

# PINK PANTHER™

## Chapter 1 The Football Match

It was a big day – France was playing an important World Cup match against China. There was a large crowd watching the game. The crowd shouted and cheered very loudly.

The President of France and Inspector Dreyfus waited for the game to start. Inspector Dreyfus didn't care about football, but it was a great honour to watch the match with the President. And Dreyfus liked honours. Most of all he wanted the Medal of Honour\*. For seven years he believed it was his. But they never gave it to him. 'This year is going to be different,' he thought.

Suddenly they heard, 'And now the coach of France – Yves Gluant!'

The crowd cheered loudly as the good-looking coach waved his hand. On his hand was a big pink diamond. The diamond was the Pink Panther, the most famous diamond in Europe.

Bizu, the star player, gave Gluant a look of hate. Gluant went to sit down next to his girlfriend, Xania. He took her in his arms and kissed her in front of everyone. Xania was a very famous and beautiful singer. Bizu hated Gluant because he wanted Xania to be his girlfriend.

At last the game started. First China scored a goal, and then France scored a goal. Then France scored, and then China scored. At the end of ninety minutes, they had to

\* Medal of Honour: the highest honour in France.

continue playing. A minute before the end, Gluant told Jacquard, a young player, to go on. Then he took Bizu out of the game! Bizu was very angry. He ran to Gluant and shouted at him. Then he started to hit Gluant! The deputy coach had to stop him.



The game started again. At first the Chinese had the ball. Then Jacquard jumped, turned and scored with his head. It was fantastic! The crowd cheered and shouted. It was the end of the game, and the French were so happy. Many people ran to the French coach. Then suddenly, Gluant fell to the floor ... He was dead.

The next day the story was in every newspaper:  
FRENCH FOOTBALL COACH DEAD!  
KILLER TAKES PINK PANTHER!



It was a very important time in Inspector Dreyfus's life. 'In three weeks they are going to decide about the Medal of Honour,' he thought. All around him there were large

photos of Gluant's body and the Pink Panther diamond.

Agent Renard said, 'You'll get the Medal of Honour this time.'

But Dreyfus said, 'This is terrible. I can't take the Gluant case. They'll give the Medal of Honour to the Pink Panther detective. And what if I can't find the Pink Panther or the killer?'

Then suddenly, he had a very good idea. 'I know what we need,' he said.

'What?' asked Agent Renard.

'We need someone very stupid ... Yes, a very stupid detective! This detective will try very hard, but he will never find the killer. And the people from the TV and the newspapers will watch everything he does! Then I can take the best detectives in France and catch the killer myself.'

He looked at the big photo of the Pink Panther diamond and then he remembered. He turned to Agent Renard and said, 'I know the right man for the job. Find him and bring him to Paris. His name is ... Jacques Clouseau.'

## Chapter 2 Clouseau Goes to Paris

A few days later, Clouseau left his small town to go to Paris. He looked at his map of France for a long time. He was very happy when he found Paris – and it wasn't far away. A few hours later, he drove past the famous river Seine. He drove past the Eiffel Tower ... and out of Paris. A few miles later, he stopped the car. 'I've driven for hours,'



he thought. 'And I haven't seen one sign for Paris!'

Many hours later, Clouseau finally arrived at the Palais de la Justice. 'Lucky me!' he thought when he saw a parking place just outside the main entrance. First he crashed into the car in front. Then he crashed into the car behind. Happy with his parking, he went inside the building.



While Clouseau was parking, Inspector Dreyfus was in his office. He was telling his secret team of detectives about the Gluant case.

'The killer used a poison dart from China,' he said. 'Anyone in the area close to Gluant could be the killer – perhaps one of the players or someone from the newspapers. Maybe Bizu or Xania. Or, perhaps somebody shot the dart from the crowd.'

He turned to his deputy and said, 'Renard, you and your men will look carefully at the video of the match. Find all the possible suspects and question them. Then find every business in China making poison darts. Look carefully at their order books.'

Then he told another detective to find more information about Gluant. 'Find out where Gluant went every day and what he did,' he said. 'Find everyone he met and find out if anyone hated him.'



Clouseau arrived outside Dreyfus's office just as the detectives were leaving.

'One moment, please,' said a pretty woman called Nicole. She was standing on a desk. She was trying to hang a very large picture of her boss, Inspector Dreyfus.