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Don't Come Back sample
NOT FOR SALE

DON'T COME BACK

Level 2 - A1/A2 Starter (2) Graded Reader from I Talk You Talk Press

Copyright

Don't Come Back

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Chapter One

It was 7:30am. Jake parked his car and put his hat and gloves on. He stepped out of his car onto the icy ground. The wind was strong, and very cold.

Very carefully, he walked out of the car park and onto the path next to the river.

He looked at the grey water. *The water looks freezing*, he thought. *I must be careful. This path is very slippery.* The cold wind blew in his face. *Come on spring! Where are you? I hate winter*, he thought.

Next, he had to walk under a bridge. He didn't like doing that. There were always homeless people there.

That morning, there were two homeless men. One of them was looking at him.

"Could you give us some money please? It's cold and we have nothing to eat," said the homeless man, looking into Jake's eyes.

"That's not my problem," said Jake coldly.

I have to call the government, he thought. *Every day the homeless people ask me for money. The government should build a barrier, so they cannot sleep under the bridge.*

Jake was now near his office. He walked down a small street and turned left onto the main road. It was rush hour, and there were many cars on the road. Many people were walking to work. Everyone looked very cold.

Jake could see the entrance to his office building.

I don't believe it, he thought. *He is there. Again!*

He could see a man and a dog sitting in front of the entrance of his office building.

Jake started to feel angry. *That homeless man is always there! Always outside my office!*

"Hey! Hey you!" he shouted. "I told you yesterday! And I told you the day before yesterday! And the day before that! Go away! This is not your bedroom! This is my office building!"

The homeless man looked up at Jake. He was wrapped in a blanket and his face was blue.

"But it has been a very cold night," he said quietly. "There is no wind in this entrance. And the light from the lobby of your building keeps me safe."

"Can't you go to a homeless shelter? We have homeless shelters for people like you."

"There is only one. It was full. It has been a very cold winter. I have nowhere to go."

"That's not my problem! Sleep under a tree in the park! Sleep outside another building. Sleep anywhere! I don't care! But don't sleep here! My clients walk past here. They see you. You look dirty. You give my company a bad image!"

"But..."

"Go! And take that dirty dog with you! If you don't go, I'll call the police!"

The homeless man looked down. He put his blanket in his small bag. Then, he stood up slowly. His body was very stiff.

"Hurry up! I have to start work!" shouted Jake.

"OK, OK. I'm going," said the man.

He picked up his blanket, his small bag and his walking stick. "Come on Sam," he said to his dog.

Jake watched the man and the dog walk slowly down the road.

"And don't come back!" he shouted.

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