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Old Jack's Ghost Stories from Scotland sample
NOT FOR SALE

OLD JACK'S GHOST STORIES FROM SCOTLAND

Level 3 - A2/B1 Intermediate (1) Graded Reader from I Talk You Talk Press

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Old Jack's Ghost Stories from Scotland
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Message from Old Jack

Hello my friends! Welcome to my third book of ghost stories. In this book, I travel north of England to the land of the Scots.

Scotland is famous for its beautiful scenery. It has many mountains and lakes. The lakes in Scotland are called 'lochs'. The most famous loch is 'Loch Ness'. People say there is a big monster living in the waters of Loch Ness.

Scotland is also known for its world famous spirit 'Scotch whisky'. I like this spirit. I often drink it. This book has stories about spirits, but they are not alcohol spirits. No, these spirits are not in a bottle. They are in the castles, hotels and homes of this land. They are the spirits of the dead, who stay on this earth and in this country.

Are you ready to hear about these stories? Let's go to Scotland now. Our first stop is in the very old and beautiful city of Edinburgh.

1. Mr Boots

Place: Edinburgh Vaults, Edinburgh

Edinburgh is the capital of Scotland. It is also one of the most popular cities in Britain for tourists. Over a million tourists visit every year. Most tourists go to Edinburgh Castle and the National Museum of Scotland. They take bus tours around the city. They enjoy taking photographs of the old city streets and beautiful buildings. Then, they go shopping in the city's many shops.

There is one tourist spot in Edinburgh that only the bravest tourists visit. A dark tourist spot deep under the city, with a very sad history. This place is called Edinburgh Vaults. The 'vaults' are tunnels and rooms underground.

In Edinburgh, there is a long bridge called South Bridge. It was built in the 18th Century. On the bridge there is a road. Under the bridge, there are many arches and tunnels. The bridge designers decided to make rooms in these arches and tunnels under the bridge.

The tunnels and rooms were very dark. There was no light, no fresh air and no water. At first, shop owners used these rooms. They stored their products in them. Some workmen used them too, but it was very hard to work in these dark rooms under the bridge. So, the workers moved away.

After the workers moved away, the poor people of the city moved into these rooms. Families lived in these dark, damp, smelly rooms. They had no water, no fresh air and no light. The living conditions were very bad. It was also very dangerous to live there.

There were many robberies and murders. Many people died. There are many tragic stories from the Edinburgh Vaults.

The conditions in the vaults were very bad, so the city government closed them in the 19th Century. No one could go into the Edinburgh Vaults. For a long time, the Edinburgh Vaults were forgotten. Edinburgh grew into a big city, and no one talked about the tunnels and rooms and their dark secrets under the city.

Then, in the 1980s, the Edinburgh Vaults were discovered again when the bridge was being repaired. The tunnels and rooms were made into a tourist attraction.

Would you like to go on a tour of the Edinburgh Vaults? If you do, you must be very brave. There are many ghost stories from the long, dark and sad history of the Edinburgh Vaults.

Last autumn, I was sitting in a hotel bar in Edinburgh enjoying a glass of whisky.

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