

SAMPLE CARD (Task 3)
THE WRONG PIG (by Jake Allsop)

Bruno Kaufmann and I were as different as chalk and cheese, but we were friends. <...> It is true that he liked to show off, but he was very easygoing and generous, so he was also very popular – especially with the girls. <...> Bruno and I got on well together, despite our different characters, partly because I had one quality which he liked: I was a very good listener. Since he kept on falling in love, he always needed someone to listen while he described how the latest girl in his life had stolen his heart <...>. All this changed the day we met Eveline and Suzanne Louvier. Eveline and Suzanne were identical twins <...>. Eveline was older by only twenty minutes, but she was every inch the older sister. <...> Perhaps it was the way Eveline held herself, for she always walked very upright, like a queen. Bruno couldn't take his eyes off these two Swiss beauties from the first day they appeared at the school, and he quickly made their acquaintance. <...> He was soon head over heels in love with Eveline. <...>

Although I would never have said so to Bruno, I thought Suzanne was a much warmer person than Eveline, who always reminded me of the Ice Queen. Never mind, the important thing was that Bruno and Eveline seemed well suited. Like him, she was an outdoor type, and good at everything she did. There was only one problem: Suzanne was also in love with Bruno. She hid her feelings very well from the others, but I could see at once what she was going through. <...>

The Cucina Casalinga was a small family restaurant, cheap and cheerful, and always full of interesting characters. <...> It was crowded as usual, filled with the noise of lively conversation and the smell of good cooking. The owner greeted us like long lost friends, paid compliments to the girls and sat us at the one table I would have preferred to avoid: the one next to Clara and Marietta. Now, Clara and Marietta, despite their names, were two men in their late twenties. For some reason, they were usually dressed and made up as women whenever we saw them. They were regulars at the Cucina and no one took any notice of them; they were part of the scene. <...> For Bruno, they were just a couple of odd characters. He winked at me, as if to say 'Let's have some fun', and then turned to greet them cheerfully. <...> They returned his greeting, believing him to be a goodnatured fellow, not one to make fun of them. Then, to my horror, he introduced them to Eveline and Suzanne. The girls smiled weakly. <...> Suzanne, in her simple open-hearted way, tried not to notice that the two signorine were in fact men, but Eveline's expression was cold and unfriendly. <...> I was glad that Clara and Marietta left shortly afterwards, but I'm afraid the damage had been done.<...>

I prefer to forget the rest of that evening: Eveline stonily silent; Bruno sulking, irritated with Eveline because she couldn't take a joke; and Suzanne near to tears, hating Eveline's anger and Bruno's black mood.

Well, as you can guess, this was the beginning of the end. After the incident at the Cucina, Bruno and Eveline had several rows. <...> When they finally broke up, Bruno was very upset, like a child with a broken toy. He came round to see me about a week later, and poured his heart out. I just listened. There was nothing I could say. I suppose I felt sorry for him, even though he had brought it on himself. He then told me how, since Eveline had finished with him, he had spent a lot of time with Suzanne.

'Suzanne has been so good to me, Chris,' he said. 'I had never realised how wonderful she is. You know, she is a really warm, generous person. To tell you the truth, Eveline can be very unfeeling. And she has no sense of humour.' <...> At that moment I realised that I did not like Bruno Kaufmann after all.