

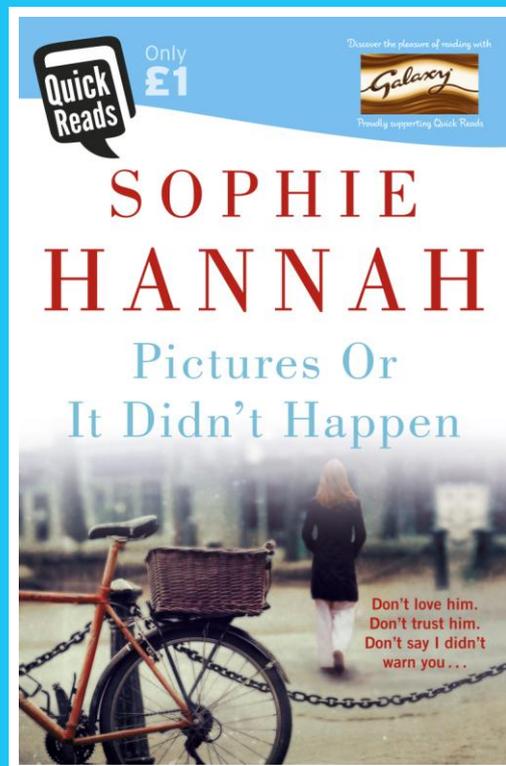


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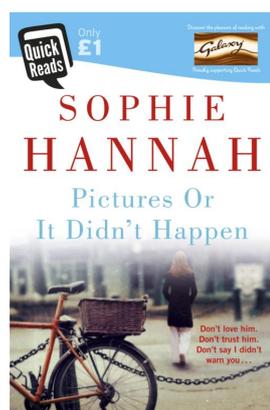
Pictures Or It Didn't Happen



Sophie Hannah

NIACE The National Voice
for Lifelong Learning

About the book



After Chloe and her daughter Freya are rescued from disaster by a man who seems too good to be true, Chloe decides she must find him again to thank him. But instead of meeting her knight in shining armour, she comes across a woman called Nadine Caspian who warns her to stay well away from him. The man is dangerous, Nadine claims, and a compulsive liar. Alarmed, Chloe asks her what she means, but Nadine will say no more.

Chloe knows that the sensible choice would be to walk away – after all, she doesn't know anything about this man. But she is too curious. What could Nadine have meant? And can Chloe find out the truth without putting herself and her daughter in danger?

About the author



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As well as writing psychological thrillers, Sophie Hannah is a bestselling poet and an award-winning short story writer. Her fifth collection of poetry, *Pessimism for Beginners*, was shortlisted for the 2007 TS Eliot Award and she won first prize in the Daphne du Maurier Festival Short Story Competition for *The Octopus Nest*. *The Other Half Lives* was shortlisted for the Independent Booksellers' Book of the Year Award and a Barry Award and her most recent psychological thriller, *The Carrier*, won the 2013 Specsavers National Book Award for Crime Novel of the Year. *The Point of Rescue* and *The Other Half Lives* were adapted for television as *Case Sensitive*, starring Olivia Williams and Darren Boyd. Sophie has been commissioned by the estate of Agatha Christie to write the first Hercule Poirot novel since Christie's death. *The Monogram Murders* was published in September 2014.

Sophie lives with her husband and children in Cambridge, where she is a Fellow Commoner at Lucy Cavendish College.

Key

	Reading		ICT
	Speaking, listening and communication		Maths
	Writing		Other

The speaking, listening and communication activities can be used in two ways. If you are working in a group, you can use these as prompts for discussions. However, if you are reading alone, these can be used for individual reflection.

Starting off...



Go to Sophie Hannah's own webpage: www.sophiehannah.com.

Have a look around. See what looks interesting to you. If you are working in a group, prepare a short talk about Sophie Hannah based on what you have found out from her website. If you are working alone and/or enjoy writing, write a short article about Sophie Hannah to share with others.

What kinds of books does Sophie Hannah usually write?



Think about the title, *Pictures Or It Didn't Happen*. What does this mean? What do you think this book is about?



Before we get to Chapter 1, we see a *dedication*. Read this aloud. What does it mean? Who is Chris Gribble?

If you were writing a book, to whom would you dedicate it? What would your dedication say?

Chapter 1



Who is the 'me' in this novel? What do we know about this 'me'?

Who is Freya?

Talk about what we have learnt in just one chapter about both characters, pointing to particular words, phrases or sentences that have told us this.



On the top of page 3, Chloe says that their problem with the forgotten music is like 'a Maths problem.' Write it out like a Maths problem on a test or in a Maths class. Is she right that 'There's no time'? Explain your answer.



Chloe gives her car keys to a complete stranger. Why does she do this? Would you have done the same? Can you think of any other solutions to their forgotten music problem?

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What is going to happen next?



Imagine you are a detective. Write down everything you know about Tom 'Rigbey' in a 'detective's notebook.'



Use the internet or a library to try to find some of the songs from *Joseph and His Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*. Listen and see what you think.

Chapters 2 - 5



Try to remember everything that happens in these four chapters. Skim read the chapters again to see if there is anything you have missed out.

How could you describe Chloe's relationship with Lorna? Is Lorna a good friend? Why or why not?

Re-read Nadine Caspian's words from page 33. Explain what she says, but using your own words. Why did she say this to Chloe? How did Chloe react? What would you have done?



Take out your detective's notebook. Add to your notes on Tom Rigbey. Also write down everything you know about Lorna, Nadine and Chloe. Highlight your *key words*. Share your notes with someone else. Do you agree?

Chapters 6 - 7



Use the internet to search for the song that Tom Rigbey sings on page 41. See if you can find a video or soundclip of someone singing this song. See if you can find the lyrics, or song words. Have a go and singing it.



Go back and look at everything Tom says in these two chapters. Does anything surprise you? Would anything worry you, if you were Chloe?

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When he calls himself 'The Talented Mr. Rigbey' on page 42, what is he referring to? Have you read it or seen it? Find out what it is about and if you like the sound of it, watch the film. And if you do, does this film help us understand what is going on in this book?



In Chapter 7 we find out a bit about Tom's favourite films. Do you know these films? Can you find out anything about them? Do you think we can learn anything about a person from his or her favourite films?

What are your favourite films? Do they say something about you? Ask others about their favourite films.

Chapters 8 - 10



Take out your detective's notebook. Add to your notes on Tom, Lorna, Nadine and Chloe. Is there anyone else you think you need to keep an eye on? Do you suspect anyone of wrong-doings? Why? Share your suspicions with others.



Look at the words Lorna uses about Chloe on page 63. What do you think about this?



Make a list of all the *films* that have been mentioned in these three chapters. Are they important? Why or why not?

Chapters 11 - 12



If you are in a group, choose one of these two chapters (or do both) and *act out* what happens as a play, with different members of the group playing the part of different characters. You could use the words the characters speak in the chapters or make up words of your own.

Has acting like this helped you to understand something more about the characters or what is happening?

Were you surprised that Chloe has agreed to marry Tom? Why or why not?

Chapters 13 - 14



Simon shares *his* detective notes on Tom. How do they compare to *yours*?

Add to the detective notes you are keeping on all the characters, and share with someone else. Explain your current suspicions. *What is going on?*

Chapters 15 - 17



After you finish these final chapters, add some final thoughts to your detective notebook.

Compare notes with another member of your group and together plan a presentation of facts. Be ready to share your take on what happened and why, and who is guilty and who is innocent. Is there only one guilty person in this novel?

Finally, does the title make more sense now?