and Roxanne don't answer. The helicopter goes away.

Duncan smiles at Jock. He's very happy.

'Leaping Larry isn't going to buy our island,' he says. 'That's good!'

But Duncan has big money problems.

Leaping Larry doesn't want to buy the island. But where can Duncan get £5,000 for the electricity company?

Later, Duncan telephones Mr Moneybags in London.

'Leaping Larry telephoned me,' Mr Moneybags says. 'He doesn't like your island. He doesn't want to buy it. And I'm not going to sell it for you now. It's your problem. Goodbye.'



Duncan goes for a long walk with Jock. He's very unhappy. They walk to a place across the island. And there Duncan sees a girl. She's looking at the sea and she's **painting** a picture. Near her is a small boat.

'Good afternoon,' Duncan says.

The girl looks at Duncan. She's beautiful. He likes her.

'Who are you?' she asks. 'What do you want?'

'I'm Duncan McTavish,' Duncan says. 'I live here. Lana is my island.'

Jock looks at the girl. He likes her, too.

'Lana is your island?' the girl says. 'Oh. I'm Jean Stewart. I'm a teacher. I work in a school across the sea. Today is a holiday and the school is closed. I came here in my boat. I wanted to paint your island. The light is very good and the colours are very beautiful. I can paint good pictures here.'





Duncan looks at Jean's picture.

'Yes,' he says. 'Your picture is very good.'

'Thank you,' Jean says.

Duncan and Jean talk for a long time.

'Where do you live?' Jean asks.

'I live in a castle,' Duncan says. 'Come and see it.'

Duncan, Jean and Jock go to the castle.

'Your castle is beautiful,' Jean says.

'Yes,' Duncan says. 'But it's very cold and dark. There's no electricity. I have no money. I love my island very much.

But I can't make money from it.'

Jean looks at the castle.

Suddenly she says, 'Yes, you can!'

'How?' Duncan asks.



'People can come here for holidays,' Jean says. 'They can paint pictures of your island. I can teach them. And they can stay in your castle. We can make a lot of money!'

Duncan looks at Jock. Jock looks at Duncan.

'You're right!' Duncan says.

Now McTavish Painting Holidays are very famous. Every year many visitors come to the island. They stay in the castle. They go for walks and paint beautiful pictures. They take their pictures back to their homes.

The rooms in the castle aren't cold and dark now. Duncan and Jean have a lot of money. There is no problem with the electricity company. And Jean makes very good food. The visitors are very happy.

Duncan and Jean are **married** now. They have two children – a boy and a girl. Jock loves playing with the children.

Duncan often sits in his little boat. Sometimes he catches a fish, but usually he sleeps. He's a happy man.

**married** /'mærid/ (adj) She is *married*, with four children.

Look at the picture. Jock and Bobo are 'talking'. What are they saying?



**Student A:** You are Jock. You want to swim to the island and catch a rabbit.

**Student B:** You are Bobo. You don't want to stay in the boat with Roxanne. You want to go with Jock.  
Start: Where are you going?

Write about it

You are Duncan. Write a letter to the electricity company. You have not got any money for them. Put these words in the right places.

interesting   sorry   send   sell   castle  
problem   winter   electric   expensive

I am very ..... but I have not got £5000.  
My castle is very old and ..... But there is a .....  
In ..... it is very cold and dark. I put on a lot of .....  
lights. These lights are very .....  
I am going to ..... my island and my ..... Then I  
can ..... you the money.

*Duncan McTavish*

**Work with two or three friends.**

Jean and Duncan want more visitors on Lana. Write about McTavish Painting Holidays.

**1 Write about these things:**

- the island
- interesting things for visitors
- the castle
- Jean and Duncan

**Put these words into the right places. Put your words there too.**

beautiful   quiet   no roads or cars   old and interesting  
very good food   famous island   good places for walking  
very good light for painting   beautiful colours  
good places for fishing   friendly   family home

**About Lana**

.....  
.....  
.....

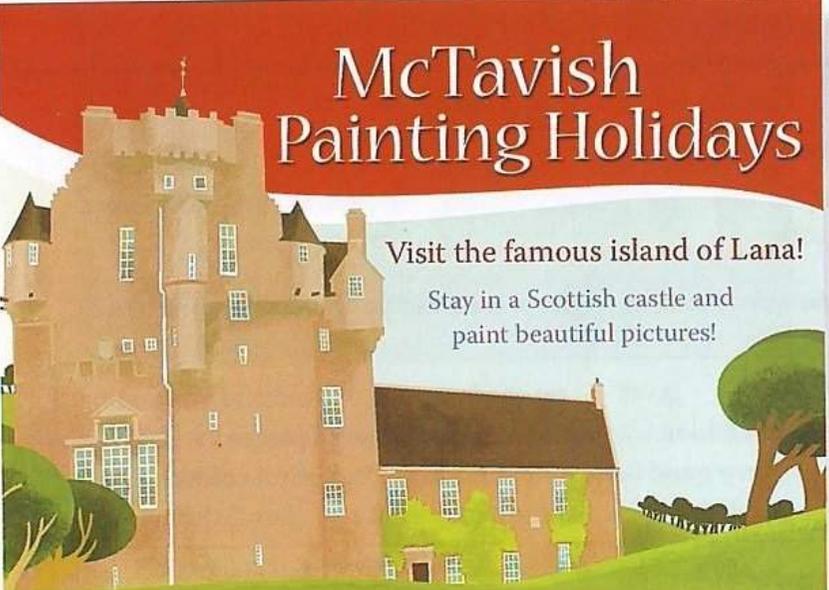
**About the castle**

.....  
.....  
.....

**About the holidays**

.....  
.....  
.....

2 Now make sentences with the words. Write them here.



# McTavish Painting Holidays

Visit the famous island of Lana!  
Stay in a Scottish castle and  
paint beautiful pictures!

About Lana

.....

.....

.....

About the castle

.....

.....

.....

About the holidays

.....

.....

.....

Please come and visit us. Bring your friends too!

Jean and Duncan McTavish,  
The Castle, Island of Lana, Scotland