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Trapped sample  
NOT FOR SALE

## **TRAPPED**

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

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### Places and Characters

*Blair House* – a private hotel on a remote part of the coast

*Walford* - a fictitious small town 20km from Blair House

*Lockton* – a fictitious town - 50km from Blair House

*Auckland* – a major New Zealand city

*Blairglen River* – the river between Blair House and Walford.

*Stella Olsen* – wife of Chris Olsen. Chris and Stella own and run Blair House Hotel.

*Chris Olsen* – husband of Stella. Chris and Stella own and run Blair House Hotel.

*Jake Olsen* – Chris's brother.

*Lou Cottingville* – a guest who arrives with his wife to stay at Blair House.

*Elsa Cottingville* - a guest who arrives with her husband to stay at Blair House.

*Ginny* – an American woman. She is a keen birdwatcher. She is staying with her friend, Amy, at Blair House.

*Amy* - an American woman. She is staying at Blair House with her friend Ginny.

*Wayne* – a guest at Blair House Hotel. He is staying there with his wife, Angela and his daughter, Chantelle. Wayne says he likes fishing.

*Angela* – a guest at Blair House. She is staying there with her husband, Wayne and her daughter Chantelle. Angela likes television.

*Chantelle* – a teenager. She is staying at Blair House with Wayne and Angela.

*Delia and Gilbert* – a middle-aged couple staying at Blair House Hotel. They like eating.

*Max* – an older man who is staying at Blair House Hotel. He says he is a retired government worker. He says he is writing a book.

## 1. Blair House

Blair House was on a long thin strip of land that extended into the Tasman Sea. It was a very isolated and lonely place. The house was very large. Chris and Stella Olsen ran Blair House as a private hotel. People chose to stay at Blair House because they liked quiet and beautiful places.

There were no other houses nearby. It was 20km to Walford, a small village with a railway station, a general store and a few houses. If people wanted clothes, alcohol or more variety, they had to drive to a much larger town, Lockton, which was a further 50km north of Walford. From there, one could join the motorway to Auckland.

There was only one road from Walford to Blair House. The road crossed the Blairglen River and went up and over the hills. The road was very narrow, but it didn't matter, because only one van ever drove along it.

One morning, Stella was busy in the kitchen. She was preparing lunch for their guests.

*We will be full, she thought as she put bowls of salad into the refrigerator. When Chris comes back with Mr and Mrs Cottingville, we will have ten guests. I'm going to be very busy.*

Stella cooked the meals and did most of the cleaning. Chris helped her. He also looked after their huge vegetable garden and their orchard. He organised activities for their guests. He drove guests to and from the hotel. He did all the shopping. Stella ordered a lot of the food online, but the courier companies would not deliver to such an isolated place. So Chris often drove the 50km to Lockton, to collect the orders from the courier company. In the evenings, he was also the barman.

Chris's brother, Jake, lived with them. He was very strong, and had a beautiful smile. In some ways, Jake was very clever, but he was also different from other people. He could not read or write well. He didn't speak very well. He lived with Stella and Chris because he could not live alone. Jake helped Stella and Chris a lot.

Stella would have liked more staff, but Blair House was a long way from the nearest town, and no one wanted to work there. Stella and Chris worked hard, and got very tired, but mostly, they thought it was a good life. Stella enjoyed meeting the people who came to stay. They were often very interesting.

Stella heard the horn of the van as Chris arrived. She put the last of the salads into the refrigerator, took off her apron and combed her hair. She hurried out to stand on the steps in front of the house.

The van stopped. Chris jumped out and walked around to open the van door for the new guests. A middle-aged couple climbed out. Jake came out to help with the luggage.

“Mr and Mrs Cottingville are in Room Six,” Stella said to Jake.

“OK,” said Jake, smiling. He picked up four heavy bags and went into the house.

Stella turned to the new guests. “Welcome to Blair House. I hope you will enjoy your stay. I am Stella, and of course, you have met my husband, Chris.”

Mr and Mrs Cottingville shook hands. “Please, call me Lou,” said the man. He was short and quite fat. He was wearing a heavy gold watch and a thick chain around his neck. He rubbed his hands together as he looked up at the house. He pointed to the woman. “This is Elsa.” Elsa was thin. She had very black hair and pale skin. She smiled, but didn’t speak.

“Please come this way.” Stella led the new guests into the house, while Chris took the van to the garage.

“Did you have a good trip?” asked Stella.

“Yes. It was very easy,” answered Lou. “Chris was waiting at the railway station in Walford when we arrived. And we enjoyed the scenery. But I was pleased I didn’t have to drive.” He laughed. “What a road! So narrow and mountainous!”

“Oh!” said Elsa stopping in the front hallway. “What a beautiful house!” she said, staring at the wood-panelled walls, and the graceful staircase curving upstairs.

“Yes, it is nice, isn’t it?” said Stella. “My husband’s great-great-uncle built it. He was a very rich man, but he liked to live away from people. So he wanted to build his home in a very lonely place. But we think we are very lucky to live here.

“I’ll show you to your room. We’ll see you for lunch at twelve thirty. It will be a chance for you to meet our other guests. The dining room is through that door, and the guest lounge and bar are on the other side of the hall.”

Stella showed Lou and Elsa to a large pleasant room on the second floor. She showed them their bathroom and the door that led to a balcony outside. Elsa walked out onto the balcony.

“What an amazing view! And we have our own table and chairs. Oh, I see all the rooms open onto the balcony.”

“Yes. Please excuse me, I must go and finish preparing lunch.”

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Stella hurried down the stairs, and back into the kitchen. Jake came to help her carry the food into the dining room. Stella had made soup and homemade bread. There were three different salads, and a platter of cold meats, cheese and fruit.

They put everything on a long table at one side of the room. Chris was waiting to introduce the Cottingvilles to the other guests.

When they walked in, he said. "Breakfast and lunch are self-service. But before you get your food, please let me introduce you to everyone."

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