

## Part 4

You are going to read an extract from a novel. For questions 34–40, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

Mark your answers on the separate answer sheet.

Simon Costello knew that the purchase of the house in Pembroke Square had been a mistake within a year of his and Lois's moving in. A possession which can only be afforded by the exercise of stringent and calculated economy is best not afforded at all. But at the time it had seemed a sensible, as well as a desirable, move. He had had a run of successful cases and they were coming in with reassuring regularity. Lois had returned to her job at the advertising agency within two months of the birth of the twins, and had been given a rise which took her salary to thirty-five thousand. It was Lois who had argued the more strongly for a move, but he had put up little resistance to arguments which at the time had seemed compelling: the flat wasn't really suitable for a family; they needed more room, a garden, separate accommodation for an au pair. All these, of course, could have been achieved in a suburb or in a less fashionable part of London than Pembroke Square, but Lois was ambitious for more than additional space. Mornington Mansions had never been an acceptable address for an up-and-coming young barrister and a successful businesswoman. She never said it without a sense that even speaking the words subtly diminished her standing, socially and economically.

Lois had decided that a necessary economy was for one of them to travel by public transport. Her firm was on the other side of London; obviously Simon must be the one to economise. The overcrowded tube journey, started in a mood of envious resentment, had become an unproductive thirty minutes of brooding on present discontents. He would recall his grandfather's house in Hampstead where he had stayed as a boy, the smell of dinner from the kitchen, his grandmother's insistence that the returning breadwinner, tired from his exhausting day in court, should be given peace, a little gentle cosseting, and relief from every petty domestic anxiety. She had been a 'lawyer's wife', indefatigable in legal good causes, elegantly present at all lawyers' functions, apparently content with the sphere of life which she had made her own. Well, that world had passed for ever. Lois had made it plain before their marriage that her career was as important as his. It hardly needed saying; this was, after all, a modern marriage. The job was important to her and important to them both. The house, the au pair, their whole standard of living depended on two salaries. And now what they were precariously achieving could be destroyed by that self-righteous, interfering Venetia.

Venetia must have come straight from the court to their offices and she had been in a dangerous mood. Something or someone had upset her. But the word 'upset' was too weak, too bland for the intensity of furious disgust with which she had confronted him. Someone had driven her to the limit of her endurance. He cursed himself. If he hadn't been in his room, if he'd only left a minute earlier, the encounter wouldn't have taken place, she would have had the night to think it over, to consider what, if anything, she ought to do. Probably nothing. The morning might have brought sense. He remembered every word of her angry accusations.

'I defended Brian Cartwright today. Successfully. He told me that when you were his counsel four years ago you knew before trial that he had bribed three of the jury. You did nothing. You went on with the case. Is that true?'

'He's lying. It isn't true.'

'He also said that he passed over some shares in his company to your fiancée. Also before trial. Is that true?'

'I tell you, he's lying. None of it's true.'

The denial had been as instinctive as an arm raised to ward off a blow and had sounded unconvincing even to his own ears. His whole action had been one of guilt. The first cold horror draining his face was succeeded by a hot flush, bringing back shameful memories of his headmaster's study, of the terror of the inevitable punishment. He had made himself look into her eyes and had seen the look of contemptuous disbelief. If only he'd had some warning. He knew now what he should have said: 'Cartwright told me after the trial but I didn't believe him. I don't believe him now. That man will say anything to make himself important.'

But he had told a more direct, more dangerous lie, and she had known that it was a lie. Even so, why the anger, why the disgust? What was that old misdemeanour to do with her? Who had sent Venetia Aldridge to be guardian of the conscience of their legal practice? Or of his, come to that? Was her own conscience so clear, her behaviour in court always immaculate? Was she justified in destroying his career? And it would be destruction. He wasn't sure what exactly she could do, how far she was prepared to go, but if this got about, even as a rumour, he was done for.

line 51

- 34 One reason why Simon Costello had agreed to buy the house in Pembroke Square was that
- A Lois persuaded him that he had a tendency to be too cautious.
  - B the idea arose at a time when he was optimistic about his earning capacity.
  - C he had not dared to dispute the reasons Lois had given him for doing so.
  - D he had felt that neither he nor Lois would have difficulty economising later.
- 35 One reason why Lois had wanted to buy the house was that
- A she felt that Mornington Mansions reflected poorly on her status.
  - B Mornington Mansions was a place that other people had not heard of.
  - C she had never been happy living in Mornington Mansions.
  - D Mornington Mansions was in a particularly unpopular part of London.
- 36 Simon recalled that the atmosphere in his grandparents' house had been marked by
- A his grandfather's dislike of everyday household matters.
  - B a clear understanding that his grandmother was the dominant figure there.
  - C apprehension as to what mood his grandfather would be in.
  - D his grandmother's understanding attitude towards his grandfather.
- 37 When Simon compared his own marriage with that of his grandparents, he
- A was resentful that Lois did not have the same attitude as his grandmother.
  - B realised that his grandmother had been less content than she had seemed.
  - C wondered why he and Lois had not discussed her career plans more thoroughly.
  - D resigned himself to the fact that his own situation was inevitable.
- 38 Simon 'cursed himself' (line 51) when he thought about his confrontation with Venetia because
- A he had failed to anticipate how angry she would be on her return from court.
  - B he had not given her time to reflect on the situation in a more measured way.
  - C he felt that it had been the result of nothing other than his own bad luck.
  - D he realised that he had not appreciated how much pressure she was under.
- 39 During the conversation about Brian Cartwright, Simon had
- A looked like someone who was being dishonest.
  - B thought of responses but felt unable to give them.
  - C been puzzled as to why his responses had seemed dishonest.
  - D felt the need to control his own temper.
- 40 Which of the following did Simon wonder about Venetia?
- A why she had such a good reputation
  - B whether she had something to hide
  - C why she liked spreading rumours
  - D whether she was acting out of character