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The Old Hospital sample
NOT FOR SALE

THE OLD HOSPITAL

Level 1 - A1/A2 Starter (1) Graded Reader from I Talk You Talk Press

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The Old Hospital
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Chapter One

Steven, James and Imran are university students in Manchester. They share a student apartment. The apartment is a few miles from the university. Steven is from Manchester. James is from Glasgow, and Imran is from Birmingham. Now, they are sitting in Steven's bedroom. They are eating noodles and drinking beer. It is October 30th. One day before Halloween.

Steven and Imran are first year students. They are new. They arrived in September. James is a third year student. He has lived in the apartment for two years. Steven and Imran are asking James questions about life at the university. James is telling them many things.

"Do you know the story of these apartments?" asks James.

"No," says Imran. "What story?"

"Well, the building next to these apartments is an old hospital," says James.

"Yes, I know," says Imran. "It looks scary at night. How old is it?"

"It is a hundred and fifty years old. But it closed about thirty years ago," says James.

"Before it closed, this area had many hospital buildings. These apartments were part of the old hospital. There were many people in the hospital. Many doctors, nurses and patients. The hospital has a sad history."

"A sad history? Why?" asks Imran.

"Well, it has a ghost story," says James. "All the students here know the story."

"A ghost story?" asks Steven. "Tell us!"

"Well, doctors usually help people. They care for their patients. But there was one doctor called Dr Rigby. He was not a nice doctor. About fifty years ago, strange things happened at the hospital. Patients were dying."

"But many patients die in hospital. That is not strange," says Imran.

"But the patients did not have big problems. They were not very ill. But after Dr Rigby saw them, they died. At first, the other doctors and nurses did not think it was strange. But when the fifth patient died after seeing Dr Rigby, they thought something was strange.

"They called the police. The police asked Dr Rigby many questions. I don't know the details, but they found the answer. Dr Rigby gave the patients too much medicine and they died."

"Why did he give them too much medicine?" asks Steven.

“Because he wanted to kill them. He was a very bad doctor. He didn’t want to help people. He wanted to kill them! After that, he went to prison.”

“That’s a terrible story,” says Imran. “So who is the ghost? Is it one of the patients?”

“The ghost is Dr Rigby,” says James. “He killed himself with a knife in prison. A few years ago, some students went into the hospital at night. They heard many strange noises. Then, they saw a man. The man came out of an office. He was wearing a white coat. But the coat was not all white. It was also red. Blood red. The man was a ghost. The ghost was looking at them and he was laughing. He said to the students, “You will die!”

The students were very scared. They screamed and ran away. The next day, one of the students was driving his car in the centre of Manchester. A bus hit his car, and he died. It was very strange. Everyone said, ‘The ghost of Dr Rigby killed him.’”

“That’s scary,” says Imran. “I don’t like it.”

“Now, no students go into the old hospital. They think if they go into the hospital, they will see the ghost of Dr Rigby. And maybe, something bad will happen. Maybe they will die.”

Steven laughs. “I don’t believe it,” he says. “The students wanted to make a scary story. And the car accident, well, I think it was just an accident. The student was unlucky. Manchester roads are very busy. He was a young driver. He didn’t have much driving experience.”

“It’s true!” says James. “Ask the other students! They will tell you the same story!”

Steven drinks some more beer. “Let’s go into the hospital. Tomorrow night is Halloween. Let’s go then!”

“I’m not going!” says Imran.

“And I’m not going!” says James.

“OK, I will go alone,” says Steven.

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