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The House in the Forest sample
NOT FOR SALE

THE HOUSE IN THE FOREST

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

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Chapter One

Collette Roy looked through the window at the snow and trees outside. The sun was rising, and the sky was becoming lighter. She put her coat, hat and gloves on, and picked up her cup of coffee. She opened the door and sat on the step, enjoying the cold, fresh forest air.

My new life starts today, she thought.

Collette moved from Toronto to Overcreek last week. She liked Toronto, but she wanted to live in the countryside. When she lived in Toronto, she took the subway to work every day. The train was always full. She couldn't sit down on the train. There were many people in the city, and she always felt tired. She worked at a large elementary school. She liked the school, the teachers and the children, but she wanted to work at a smaller school in a smaller community. So she found a new job at Overcreek Elementary School. Overcreek was a very small town. Only 1,000 people lived there.

She found a nice house in Overcreek. The house was in the middle of a forest. It was a ten minute drive from the house to the school. When the estate agent showed her the house, he said, "In summer, many people come camping near here, but in winter, no one comes. It's very quiet and lonely. It's not a good house for a woman living alone. How about an apartment in the town centre?"

"I like this house," said Collette. "It's quiet and peaceful. I left the city because I wanted to live in a quiet place. I'll take the house."

The estate agent was very surprised.

"Are you sure?" he said. "It's very lonely."

"Yes, I'm sure," said Collette. "I like it!"

There was only one other house near Collette's. It was in front of Collette's house, about fifteen metres away.

Collette drank her coffee and looked at the house in front of her. It was very old and dark. It was made of wood, and had a porch. It looked empty. There were no curtains on the windows, and there was nothing in the rooms.

It looks like it has been empty for a long time, thought Collette. *Why did the owners leave the house? Maybe they died. Or maybe they were old and wanted to live in the town centre.*

She finished her coffee and looked at her watch.

8:00am. Time to go to school! she thought. *I can't be late on my first day!*

Collette drove to school along the forest road. She was excited. She was looking forward to meeting all the teachers and children at her new school. She drove into the school car park. Some children were arriving early. When they saw Collette, they ran to her.

“Are you the new teacher?” they asked. “Where are you from?” “What’s your name?” Collette laughed. “I’ll tell you in class!” she said to them.

She walked into the school and went to the staff room. The other teachers were waiting for her. They were all very nice. They gave her a desk near the window. She looked out of the window at the town and the mountains behind.

The view is wonderful. I’m glad I came here, thought Collette. I’m sure I’ll enjoy working with these people. Everyone seems so nice and friendly.

At lunch time, Collette was sitting in the staff room. She was talking to another teacher called Denise.

“Where do you live Collette?” asked Denise.

“In the forest near the lake,” said Collette.

Denise thought for a minute. “There are two houses near the lake. Do you live in one of those?”

“Yes, I do. I live in the newer one.”

“Is the old one still empty?”

“Yes, it is.”

“The children from this school don’t like that house. They think that there is a ghost in the house!” said Denise, laughing.

“Well, the house looks scary,” said Collette. “Especially at night. But I don’t think there are any ghosts! Children have good imaginations!”

“That’s true!” said Denise. “But some adults think that there is a ghost too.”

“Really? Why?” asked Collette.

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