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Old Jack's Ghost Stories from Wales sample
NOT FOR SALE

OLD JACK'S GHOST STORIES FROM WALES

Level 3 - A2/B1 Intermediate (1) Graded Reader from I Talk You Talk Press

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Old Jack's Ghost Stories from Wales
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Message from Old Jack

I welcome readers old and new to my fifth book of ghost stories. In this book we visit Wales, a country in the United Kingdom.

Wales is a small country, but culturally it is very rich. It has beautiful scenery - wonderful coastlines, deep valleys and high mountains. The people who settled in Wales brought their myths and folk tales with them, and created a land of legends. Of course, Wales' long history hides some dark secrets too. Many of its castles and old pubs and hotels have ghosts. These spirits from the past remind us of the country's long and often tragic history.

Wales has many myths, stories and legends, so it is no surprise that the national flag of Wales has a dragon on it. So come, let the dragon lead you to Wales, where I am ready to tell you some of the country's most mysterious secrets.

1. The Beauty or the Beast?

Place: Carew Castle, Tenby, Pembrokeshire

Our first story is from Pembrokeshire in south west Wales. Pembrokeshire has a wonderful coastline. It is very popular with families, especially in summer. The beaches are beautiful and clean, and it is one of the sunniest parts of Britain. I visited Pembrokeshire in the middle of summer, when the sky and the sea were deep blue, and the beaches were full of tourists. But I didn't visit Pembrokeshire for its bright sunshine and beaches. No, I was more interested in the darker side of Pembrokeshire. I wanted to visit one of Wales' most mysterious and frightening places - Carew Castle.

It was a beautiful hot day, and I decided to walk to the castle. On the way, I became thirsty so I stopped at a small pub.

I went in, ordered a whisky and sat at the bar next to a man about the same age as me. He smiled.

"Beautiful day, isn't it?" he said.

"Yes, it is. Perfect for a walk."

"Where are you going?" he asked.

"To Carew Castle," I said. "I heard the castle has some interesting ghosts."

"Ah!" said the man. "Yes, it does. It's about a thousand years old, so it has many ghosts." He finished his beer and ordered another one.

"So, do you want to see the white lady?" he asked.

"The white lady? Who is she?" I asked.

The man took a long drink of his beer.

"She is the most beautiful woman in Wales," he said. "No, to tell the truth, she is the most beautiful woman in Britain! She's nine hundred years old now, but she hasn't changed. She is still beautiful! Her name is Princess Nest."

"Tell me about her," I said.

"She was the daughter of a king. When she became a woman, she had to marry a man called Gerald de Windsor. She was not happy about it. She had never met Gerald. But she was forced to marry him.

"So the princess and Gerald got married and lived in Carew Castle. The princess grew to love Gerald, and they were happy. They had five children. But one night, everything changed."

"What happened?" I asked.

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