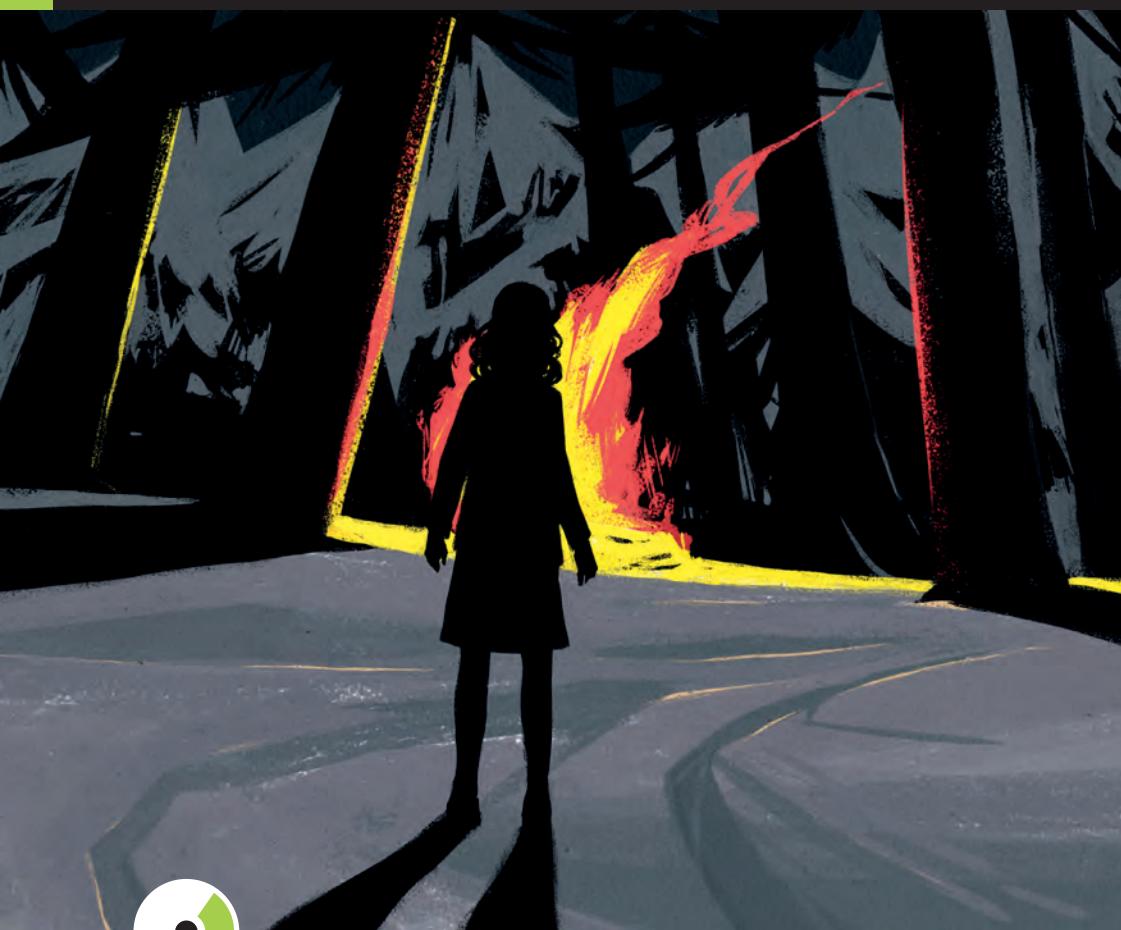


The Eighth Sister



audio CD



Victoria Heward

The Eighth Sister

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The text is recorded in full.

 These symbols indicate the beginning and end of the passages.

 END linked to the listening activities.

The Characters



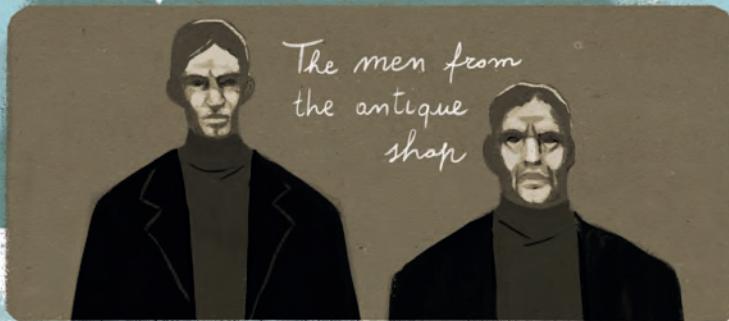
Helen



Will



Julia Helen's mother



The men from
the antique
shop



Aunt Susan



Uncle Jo



The village of Corfe, dominated by the castle.

Villages in The UK

Many people who visit The UK stop in London or the other big cities and don't have the time to visit the beautiful little villages in the countryside or along the coast. It's true that they're not as famous as other places and maybe there's not quite so much to do, but it's in these quiet little villages that you'll find the true heart of Britain, often untouched by time and technology.

Origins

In the Middle Ages, churches were the central part of most communities, and villages usually grew around them. Near the church there was also usually a manor house, a large villa or castle where the lord lived. He owned the land and everything in it, including the people who lived there. They were his servants, or serfs. The lord of the manor was supposed to protect the serfs if there was an attack but, in return for protection, they had to work the land for him. The Lord, in turn, provided the King with soldiers and taxes in a system known as the feudal system.



A modern addition in a medieval village.

Villages today

One of the great things about villages today is that you can still find many of its original medieval features like the farms, church and often also a manor house or castle. There are obviously some modern additions though, for example the local pub, and post office which are both focal points in village life. There's also sometimes a small food shop and often a coffee shop and gift shops for tourists.

More than a village

The word village is often used to describe areas in the countryside which have grown bigger over the centuries because of tourism or historic reasons. They are often full of visitors taking photos and admiring the views. Try to find the time to visit one the next time you're in England.

1 Comprehension check

Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

| | T | F |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 There was always a church in a medieval village. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 The manor house was where the people lived. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 A serf was a feudal servant. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 The lord of the manor attacked the people. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 Nowadays villages have lots of shops. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

2 Villages

Read and write the name of the village next to the right photo.



1



2



3



4

a Chilham

The tiny village of Chilham, in the south east of England, is visited every year for its lovely old square and the castle which dates back to 1616. It stands on the site of an ancient castle that was built in 1174.

b Lavenham

If you're a Harry Potter fan, you might recognise some of the streets in Lavenham. It's one of the most popular places in Britain for film makers due to its incredible concentration of old buildings.

c Crovie

Crovie, in the Moray Firth in Scotland, is really a single line of houses which are separated from the stormy waters by a very narrow road. It isn't even big enough for cars to pass so if you visit be prepared to do some walking.

d Polperro

Polperro is a beautiful fishing village in Cornwall. It has a pretty harbour surrounded by lots of little cottages. It's a favourite place for holiday makers who like relaxing and listening to the gentle sound of the waves on the fishing boats.

Before you read

1 Vocabulary

Match the words (1-8) to their definitions (A-H).

1 painting

2 tiny

3 vase

4 china

5 portrait

6 step-father

7 stare

8 shiver

A very, very small.

B to look at someone or something very intensely.

C a picture made by an artist.

D a container for flowers.

E mother's husband from a new marriage.

F to shake because you are cold or frightened.

G the picture of a person.

H something made from ceramics.



2 Listening

Listen to the first part of Chapter One and say if these sentences are true (T) or false (F). Correct the sentences that are false.

| | T | F |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 It was snowing in the village of Hollybrook. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 Julia went to school from Monday to Friday. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 Helen had piano lessons twice a week. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 Bob is Helen's step-father. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 Julia works in the village | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 There were lots of shops in Hollybrook. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7 Julia bought the painting from the antique shop. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |



T

CHAPTER ONE

The painting

The story started the day that Helen's mother bought the painting. It was December, there was snow on the ground and most people in the village were getting ready for Christmas. It always snowed in Hollybrook at Christmas. Always! The old ladies of the village said that it snowed when they were young too.



Helen, her mother, Julia, and step-father, Bob, lived in a small cottage. Helen went to school from Monday to Friday, to the swimming pool twice a week and to piano lessons on Wednesday evenings. Bob was a photographer and often worked away from home. Julia worked part-time in an office in a town not far away and came home in the afternoons.

That day, after work, she had to go to the tiny village supermarket. Hollybrook was a quiet village and there wasn't much to see, so when she noticed a new antique shop in place of the old book shop she couldn't resist looking. It had the name 'Oak Tree



CHAPTER ONE

Antiques' in curly black letters above the door. The window was full of beautiful old objects; lamps, crystal vases, little china statues, clocks... Julia went in.

There wasn't much room in the shop as it was so full of things, but she noticed the painting immediately. For some reason it wasn't with the other paintings but almost hidden by a pile of old books. For some reason she went straight to it. She couldn't say why but she knew she had to buy it... and she did.

When Helen arrived home from school later that afternoon the painting was already hanging on the wall in the living room between the clock and her first school photo.

"What's that?!"

"I bought it from the antique shop. Don't you like it?"



Helen stared at the painting. "It's old. It's dark. It's too big. It's..." Helen stopped. There was something about it that disturbed her but it was impossible to say what. It was the portrait of a young woman, a girl really, not much older than she was. She was sitting in a dark room wearing a long white dress and a gold-coloured necklace. She had dark, wavy hair and blue eyes, similar to Helen's own. Her nose was quite long and she had a sad kind of expression on her face, similar to Helen's... Suddenly she understood why the painting seemed so strange. It was her. The painting was of Helen!

She didn't know what to say. "But Mum... Why did you..."

"I'm sorry you don't like it," said Julia, offended. "It just jumped out at me. I had to buy it."

"But where from? Why?"

"I told you, that new antique shop opposite the post-office. Don't you remember, old Mr. Church's second hand bookshop





CHAPTER ONE

closed a few weeks ago? He left in a great hurry and some of his old books are still there... Well, now it's an antique shop."

Helen knew where it was. She walked past it every day on her way to and from the bus stop when she went to school.

"But Mum! It's me. Look!"

Her mother looked up at the painting, as if for the first time. "You're right, darling! What a coincidence! It does look like you." Then she turned and walked out of the room. "I'm going to get dinner ready. Remember to do your homework..."

Helen stood in silence looking up at the girl in the portrait. The girl in the portrait stared back, her big blue eyes looking sadly down at Helen's. Helen shivered. She knew it was only a coincidence but it was strange all the same.

Her thoughts were interrupted by the ringing of her phone. She pulled it out of her pocket and saw that it was her cousin, Will.

"Hey Will! You OK?"

"I'm alright... Your voice sounds terrible. What's up?"

"No, nothing's wrong. Mum's just bought something really weird. I'll show you when you come round."

"OK... By the way, it's your birthday next week, isn't it? Are we doing something or not?"

That's right. She was going to be fifteen years old. She looked up at the painted girl again and wondered how old she was.

"Helen?... Helen?... Are you still there?"

"Sorry, Will, I was thinking about something. Sure, we'll talk about it at school tomorrow, OK? See you."

In silence, and with a sadness she couldn't explain, she turned and went up the stairs to her room.

The text and **beyond**

1 Comprehension check

For each question choose the correct answer – A, B or C.

- 1 Julia worked
 - A all day.
 - B at home.
 - C in a different village from where she lived.
- 2 Julia saw the painting in an antique shop near
 - A some books.
 - B some other paintings.
 - C the door.
- 3 The girl in the portrait
 - A was older than Helen.
 - B looked like Helen.
 - C didn't have the same colour hair as Helen.
- 4 Helen's mum
 - A wanted Helen to help get dinner ready.
 - B explained why she bought the painting.
 - C agreed that the painting looked like Helen.
- 5 Will
 - A wanted to see the painting immediately.
 - B wanted to organise a party for Helen.
 - C was worried about his cousin.

T: GRADE 4

2 Speaking

Helen goes to school every day, she goes to the swimming pool twice a week and she has piano lessons on Wednesdays.

With a partner, talk about the things that you do. Talk about:

- 1 What you do at school.
- 2 What after-school activities you do.
- 3 The things that you do at the weekends.
- 4 What your favourite activities are.
- 5 Why you like them.

3 Reading pictures

A Look at the picture on page 11. Write one sentence to answer each of the questions.

- 1 What do you think Helen is thinking?
- 2 What do you think her mother is thinking?
- 3 Who do you think the girl in the painting is?
- 4 Why do you think Helen's mother bought the painting?

B Talk about your answers with the rest of the class. Do you all agree?

CULTURE SPOT

Christmas in The UK

For many people in The UK, Christmas is a special time of year. The dark winter days suddenly come alive with pretty decorations, lights, trees and holly. There is a special atmosphere of excitement and expectation. People buy presents, and sing Christmas songs called carols. On Christmas Eve children hang stockings next to the fireplace, hoping that Father Christmas will fill them with presents when he comes down the chimney. On Christmas day, the traditional lunch is turkey, people pull Christmas crackers to find the present inside. People from many countries and religions live in Britain and so there are lots of different festival going on, especially in the



winter months. For example Hindus celebrate Diwali, and Jewish people celebrate Hanukkah. These are both festivals of lights and involve lots of preparation and excitement.

Are these sentences True (T) or False (F)?

- 1 Carols are something that you buy.
- 2 Children want Father Christmas to come down the chimney.
- 3 Diwali is a festival of lights.

| T | F |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Before you read

1 Reorder the sentences

Here are the first nine sentences of Chapter Two. Put them in the right order you think is best. The first one is done for you.

- A “At least until nine o’clock!!”
- B Julia reminded her by opening her bedroom door singing “Happy Birthday to you...” very loudly.
- C “Mum! It’s Saturday.”
- D “Come downstairs and open them.”
- E “Please, let me sleep!”
- F “Oh come on, lazy!”
- G It was Helen’s birthday.
- H “The postman has brought lots of cards too, and even a parcel!”
- I “We’ve got a special present for you.”

2 Vocabulary – Descriptions

Look at the picture on page 19.

In pairs:

- A Make a list of as much vocabulary as possible in two minutes. Include nouns, verbs and adjectives.
- B Take turns to describe the picture. Try to imagine what is happening in the picture. What do you think will happen?
- C Compare your ideas with the rest of the class.

