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The Cruise Ship sample
NOT FOR SALE

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The Cruise Ship
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Chapter One

Sarah Lane ran out of her cabin on the luxury cruise ship. She was crying and shouting, "Where is he? Where is he?"

She ran up the stairs and went to the bar on the third floor. It was 3:00am. The bar was closed. The door was locked. She knocked on the door.

"Where is he?" she shouted loudly. A crew member was walking near the bar. He saw her.

"Madam, are you OK? What's happened?" he asked.

"You have to help me!" she said.

"OK, let's sit down and you can tell me your problem. My name is Martin. I will try to help you. What's your name?"

"Sarah Lane. My husband is Peter Lane."

He took Sarah over to an area with chairs and tables. Sarah and Martin sat down.

"It's my husband!" she said. "He's gone!"

Martin smiled. "Did he go for a walk? I'm sure he will be back soon."

"No! I haven't seen him since lunchtime yesterday! I told you! He's gone!"

Martin looked at Sarah. "I need to talk to my boss and the security guards. Come with me."

Martin helped Sarah to stand up. Her legs were very weak. She was crying loudly. They walked up some stairs and into a small office with security camera screens.

"Please sit down and wait here. I will come back soon," said Martin.

Sarah sat down and cried. A few minutes later, a woman and a security guard came into the office.

"Mrs Lane. I am Claire. I am the night manager-on this ship. Can you tell me your story?"

Claire and the security guard sat down on the other side of the desk. Martin closed the door and sat down next to Sarah.

Sarah began her story.

"Yesterday afternoon, we stopped in the Cayman Islands. I wanted to go sightseeing, but Peter didn't want to go. He said, 'I'm tired. I want to relax by the pool.' So I went off the ship alone. I went sightseeing and shopping for about three hours. When I came back to the boat, I went to our cabin. Peter wasn't there. I thought, *He's probably in one of the bars*. He likes the bars and he likes drinking. So I stayed in our cabin and went to sleep. I woke up and got ready for dinner. I waited for him, but he didn't come. So I had

dinner alone. I thought, *This is strange. He always comes to dinner. But maybe he drank too much. Maybe he will eat some food in the bar.*

“After dinner, I walked around the ship looking for him. I went into all the bars, but he wasn’t there. Then I went to the swimming pools, but he wasn’t there. I couldn’t find him. I thought, *Maybe he is walking around the ship, or maybe he is on one of the decks, watching the sea. He will come back later.* So I went to our cabin and waited. After a while, I fell asleep. I woke up ten minutes ago and he wasn’t there.”

Sarah started to cry loudly. “He still hasn’t come back! It’s three am! Where is he?”

Martin and Claire looked at each other. They were thinking the same thing. Was Peter with another woman? But, of course, they didn’t say that to Sarah.

“Mrs. Lane, we will look on the security cameras. We have a very good system. We have recordings from everywhere on the ship for all day yesterday. Can you help us? Can you tell us about his clothes? What does he look like?”

“He was wearing brown shorts and a cream shirt. He is a little fat. He is fifty-five years old. This cruise is our twenty-fifth wedding anniversary vacation! We have been married for twenty-five years! We waited a long time for this cruise!”

“Mrs. Lane, I know you are worried, but can you tell us more about your husband? What colour is his hair?” asked Claire.

“He has no hair. He is bald,” said Sarah.

“Which bar does he usually go to?”

“The bar on the third floor, next to the beauty salon.”

The security guard started to press buttons on a computer and look at the screen.

After a few minutes, he said, “I can’t see anyone who looks like your husband by the pool yesterday afternoon. Maybe he went to the bar after lunch.”

Then he said, “Is this your husband?”

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