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Andre's Dream sample
NOT FOR SALE

Andre's Dream

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

Copyright

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1. You must buy a house

Andre wants to get married. He has a girlfriend. Her name is Sofia.

She says, "I want to get married too. But first, you have to buy a house. I don't want to get married until we have a house to live in."

Andre is surprised. "But I love you. If you love me, we can get married. We can rent an apartment. Then, we can save money and buy a house together," he says.

Sofia has blonde hair and blue eyes. She is very pretty. She works in a cosmetics shop. She lives with her parents, so she can spend all her money on clothes. Also, she is lucky because she gets cosmetics from work very cheaply. Sometimes they are free. Sofia always looks beautiful. Andre is very happy that she is his girlfriend.

"No, Andre. If I will be a married woman, I want a house."

"But Sofia. I don't have much money. I can't buy a house!"

Sofia holds Andre's hands. She looks into his eyes. "Of course you can. You are my hero. You can do anything!"

Andre laughs. But he is worried. He has saved a little money but it is not enough to buy a house. He works hard at the factory, but he spends most of his money taking Sofia out. She likes to go to the movies and to restaurants. She likes to ride in big cars. Andre doesn't have a car, but sometimes he hires a big car and drives Sofia and her friends around the city. Also, Sofia likes presents. She likes Andre to buy her things.

Andre goes to see an estate agent. The agent buys and sells houses. His name is Kovac. He shows Andre pictures of many, many houses.

"I cannot buy any of these houses," he tells the agent. "They are too expensive."

"Houses are expensive," says the agent. "Many people from other countries in Europe want to buy houses in Slovakia now. They think our houses are cheap. I cannot help you."

Andre looks very unhappy, so the agent asks him, "You are only a young man. Why do you want to buy a house?"

"I want to get married. My girlfriend says she won't get married until we have a house."

The agent thinks, *This young man should get another girlfriend.* But he doesn't say that. He says, "There is another house. It is very old. There is a toilet but it has no bathroom. It has been empty for fifty years. I will send an email to the owner. Maybe he wants to sell it. I will call you when I have an answer to my email."

Two days later the agent calls Andre. "The owner wants to sell it. It is very cheap. I think the condition of the house is very bad. But if you want to look at it, I will take you."

The agent drives Andre to the edge of the city. The house is near a road. There are fields all around the house. There is a stone fence, but there is no gate. The garden is full of rubbish. It is autumn, so there are no leaves on the trees around the house. It looks very grey and lonely. Andre and the agent go inside. The house is old and dark and very dirty. There are six rooms downstairs and two rooms upstairs. There is furniture in most of the rooms. It is very dusty. There are holes in the seats of the chairs and in the curtains.

"There are rats," says the agent. "I'm sorry. I have not been to see this house for a long time. The condition is worse than before. You will not want to buy this house."

"But I like it," says Andre. "I think I could make this into a beautiful home. There is electricity. The toilet works. There is water in the kitchen. The stove is very old but I think it will work. Later I will buy a new stove."

"But there is no bathroom!" says the agent.

"Maybe that's OK," says Andre. "I work in a factory. We make baths, basins and toilets. I think I can get everything I need for a good price."

The agent is not sure. But Andre is very sure. He wants to buy the house.

The agent and Andre go back to the agent's office. The estate agent tells Andre the price. It is very cheap, but it is still too expensive for Andre.

"The bank will not lend you any money," says the agent. "Not for this house. They want people to buy new houses."

Andre is very unhappy. "Thank you for showing me the house. You have been kind. But I understand it is impossible."

Andre goes back to his apartment. He collects his mail from the mailbox. There is a letter in a large white envelope. It is from a lawyer in Kosice. Andre opens the letter. His Great Uncle Gregor has died. He has left Andre some money. It is not a lot but ...

Andre gets a pencil and paper. He calculates everything. With Uncle Gregor's money and his savings – maybe he can buy the house! He will live in it. He will save the rent from his apartment. He will have a little money to spend on fixing the house.

Andre calls the agent. "I think I can buy the house! I will come to see you tomorrow."

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