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The Secret Door sample
NOT FOR SALE

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The Secret Door
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Chapter One

"This house is great!" said Ella. "It's old, but it's big, and it has a garden. It's better than our old house. That was really small."

"Yes," said her brother Mike. "I'm going to like living here. My bedroom is so big. I have space for my desk, my bed and all my books and comics. My old bedroom wasn't so big."

Ella was sixteen. She was tall, and she had long brown hair. She liked fashion and cosmetics. Mike was fourteen. He was also tall with brown hair. He loved playing computer games. Ella and Mike were from Cornwall, in southwest England. They lived with their mother and father. They moved to London for their father's job. They were excited. They had a new house, they were going to a new school, and they were going to make many new friends.

"School starts in a few weeks," said Ella. "Are you nervous?"

"Of course not. I'm looking forward to it. Are you nervous?" asked Mike.

"A little. But I want to meet new people."

Their mother came into the living room. "It's a nice sunny day," she said. "Some teenagers are sitting in the garden of the house across the road. Go and talk to them. Maybe you can make some new friends."

"Good idea!" said Ella. "Come on, Mike. Let's go and talk to them."

Ella and Mike stood up and walked out of the living room, into the big hall, and out of the house. They walked across the road. There were two girls in the garden of the house. They had blonde hair. Ella thought they were very pretty. They were sitting on chairs, talking.

When they saw Ella and Mike, they smiled.

Ella and Mike walked into the garden.

"Are you our new neighbours?" asked one of the girls.

"Yes," said Ella. "We moved into the house across the road a few days ago. I'm Ella, and this is my brother Mike. We are sixteen and fourteen."

"Nice to meet you," said the older girl. "I'm Kelly. I'm seventeen. And this is my sister Jenny. She's fifteen."

Jenny smiled. "Hi" she said. "Where are you from?"

"Cornwall," said Ella.

"We've never been to Cornwall," said Kelly. "What's it like?"

"It's beautiful. We lived near the sea. But our village was small and quiet. London is big and exciting. We are looking forward to our new lives here," said Ella.

"You'll have a great time here," said Jenny. "London has everything, but..." She looked at her sister. "Kelly, should we tell them?"

Kelly looked worried. "I don't know," she said. She was quiet for a few seconds. Then, she said, "Yes, maybe we should tell them."

"Tell us what?" asked Ella.

"Come and sit down," said Kelly. Ella and Mike sat down on the grass. Kelly and Jenny sat down on the grass too.

"Well, we have lived here all our lives. No one has lived in your house since before we were born," said Kelly. "But it's strange. We sometimes see lights in the house. The bedroom lights come on and then they go off. But there is no one in the house!"

"That's strange," said Mike. "But maybe someone is in the house."

"No," said Jenny. "No one is in the house. We asked our parents. They said, 'No one has lived in the house for twenty years.'"

"Other strange things happen," said Kelly. "Sometimes, when we are here in the garden, we hear loud noises from the house. It usually happens in the evenings."

"What kind of noises?" asked Ella.

"Like someone hitting something," said Jenny.

"And when we walk past the house, we feel cold," said Kelly.

"Do you think there is a ghost?" asked Mike.

"I think so," said Kelly. "Scary things happen. That's why it was empty for so many years. When people came to look at the house, they heard strange noises."

"Our parents didn't hear noises when they came to look at the house," said Ella.

"Maybe the ghost likes your family!" said Jenny. "But don't be surprised if you hear or see anything strange!"

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