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Elspeth and the Visitor sample
NOT FOR SALE

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Elspeth and the Visitor
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Chapter One

Elspeth was cleaning the house. It was a beautiful sunny day, and all the windows were open. She could hear birds singing in the garden.

I'll finish everything before my mother comes home from work. She will bring food for dinner, but she will be tired. So I will cook. Maybe after dinner, we can sit outside.

Elspeth was a university student. She was studying history. She lived in a student dormitory near her university. But now it was summer vacation, and she was at home with her mother.

Her home was in a small town, and Elspeth could not find a part-time job anywhere. Her mother worked in the post office. Elspeth worried because they did not have a lot of money. So she tried to help her mother. She cleaned and cooked.

Elspeth was cleaning the kitchen floor when she heard someone knocking at the front door. She went to the door and opened it.

A man was standing on the steps. He was fat, and his face was red and sweaty. He was wearing a suit and tie, and there was a suitcase on the steps next to his feet.

"Can I help you?" asked Elspeth.

The man didn't answer her. He pushed Elspeth away and stepped into the house. He shut the door and said, "You must be Elspeth. You can bring my bag in later. Where is your mother?"

"You can't come into our house! Who are you?" Elspeth wasn't frightened. She was angry.

The man walked into the living room, and then into the kitchen. He looked around. "Where is your mother?" he asked again.

"I'm going to call the police!" Elspeth shouted. She ran to the kitchen table to pick up her phone, but the man was too quick. He picked up her phone and put it in his pocket.

"Your mother isn't here," said the man. "That's OK. Make me some lunch, and bring me some beer. I walked from the bus stop and I'm hot and thirsty."

I can run faster than him, thought Elspeth. I'll go outside and I will run very quickly to the neighbour's house.

The man seemed to understand her thoughts.

"Don't think about leaving this house. Don't think about talking to anyone. Your mother will be in a lot of trouble if you do. The police will come and take her away."

"My mother never does anything wrong!" Elspeth shouted.

The man smiled. "Why don't you wait, and ask your mother when she comes home? Ask your mother if she wants to call the police. I am sure she will say 'no'."

Elspeth believed him. *This horrible man can make trouble for my mother*, she thought.

She felt very weak and tired. "We don't have any beer, but I can make you a cheese sandwich and a cup of tea."

"I'll sit in the living room. Bring my food to me."

Elspeth was like a robot. She made a cheese sandwich. She made a cup of tea and filled a glass with water. She took the lunch into the living room and put it on the table in front of the sofa.

The man ate and drank. Elspeth stood by the door watching him. *He smells bad. I don't think he has washed for a long time*, she thought. She felt sick. *He is like a pig. What can he do to hurt my mother?*

The man finished eating. "Bring me some more food," he said. "And then sit in here with me so I can watch you."

When Elspeth brought another sandwich, the television was on.

He pointed to a chair. "Sit," he said.

Elspeth sat down. *What is wrong with me? I feel like a butterfly in a spider's web.*

Time passed very slowly. The man watched the television. Elspeth sat and waited. She could see the time on the television. *My mother will be home soon. She finishes work at 3:30pm today.*

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