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

## **OLD JACK'S GHOST STORIES FROM IRELAND**

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

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Old Jack's Ghost Stories from Ireland  
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### **Message from Old Jack**

Hello my friends! Welcome to my fourth book of ghost stories. In this book, we travel to Ireland, to hear some stories and legends. We visit the Republic of Ireland, and we also cross the border and travel to Northern Ireland.

If you visited Ireland, you would understand why it is called the Emerald Isle. It is a beautiful country, with lots of greenery. It also has a long history. In some of the history there are religious and political divisions, but this book is not about those divisions. This book is about the division between life and death...between the world of the living, and the world of the dead...

I was very lucky when I visited Ireland. My friend, Peter Connor, from County Meath, took me on a tour of the country, and he told me many stories.

So, come and join Peter and me, as we travel around this beautiful scenic island, and discover its dark secrets...

#### **1. Cromwell's Friend**

##### **Place: Malahide Castle, County Dublin**

I met my friend, Peter Connor, in a pub in Dublin last winter. We hadn't seen each other for a long time. We enjoyed a few glasses of smooth Irish whiskey while we talked about our lives. As the sky outside started to darken, and evening came, Peter said to me, "Let me tell you about Malahide Castle. We are going there tomorrow. Sometimes strange things happen there."

I put my glass of whiskey down on the table, took my notebook and pen out of my bag, and listened to Peter. This is what he told me:

Malahide Castle was built in the 12th century, by Henry II (the second) of England. He built it for his friend, Sir Richard Talbot. The Talbot family owned the castle until 1979. Now, it is owned by the government, and people can visit it. It's a very popular tourist spot near Dublin. Many old castles have a ghost, but Malahide Castle doesn't just have one ghost. It has many ghosts. Some people say it has three, other people say it has even more. One of the ghosts is the "white lady". Some people have seen her walking around the great hall. Another ghost is a court jester called Puck. Sometimes, he appears in tourists' photographs!

But these ghosts are not the most frightening ghosts in the castle. No, the most frightening ghost is called Miles Corbet.

Let's go back to the 17th century, to the English Civil War. This war was between King Charles I (the first) and the government. A chief member of the government was Oliver

Cromwell. He hated the King. He fought many battles against the army of King Charles. Miles Corbet was a very good friend and supporter of Oliver Cromwell.

King Charles I was defeated in the war, and he was arrested. Fifty-nine of Cromwell's friends and supporters signed a document. The document said, ---*The King must die.*---

One of the fifty-nine men who signed the document was Cromwell's friend, Miles Corbet. Soon after, King Charles I was killed.

Cromwell became the leader of the government. He wanted to thank Corbet for his support, so he gave Malahide Castle to Corbet. The Talbot family lost their home. This was in 1649.

Corbet was not a nice man...

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