

© I Talk You Talk Press
Vanished Away sample
NOT FOR SALE

VANISHED AWAY

Level 4 - B1/B2 Intermediate (2) Graded Reader from I Talk You Talk Press

Copyright

Vanished Away

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I Talk You Talk Press contact: info@italkyoutalk.com

Website: <http://www.italkyoutalk.com>

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1. On the train

Satomi walked through the train. It was dark outside.

The front cars were full of passengers, but as she moved towards the back of the train there were fewer and fewer people.

Where was Miki? Her friend had picked up her purse and said she was going to the bathroom. That was an hour ago. She hadn't come back. Satomi tried calling her, but Miki's phone was turned off. *Was Miki sick? What had happened? Where was she?*

Satomi checked the bathrooms as she went. They were all empty.

Finally, she was in the last car. It was empty, and someone had turned off the lights. She saw a dim sign that said "bathrooms" at the far end. She felt her way towards it. Her leg touched something soft and silky. It was hair!

Shaking like a leaf, Satomi took out her mobile phone and turned on the light. A woman was lying across two seats, her head rolled back almost touching the floor. She let the light sweep over the young woman's face. It was not Miki. Satomi was sure this woman was dead. She turned and ran. She ran back towards the light and people.

In the third car back she found a conductor.

"Excuse me! Excuse me! There's a woman in the last car. I think she is dead!"

"Where?"

"I'll show you."

The conductor called his partner and they walked back. When they got to the door of the last car, Satomi couldn't go in. She pointed. Her hand was shaking.

"In there."

One of the conductors turned on the lights. Satomi leant against the wall outside the car.

She could hear the men moving and talking quietly.

They came back. "I suppose you think it's a good joke. Telling us such lies," said one of the conductors. He was young, and looked annoyed.

Satomi stared. "What do you mean?"

"There's no one there. But of course you knew that, didn't you?"

"There was someone there. There was!"

The second conductor was older and kinder.

"Perhaps someone came back here to sleep. And now she's gone. You must have made a mistake. Perhaps she was sleeping and you woke her up. She left this scarf behind."

He pointed to the scarf in his colleague's hand.

Satomi raced to the door and looked in. There was no one there.

"Oh, I am so sorry. I was only looking for my friend. I don't know where she is. You must think I am crazy. Please forgive me."

"Go back to your seat. And don't go walking around the train again!" The first conductor looked angry.

"OK, I won't. I am so sorry."

The men started walking back and Satomi followed them. She was still shaking, and she was very, very worried.

I won't go back to where we were sitting. I'll find another seat. Satomi knew she must try to sort the puzzle out. The scarf the man had found belonged to Miki. The last time she had seen Miki, it had been around her neck.

-----END OF SAMPLE-----