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The Blue Lace Curtain sample  
NOT FOR SALE

## THE BLUE LACE CURTAIN

Level 4 - B1/B2 Intermediate (2) Graded Reader from I Talk You Talk Press

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ISBN: 978-4-907056-15-5  
Publisher: I Talk You Talk Press

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## 1. Why Andy went to Italy

Andy Fairweather was a research student. He lived in Birmingham, England, and went to the university. He was doing a doctorate degree on religion in the 11th century in Europe. He was clever, and he knew a lot about his subject.

The problem was that Andy was lazy. His professor was often angry with him. He had been working on his doctorate degree for four years. It was not finished. Finally his professor said, "If you do not finish writing your thesis by the end of March next year, I will give up. You will have to find another professor."

His parents said, "You don't have a job because you say you must finish writing your thesis. You live with us because you say you have no money. We give you money. Then you go out drinking and get up late. We don't want to give you any more money. You must get a job."

Andy sent an email to his uncle. He explained he was in trouble. Andy's uncle was a diplomat. His name was James. He was Andy's mother's brother. He lived in Rome. He was not married, and he was always very kind to Andy.

James sent a reply to Andy.

*---I do not think you will finish your thesis if you stay in England. You have too many friends. You go to too many parties. Why don't you come to Italy? I will find you somewhere quiet to stay. You can work ten hours a day and finish your thesis.---*

Andy thought this was a good idea. Andy's professor thought it was a good idea too. James paid for Andy to travel to Rome. Andy thought he would stay with his Uncle James in his beautiful apartment near the Spanish Steps, but James had a different idea.

"You need somewhere quiet. If you stay here, you will go out too much. I have friends who have a small hotel in the hills outside Florence. The hotel is very busy in spring and summer but in winter, there are usually no guests. I have arranged for you to live there." "But Uncle James," said Andy. "I am sure I can work very well here. I can go to the library. I can study more Italian."

James can be very kind, but he can be tough too.

"Andy, if you want me to help you, if you want me to pay for you, you will do it my way. You will go to Hotel Peschi."

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Andy went to Hotel Peschi. But he asked his Uncle James if he could visit him in Rome, one weekend a month. "I think I will be lonely in that hotel. Please let me come for a weekend every month."

James agreed.

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