

PENGUIN READERS

Tom Cruise

Rod Smith

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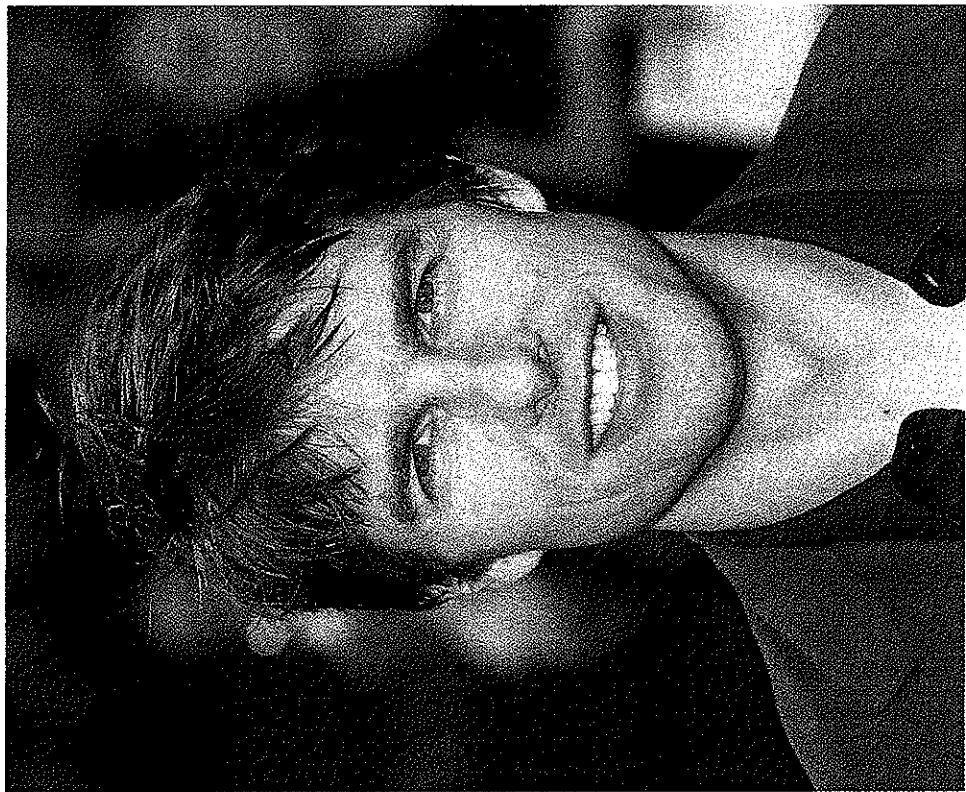
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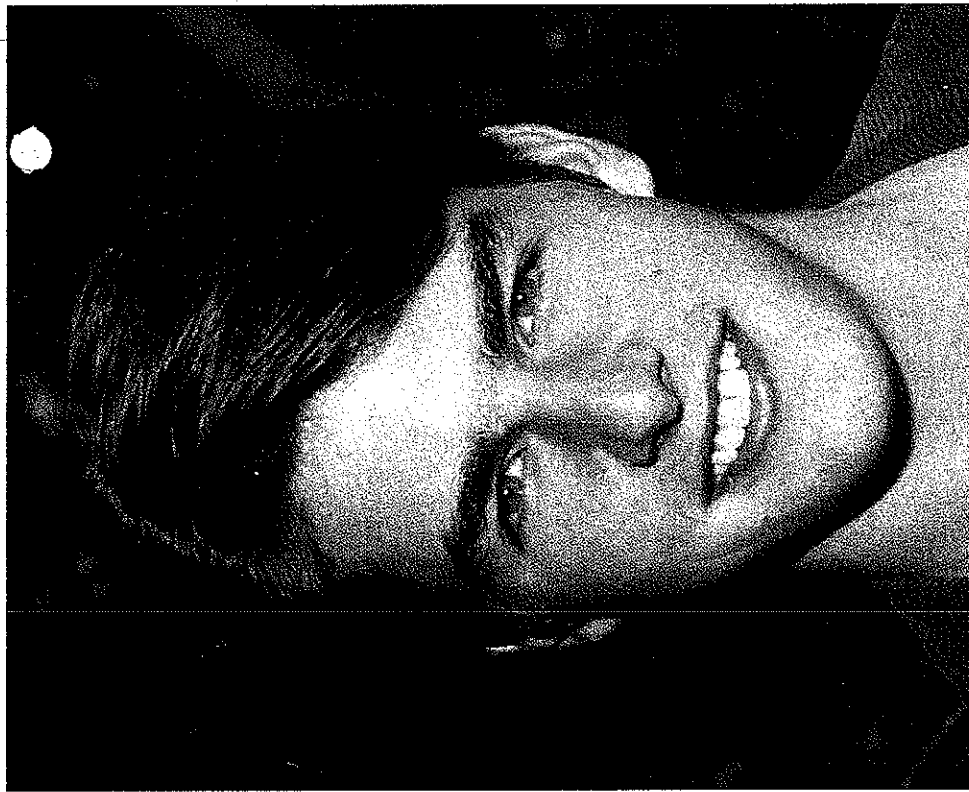
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Hollywood loves Tom Cruise. His movies aren't all very good, but they always make money. Tom the actor is a success. But his life is difficult, too. At work, he sometimes has problems with directors. In love, he isn't always happy. He is often angry at newspaper stories about him. Why is this? Some of the answers are in Tom's early years. His story is interesting. It is the story of a star.



On July 3, 1962, in Syracuse, New York, the Mapothers have their first son. His name is Thomas Cruise Mapother and they call him Tom. Tom's early years are difficult. The family moves often, and Tom has problems at school. He is unhappy about his father, too. In 1973, his mother and father divorce. But Tom is a good actor. "New York is the place for young actors," he thinks.



Tom moves to New York in July 1980, but there aren't many jobs for new actors. An agent finds small roles for him. Then, in 1981, Tom gets his first big movie role. He is an angry young soldier in *Taps*. The movie is a big success, and after that Tom always has work. In 1986, he is a pilot in the action movie *Top Gun*. It is the "movie of the year" and it makes Tom a big star.



Tom's girlfriend at this time is the actress Mimi Rogers. She talks to him about Scientology*. To Tom, this is very interesting. In May, 1987, Tom and Mimi marry. After *The Color of Money*, Tom stars in *Rain Man* with Dustin Hoffman. "Tom's fans want action movies," the newspapers say. But *Rain Man* is the movie of the year.

*Scientology: It answers some people's questions about life.



For *Born on the Fourth of July*, Tom gets a Golden Globe* award. He is famous, but there are problems at work. "Write that scene again," he says. Mimi has problems, too. "To many people, I am only Mrs. Tom Cruise," she says. They divorce and Tom finds new love with the Australian actress Nicole Kidman. In 1990, they marry.

*Golden Globe: Newspaper people give this award to actors.

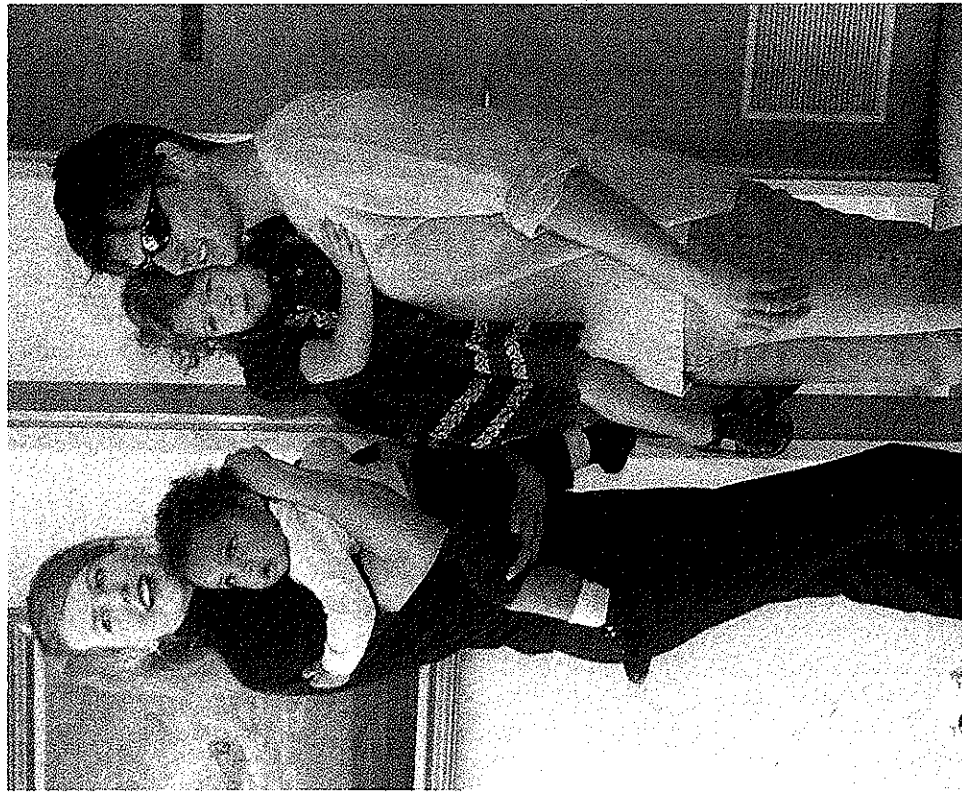


Tom and Nicole star in the movies *Days of Thunder* and *Far and Away*. *Far and Away* is not a big success. But a year later, Tom is in *A Few Good Men* with Jack Nicholson. That movie makes \$102,000,000. After *Interview With a Vampire* and *The Firm*, Tom stars in *Mission Impossible*. He is an American military agent. Tom has two jobs—he is the producer of the movie, too.



In *Jerry Maguire*, Tom plays the star role very well. “Can he get an Oscar★?” the newspapers ask. The answer is no, but Tom gets another Golden Globe award. Tom is often angry with the newspapers. Sometimes they visit his family and friends and ask questions about his early years. Often, the stories about him are wrong.

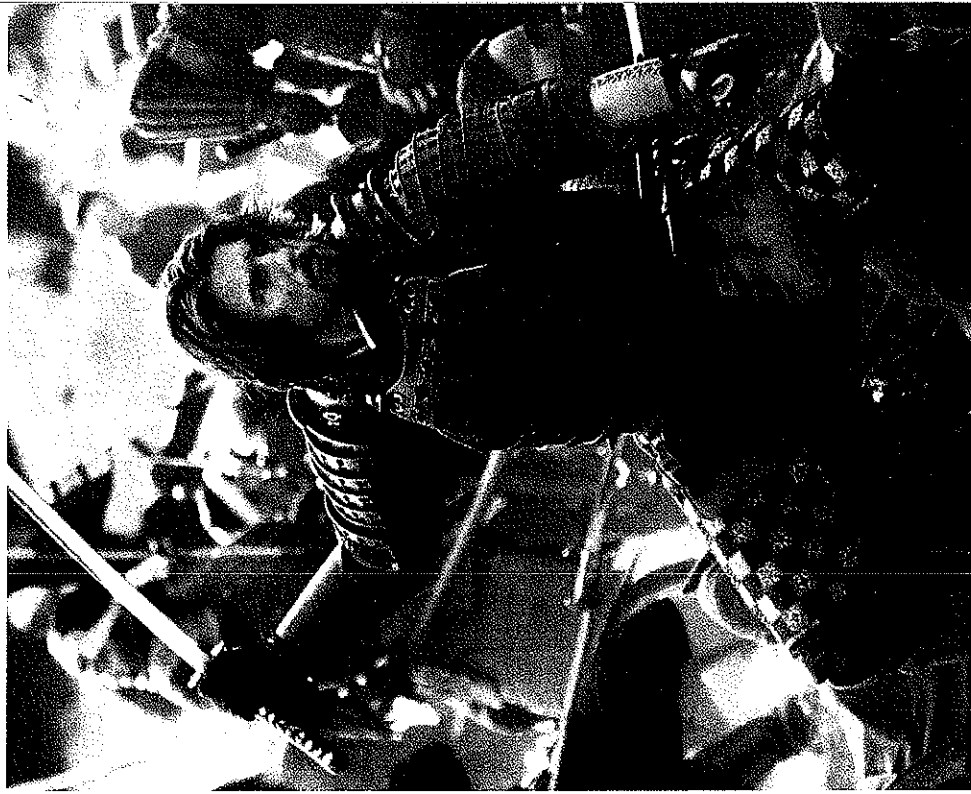
★Oscar: a Hollywood award for a very good actor.



Tom and Nicole now have two adopted children—a girl, Isabella, and a boy, Connor. The family are very happy. The famous director Stanley Kubrick wants Tom and Nicole for a new movie. The two actors like his work and they make *Eyes Wide Shut* in England. In 1999, Tom gets another Golden Globe award for *Magnolia*. A year later, he makes *Mission Impossible 2*.



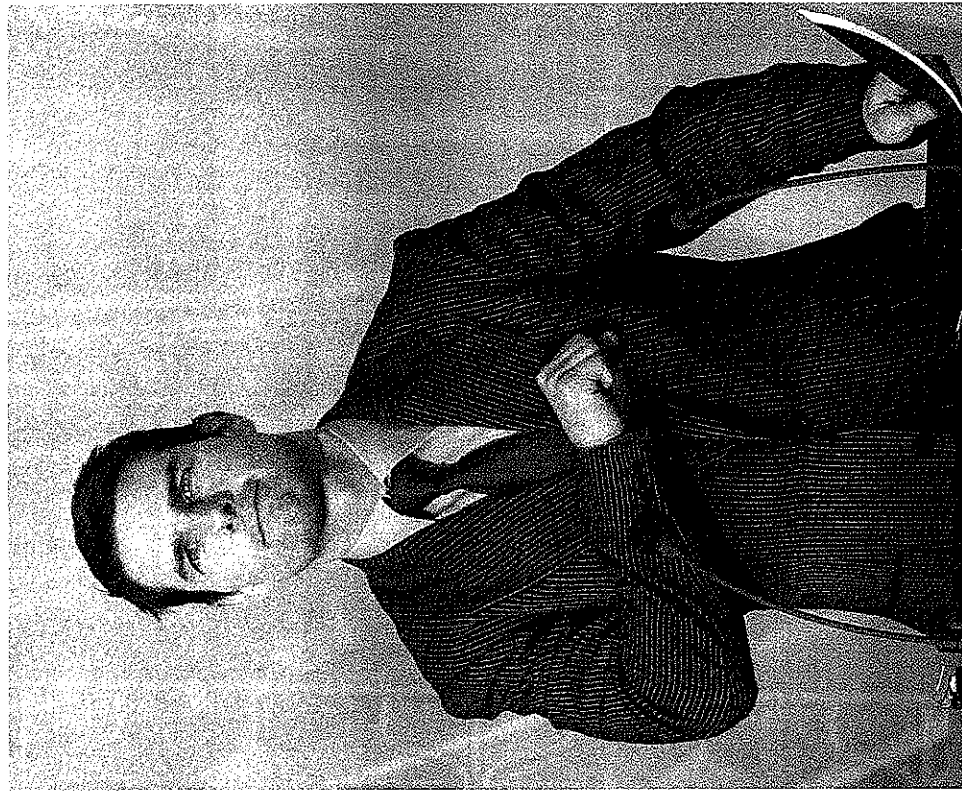
In the year 2000, life looks good for Tom and Nicole. They have two beautiful children. They work with famous directors. They have expensive cars, homes, and airplanes. But Tom and Nicole are sometimes unhappy. Scientology is very important to Tom, but maybe not to Nicole. Nicole loves Australia, but Tom is at home in the United States. In 2001, they divorce.



The divorce from Nicole is a difficult time for Tom. But he stars in the movie *Vanilla Sky* and makes a new friend. She is the Spanish actress Penelope Cruz. "Penelope and I are only good friends," Tom says to the newspapers. In 2002, Tom stars in *The Last Samurai*. In this movie, Tom plays a soldier in old Japan. In Japan, the movie is a big success. In the U.S., some newspapers don't like it.



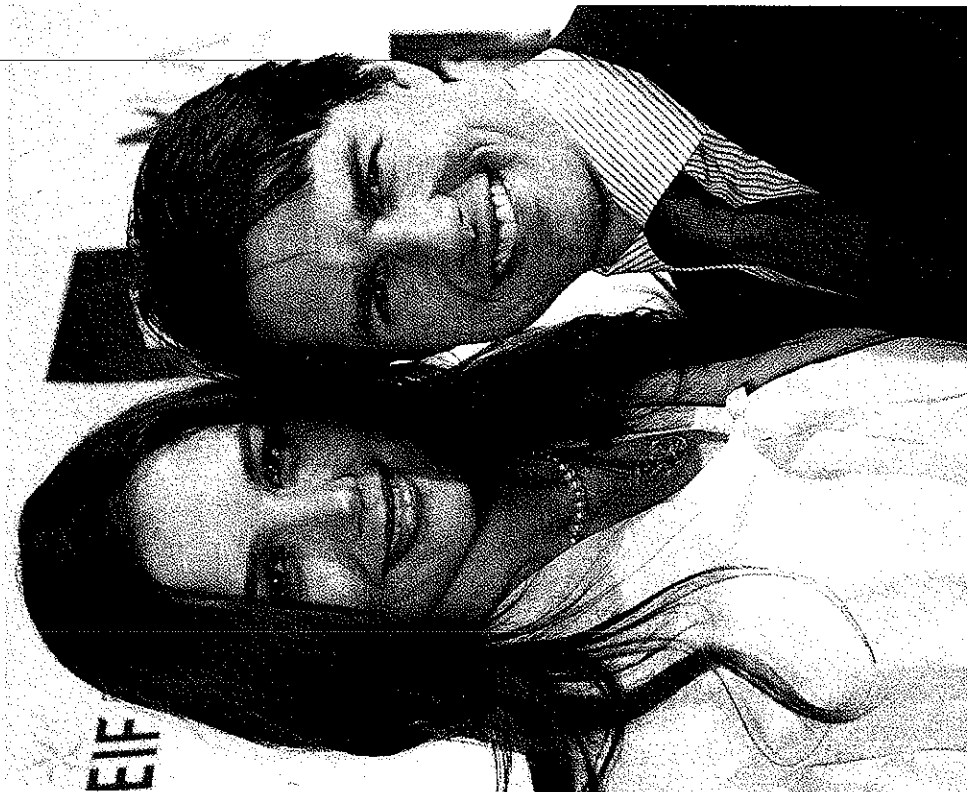
Tom stars in the Steven Spielberg movie *Minority Report*. Tom is happy. He likes Spielberg, and he is happy with Penelope, too. For three years, pictures of Tom and Penelope are in the newspapers. "Is she the new Mrs. Cruise?" they ask. The answer is no. In 2004, the love story finishes, but the two actors stay good friends. 2004 finishes with Tom's role in *Collateral*.



Tom's life away from movies makes some people unhappy. In April 2005, Tom talks about drugs and Scientology to the German newspaper *Der Spiegel*. Doctors often give drugs to unhappy people. To Tom, this is wrong. Some people are angry. "Tom Cruise is an actor, not a doctor," they say. Penelope is a good friend at this time. "Tom does good things with Scientology," she says.



Tom finds new love in 2005. He meets the American actress Katie Holmes. On TV's famous *Oprah Winfrey Show*, he stands on a chair. "I love Katie," he says. To people at home, this is a new Tom Cruise. Katie loves Tom, too, and she has a Scientology teacher. In 2006 she and Tom have a child, Suri. Later in the year, they marry.



Tom's movie successes don't stop. *War of the Worlds*, *Mission Impossible 3*, and *Lions for Lambs* all make big money. Today, Tom Cruise isn't only an action star with a friendly smile. He has many roles and he does all of them well. This makes him interesting. Only one man can make good movies *and* bad movies into a success. His name is Tom Cruise.

ACTIVITIES

Pages 1-7

Before you read

- 1 What do you know about Tom Cruise? Where is he from? Do you know the names of his big movies?
- 2 Look at the Word List at the back of the book. What are the words in your language?

While you read

- 3 Answer the questions.

- a What is Tom's role in *Taps*?
- b What is his first big role?
- c Who talks to Tom about Scientology?
- d Who is the actor with Tom in *Rain Man*?
- e When does Tom marry Nicole Kidman?
- f Who is the producer of *Mission Impossible*?

After you read

- 4 Work with a friend.

Student A: You are the director of an action movie. Tom doesn't like one of the scenes. Talk to him about the problem.

Student B: You are Tom Cruise. You don't like one of the scenes in your new action movie. Talk to the director about it.

Pages 8-14

Before you read

- 5 Look at the picture on page 8 and answer the questions. What do you think?
 - a What does Nicole say to Tom?
 - b What does Tom answer?

- 6 Tom is a famous movie star but he isn't always happy. Why not?
What do you think?

While you read

- 7 Finish the sentences. Write one word.

- a Tom and Nicole work with Kubrick in
- b The United States is Tom's
- c The divorce is a time for Tom.
- d "We are very good" Tom says about Penelope.
- e Tom talks to a German newspaper about
- f Tom and Katie in 2006.

After you read

- 8 Which is your number one Tom Cruise movie? Why do you like it?
Talk to another student.
- 9 Write about two of the people. What do they do? Why are they
important to Tom's story?
Mimi Rogers Penelope Cruz Nicole Kidman Steven Spielberg
- 10 Write a newspaper story about the problems of a famous actor or
actress.

WORD LIST with example sentences

- action** (n) I like movies with *action*. Bruce Willis is always good in *action movies*.
- actor/actress** (n) My father is an *actor* and my mother is an *actress*.
Do you know their movies?
- adopted** (adj) They have a son and two *adopted* daughters.
- agent** (n) My brother is very famous. His *agent* finds work for him.
James Bond is a British *agent*.
- another** (det) I don't like this hat. Do you have *another* color?
- award** (n) Cristiano Ronaldo is the player of the year. He is getting
the *award*.
- director** (n) Steven Spielberg is the *director* of E.T.
- divorce** (n/v) After twenty-five years, my mother and father are
getting a *divorce*.
- drug** (n) Doctors give *drugs* to sick people.
- fan** (n) There are *fans* in front of Brad Pitt's hotel.
- life** (n) I have a good *life* in Australia, but I like the United States,
too.
- marry** (v) My sister is *marrying* my friend. I am very happy for
them.
- military** (n) He is only sixteen, but he is finishing school. He is going
into the *military*.
- pilot** (n) She is a *pilot*. She loves airplanes.
- producer** (n) My friend works in the movies. He is a *producer*.
- role** (n) She has a *role* in the new James Bond movie.
- scene** (n) In one of the *scenes* in *Hamlet*, Hamlet sees his dead
father!
- soldier** (n) Tom Hanks is a *soldier* in *Saving Private Ryan*.
- star** (n/v) Do all movie *stars* live in Hollywood?
- success** (n) His new movie is a big *success*. People love it.

Answers for the Activities in this book are available from the Penguin Readers website.
A free Activity Worksheet is also available from the website. Activity Worksheets are
part of the Penguin Teacher Support Programme, which also includes Progress Tests
and Graded Reader Guidelines. For more information, please visit:
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