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Wall of Secrets sample  
NOT FOR SALE

## **WALL OF SECRETS**

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

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Wall of Secrets

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## Chapter One

September 1999

Joshua Hudson was walking through town. He went to the town centre every Saturday morning. His hometown of Hartony, in the north of England, was small, but it had a plastic model shop.

Joshua's hobby was making plastic models of old sailing ships. He went to the model shop every Saturday to buy paint for his sailing ship models. Sometimes, he bought new models to make. In his house, he had many model sailing ships.

Hartony was near Liverpool. Sometimes, old sailing ships came to Liverpool. He always went to the event. He took many photographs and went on the ships.

Joshua had liked sailing ships since he was a young boy. When he was seven years old, his mother told him about his father.

"Your father, Chris Smith, died when I was pregnant with you," she had said. "He liked boats very much. He went out to sea in a fishing boat, but there was trouble. A storm came. He fell off the boat and died in the water. He died just before our wedding."

Joshua was sad. "I want to make plastic models of ships," he had told his mother. "It will help me feel closer to my father."

So that year, Joshua's mother bought him a model sailing ship set for Christmas. Since then, Joshua had loved ships. He thought about his father when he made the models.

*I'll go to the model shop, and then buy some fish and chips for lunch,* he thought. Then, something happened. It changed Joshua's life.

He was walking past the second-hand bookshop. He often bought books there. He liked reading. He knew the owner, Jeff, very well.

Suddenly, Jeff came out of the bookshop.

"Josh!" he shouted.

Joshua looked at him.

"Hi, Jeff. Nice weather today, isn't it?" he said.

"Yes," said Jeff. "Come in. I have something for you."

Joshua went inside the bookshop. It was old and full of books. It had the same smell as a library. Joshua liked the smell.

"What do you have?" asked Joshua.

Jeff went to the window of the bookshop and picked up a book.

"It was strange," he said. "A woman came into the shop the other day. She was not from this town. She had a southern England accent. She gave me this book. She said, 'You must put this book in the shop window.' I looked at the book. It was old, but I thought I could sell it. So I said, 'OK'. I put it in the shop window, and then she left."

Joshua looked at the book. It was a book about old sailing ships.

"Interesting story," he said. "And the book looks interesting. I'll buy it. How much is it?"

"It's an old book. So just three pounds," said Jeff.

Joshua gave Jeff three pounds. "Thanks, Jeff," he said. "Have a good day."

"You too, Joshua. I hope you enjoy the book!" said Jeff. "I know you like sailing ships!"

## Chapter Two

Joshua ate fish and chips in a café, and then went home. He lived alone. His house was small and old, but he liked it. It was near his mother's house. He lived with his mother while he was in college training to become an engineer, but when he found a job, he wanted his own place. His mother's house was very small. Joshua needed more space for his model ships. Also, Joshua didn't have a good relationship with his mother. When he was a child, she never hugged or kissed him. She often hit him when he did something wrong. Sometimes, Joshua thought 'She hates me. Why does she hate me?'

He took his coat off, and sat on the sofa. He looked through the book about sailing ships. It looked interesting. Then, he saw something strange.

*What's this?* he thought. *It's a note.*

There was a note near the back of the book. He read it.

*----- If you find this book, come to this address. 67 Fern Avenue, Salingdon.-----*

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