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John Sees a Murder sample
NOT FOR SALE

JOHN SEES A MURDER

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

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John Sees a Murder
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Chapter One

Neil looked at the message on his phone. He sat down in his office in the hotel and closed his eyes.

No, he thought. This cannot be true.

He opened his eyes and read the message from Tina again.

--- I am pregnant. I am having a baby. The baby is yours. I want you to leave your wife and children, and marry me. ---

Leave my wife and children? I can't do that, thought Neil. But Tina is pregnant. She is having my baby. What am I going to do?

He put his phone on his desk and walked to the window. He looked down at the street. There were many cars and people in the street. He watched them.

Do they have problems like me? he thought.

His phone made a noise. He walked to his desk and picked it up. There was another message from Tina.

--- If you don't leave your wife and children and marry me, I will tell your wife everything about us. And I will tell the owner of the hotel too. ----

No! thought Neil. She can't do that! I have to stop her! I will lose my wife, my children and my job!

Neil was the manager of a small hotel in London. He was married and had two children. His children were eight and ten years old. Tina was a maid in the hotel. She cleaned the rooms in the hotel every morning. She wasn't from London. She was from Wales. When she was 18, her parents died, and she moved to London to start a new life.

Neil was 45. Tina was 20. Tina started working at the hotel when she was 18. Last year, Tina and Neil started a relationship. They became boyfriend and girlfriend. Of course, Neil knew it was wrong because he was married. But Tina was beautiful. And she liked Neil very much. But now, everything changed. Tina was having a baby. Neil's baby.

Neil thought about his life. *If Tina tells my wife, my wife will leave me. She will take the children away from me. If she tells the hotel owner, I will lose my job. I don't want to marry Tina. I don't want to have a baby with Tina. What am I going to do? I have to make a plan....*

He thought about his problem for a few minutes. Then he sent Tina a message.

---- OK. *I will leave my wife and children. I will marry you. Meet you in Room 312 tomorrow at 10:00am.* ----

He pressed 'Send', sat down in his chair, and thought about his plan.

Chapter Two

The next morning, John parked his van behind the hotel. He took the ropes, buckets, cloths and wipers out of his van. He walked around to the front of the hotel and looked at the windows.

These windows are dirty, he thought. *It will take me all morning to clean them.*

John was a window cleaner. He cleaned the windows of buildings in London. It was his first time to clean the windows of this hotel. Usually, the company sent a man called Frank to this hotel, but Frank was sick. So, the company sent John to the hotel.

John looked at the sky. It was a cloudy day.

Maybe it will rain, thought John. *I should clean the windows quickly.*

He looked at the time. It was 10:00am. He went to the back of the hotel and climbed up the fire escape steps to the roof of the hotel. He poured water from a large container into his bucket. He tied his ropes to the hook on the roof of the hotel and climbed down onto the wall. He started cleaning one of the windows on the third floor. It was dark because it was cloudy, but he could see inside the room. A young woman and a man were sitting on the bed. The woman looked like a maid. John could not hear anything, but the woman was crying. The man and the woman didn't see John. They were looking away from the window. But John could see their faces in the mirror on the wall. The man was about 45 and the woman looked about 19 or 20. Then, John had a shock. The man suddenly put his hands around the woman's neck. The woman tried to hit the man, but the man was too strong. After a few seconds, the woman fell on the floor.

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