

Click on the audio to listen to the first chapter of The Judge's House by Bram Stoker

It was April and John Moore was studying for an important **examination**. As the date of the exam came nearer, he decided to go somewhere and read by himself. He did not want the **amusements** of the seaside, or the beauties of the **countryside**. He decided to find a quiet, **ordinary** little town and work there undisturbed. He packed his suitcases with clothes and books. Then he looked in a railway timetable for a town that he did not know. He found one, and bought a ticket to go there. He did not tell anyone where he was going. After all, he did not want to be disturbed.

That is how Moore arrived at Benchurch. It was a market town, and once a week it was quite busy for a few hours. The rest of the time it was a very quiet, sleepy little place. Moore spent his first night at the only hotel in the town. The **landlady** was very kind and helpful, but the hotel was not really quiet enough for him. The second day he started looking for a house to rent.

There was only one place that he liked. It was more than quiet - it was **deserted** and very lonely. It was a big, old seventeenth-century house. It had tiny windows like a prison, and a high brick wall all round it. It would be hard to imagine a more unwelcoming place. But it suited Moore perfectly. He went to find the **local** lawyer, who was responsible for the house.

Mr Carnford, the lawyer, was very happy to rent the house to him.

'I'd he glad to let you have it free,' he said, 'just to have somebody living in it again after all these years. It's been empty so long that people have spread a lot of foolish stories about it. You'll be able to prove that the stories are wrong.'

Moore did not think it was necessary to ask the lawyer for more details of the 'foolish stories'. He paid his rent, and Mr Carnford gave him the name of an old servant to look after him. He came away from the lawyer's office with the keys of the house in his pocket. He then went to Mrs Wood, the landlady of the hotel.

'I'm renting a house for a few weeks,' he said. 'Can you **advise** me about shopping, please? What do you think I shall need?'

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'Where are you going to stay, sir?' the landlady asked. Moore told her.

She threw up her hands in horror. 'Not the Judge's House!' she said, and she grew **pale** as she spoke.

He asked her to tell him more about the house. 'Why is it called the Judge's House?' he said, 'and why doesn't anyone want to live in it?'

Translate the following words into your language.

examination= _____ amusement = _____
countryside = _____ ordinary = _____
landlady = _____ deserted = _____
advise = _____ pale = _____

Answer the following statements as True or False.

1. John Moore wanted to go to an amusement park. ☐ True ☐ False
2. John Moore wanted to find a quiet place to study. ☐ True ☐ False
3. Benchurch was a quiet little town. ☐ True ☐ False
4. John Moore spent the first month at a hotel. ☐ True ☐ False
5. John Moore found a 400 year old house that no one lived in. ☐ True ☐ False
6. Mr Carnford was not happy to rent the house. ☐ True ☐ False
7. People did not want to live in the house. ☐ True ☐ False
8. The lawyer wanted John to prove the stories were true. ☐ True ☐ False
9. John Moore was going to stay for a few weeks to study, ☐ True ☐ False
10. The landlady was excited that he was going to stay at the house. ☐ True ☐ False

Draw a line between name and description characters.

John Moore	The local lawyer of Benchurch
Mrs Wood	A young man studying for his exams.
Mr Carnford	The landlady of the hotel.

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