

# Stories for Lipreading

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## About A Story by Pat Kelly - Setting the Scene

This story begins with an author sitting in Romsey Abbey (in Hampshire), looking for inspiration or material for his next novel. He has no luck there and wanders on to the town's Memorial Park, where his quiet contemplation of a statue sparks an intriguing chain of events.

### Helpful Vocabulary and Phrases

*This story has been split into two episodes.*

### Episode One

Holding its breath  
Dust motes glitter in the air  
Jewel colours from stained glass  
Gleam on stones  
Faithful feet  
Grey-robed monk with a skeletal  
Tapestries  
Last abbess will glide down the aisle  
Romsey Abbey  
Inspire me  
Hurries towards me with a chubby toddler in his pushchair  
Desperation is beginning to set in  
Memorial Park  
Sit on an empty bench  
Statue  
Soldier  
Leading his tired horse  
Doze  
Pungent smell  
Tramp  
Filthy rags  
Blackened toes  
Mud-encrusted boots  
Got a light, mate?  
Vesta  
Light my fag  
Said it was lucky  
Name engraved on it  
Grimy hand in a fingerless glove  
George Turner  
Proffered hand

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I used to come here all the time with my pals  
Bit of a gallop  
Camped  
In the distance  
Mile End Road  
Mary  
The Front  
Weeks later  
Christened  
Alfred  
I swallowed, as Ellen's face floated into my mind  
Doctors  
Hide it in that bush?  
Laurel

## Episode Two

I didn't sleep well that night  
London next day with Daniel, my publisher  
Hopeless gesture with my hands  
A synopsis? An idea even?  
Pay back the advance  
Cup of tea  
Kiosk  
Gleam of sunlight glinted  
Metallic object  
Scraping the soil  
Agreed bush, shaking a bit  
Half-buried  
Where it led  
Site of an Army Remount Camp  
Traced his descendants  
Somme in July 1916  
April 1916  
Picked some names  
Medals  
Horse-drawn London 'bus  
Son and grandson  
Chunk of old brick, as rusty-red as dried blood, crumbling with age  
Sitting on my desk  
Deadline  
One day Ellen will visit me  
Sad young soldier