

asks.

"Yes, ten grand," Margot replies. "I suggest we tell the constable about it so that he can relax his force. This money will have the residents of River Bank scouring every nook an' cranny for the criminal. In the meantime, we send Sweetness to the police station." \*

"Sweetness?" Alphonso asks. "Why Sweetness?"

"Because if you're going to take over a quarter of the island, then you should at least be smart about it. Be nice to the police. They can be your biggest allies or worst enemies. Like women, they love it when you bring them gifts." \*

The men in the room laugh. Alphonso laughs too.

"Margot, you're brilliant," he says.