

## READING EXERCISE

### The Adventures of Lola Badiola

#### CHAPTER 39: THE DAYDREAM

Over the following two weeks Park watched the slow but perceptible deterioration of his colleague and best friend Kim Lee Son.

Kim's personal hygiene gradually disappeared, his hair was greasy and uncombed, and he started to lose weight. He didn't speak to anyone apart from answering Kang's repetitive questions. Some nights he slept in his chair at the Ministry. Other nights he wandered alone around the grounds of the complex. He transformed from an early bird into a night owl. He could no longer be counted on as a colleague or a friend. It was a thoroughly convincing performance. And if Park didn't know any better, he could easily believe that Kim had fallen into a state of deep depression.

Other people started to notice the change. One morning Kang arrived at Kim's desk and went through the usual routine:

"Have you initiated any new attacks?"

"No, sir."

"Have you expedited any programs?"

"No, sir."

"Have you terminated any infiltrations?"

"No sir."

Kang leaned forward and looked closely at Kim. An expression of disgust appeared on his face.

"What's wrong with you?" he asked. "You smell like an American."

Kim shrugged his shoulders and continued staring at his computer screen.

"I want you to have a health check tomorrow at 9am."

Kang took one of the folders from his trolley. He extracted a document, signed it and then left it on Kim's desk.

Park tried to distance himself from the behavior of his friend. He let his mind wander to more pleasant thoughts. He had set up another meeting with the Girl with the Almond Eyes. He hoped the

chaperone would leave them alone for a few minutes. He didn't want this trial period to drag on any longer. He wanted to hold her hand, caress her hair and kiss her rosebud lips.

He started to feel aroused by the anticipation of the meeting. Impure thoughts now entered his mind. He imagined the two of them in his apartment. He was standing behind her, removing the coat from her shoulders, unbuttoning the back of her polyester dress, unclipping her bra and lifting its straps over her shoulders. He imagined gently turning her body to face his own, looking into her eyes, moving forward to kiss her.

But something was wrong. They weren't the beautiful almond eyes he knew so well. They were the eyes of another person. They were the eyes of Kim Jong Un, president of North Korea. Park suddenly realized that he was embracing the chubby, half-naked body of the Supreme Leader.

He screamed and was instantly transported back to his desk in the Ministry of Information. A couple of his colleagues were looking at him inquisitively. It took him a moment to compose himself.

He said to himself: "I need to put The Girl with Almond Eyes out of my mind. I have to focus 100% on my work and my career. I must fulfill my duty to the Fatherland."

He opened up the file of active targets and continued to research three inter-related companies - Telecom España, Banco Santander and Schwiser Lieben.

He went online and googled Telecom España to catch up with the latest news about the company. There was some stock price information, details of recent investments in South America, and some mergers and acquisitions speculation. Park was about to move on to the next company when something caught his attention.

It was the picture of a strikingly beautiful western woman on the front page of a publication called Cyberworld Magazine. The headline of the article was: *Lola Badiola: Cybersecurity Saint or Sinner?*

Park clicked on the link and started reading.

## READING COMPREHENSION

1. How has Kim's behaviour changed?
2. What three questions does Kang ask Kim?
3. Why does Kang want Kim to get a health check?
4. What meeting has Park set up?
5. What happens in Park's dream?
6. Why do you think Park's dream turns into nightmare? What's going on in his head?
7. What does Park tell himself that he needs to do, he has to do, and he must do?
8. How does Park find the Cyberworld Magazine article?
9. What is Park's first impression of Lola?
10. What opinion do you think Park will have of the article about Lola?