



Q11. Who was Danny Casey? How did the members of Sophie's family react towards him?

Ans: Danny Casey was a young Irish football player. He played for the United. The Irish prodigy could easily dodge the defenders and score goals. Sophie's father was a football fan. He admired old heroes like Tom Finney and young wonder boy Casey. Geoff had a large poster of United first team squad on his bed room wall. There were three coloured photographs of Casey in the row below it. Every Saturday they went to watch United play.

Q12. Why was the visit of Sophie's father and his family to watch United 'their weekly pilgrimage' ?

Ans: Sophie's father was a keen football fan. He took great interest in the career of Danny Casey, the Irish prodigy. Geoff, too was interested in football. Sophie considered Danny Casey her personal hero. She always dreamt of him. Casey was playing for United. The family visited the stadium regularly to watch him. So the family's visit was like a religious or holy weekly ritual—a pilgrimage.

Q13. Where did Sophie meet Casey and what transpired between them?

Ans: Sophie met Danny Casey in the arcade. It was she who spoke first and asked if he was Casey. He looked surprised. He was certainly Danny Casey as he had the Irish accent. She had already heard him on television. She asked him for an autograph for little Derek. But neither of them had any paper or pen. Before going he promised to give his autograph if she cared to meet him next week.

Q14. What promise does Sophie want Geoff to make and why ?
OR

Why does Sophie say: "Promise you'll tell no one" and "Promise, Geoff-Dad'd murder me."

Ans: Sophie wants to confide in Geoff what happened during her meeting with Danny Casey. Before telling him the details, she wants him to promise that he would tell no one about her meeting and the next 'date'. She is afraid of her father's anger. She fears he would murder her. Geoff assures her that she is quite safe. Their father does not believe such wild stories.

Q15. Did Geoff keep his promise? How do you know?
' OR

Why did Sophie say "Damn that Geoff, this was a Geoff thing not a Jansie thing."

Ans: Sophie had told Geoff about her meeting with Danny Casey and asked him to promise that he would tell no one. It was a secret between the two—something special just between them. Geoff did not keep his promise. He told Jansie's brother Frank about it. Sophie cursed Geoff, as it was his doing, not Jansie's.

Q16. Why did Sophie not want Jansie to know anything about her meeting with Danny Casey?

Ans: Sophie knew that Jansie was 'nosey'. She was very inquisitive by nature. She took special interest in knowing new things about others. Sophie did not trust Jansie as she could not keep a secret. She could spread the rumour in the whole neighbourhood.

Q17. How did Jansie react at Sophie's story of her meeting with Danny Casey ? [Delhi 2014]

Ans: Jansie was a classmate and friend of Sophie. She lived in the same neighbourhood. She knew Sophie quite well. She was also aware of Sophie's habit of dreaming. On learning of her meeting with Danny Casey, her first reaction was of disbelief. "You never did", exclaimed Jansie. But when Sophie told her about her request for autograph, Jansie softened a little and said, "Jesus, I wish he had been there."

Q18. What did Sophie want to keep a secret from her father and why? How did Jansie react to this disclosure?

Ans: Sophie told Jansie that she wanted to keep her meeting with Casey a secret. There would be a row if her father knew it. Jansie thought that he would be pleased. Sophie told Jansie what a misery her father was. Moreover, she did not want crowd of people asking him about Danny Casey and her. She feared that he would murder her. Her mother felt upset whenever there was a row. Jansie assured Sophie that she could trust her to keep the secret.

Q19. Why did Sophie choose to walk by the canal? What did she do there?

Ans: Sophie walked by the canal along a sheltered path. It was far away from the noise and crowd of the city. It was a place where she had often played when she was a child. There was a wooden bench beneath a solitary elm tree. Lovers sometimes came there. That was the most suitable place where she could dream of her hero Danny Casey.

Q20. How did Sophie react as she kept sitting for hours, waiting for Danny Casey and imagining his coming?

Ans: At first Sophie was optimistic. She imagined him coming out of the shadows. When time had elapsed, pangs of doubt stirred inside her. She became sad and despondent. Danny would not come there at all. She feared that people would laugh at the story of her meeting with Casey.

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