

CAMBRIDGE

A photograph of three people standing in a row against a purple background with a sunburst pattern. On the left is a Black man in an orange t-shirt and blue jeans. In the center is a woman with long brown hair in a purple button-down shirt and blue jeans. On the right is a white man in a light blue button-down shirt and white pants. The title 'In the House' is overlaid in large, bold, white letters with a black outline.

# In the House

Margaret Johnson

CAMBRIDGE

[www.cambridge.org/9780521732246](http://www.cambridge.org/9780521732246)

This page intentionally left blank

Cambridge English Readers

---

Level 4

Series editor: Philip Prowse

*In the House*

Margaret Johnson



**CAMBRIDGE**  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS  
Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo

Cambridge University Press  
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK  
Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9780521732246](http://www.cambridge.org/9780521732246)

© Cambridge University Press 2009

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provision of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published in print format 2009

ISBN-13 978-0-511-46031-9 eBook (Adobe Reader)

ISBN-13 978-0-521-73224-6 paperback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of urls for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication, and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

No character in this work is based on any person living or dead.  
Any resemblance to an actual person or situation is purely accidental.

# Contents

Chapter 1	The carrot flower	6
Chapter 2	As blue as the sea	13
Chapter 3	Winners and jokes	21
Chapter 4	Messy spaghetti	29
Chapter 5	Leaving Night	36
Chapter 6	Food and jumping	42
Chapter 7	Questions, questions	48
Chapter 8	Kisses	55
Chapter 9	Truth dancing	65
Chapter 10	Winners and losers	71

# Characters

**Annie, Leo, Nigel, Simon, Pete:** people in the Big Eye competition

**Big Eye:** different voices who give instructions to the people in the Big Eye House

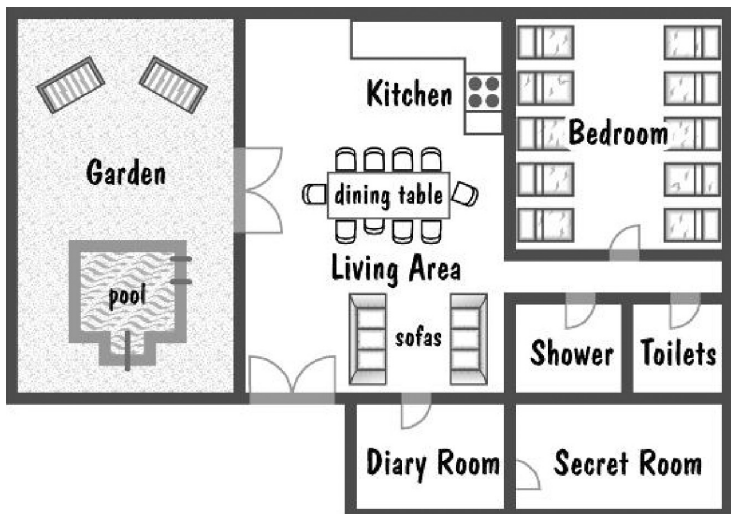
**Violet Carlton:** a TV presenter

# About the story

*Big Eye* is a fictional reality TV programme about young people living together for forty days in the Big Eye House.

The young people have been chosen – out of thousands – to be on the programme and stay in the Big Eye House. They cannot see or talk to anyone outside the House and there are cameras that watch almost everything they do. People at home can watch it all on their televisions. They can also phone up to say who they want to leave the House. On Leaving Night, one person has to leave the Big Eye House and is out of the competition. The last person in the House after forty days wins a lot of money – £70,000.

## The Big Eye House



## Chapter 1 *The carrot flower*

It's not every day that you wake up to find a carrot on your bed. But that's what happened to me on Day Thirty-Six of my stay in the House.

Well, it wasn't a carrot exactly; it was a flower. A flower cut carefully out of a carrot with a knife. I know it sounds a bit odd, but it was really beautiful, honestly. I felt pleased that somebody had taken the trouble to make it for me. But I had no idea who that 'somebody' might be. I knew who I *wanted* it to be though – Simon. Simon had beautiful hands, along with a beautiful body and a handsome face. But were they hands that could make such a flower? I hoped so.

Looking around the bedroom, I saw that Leo was still in bed. There was one bedroom for all of us in the House with ten beds in it. But no-one was using five of the beds any more, since five people had already left the House. I looked at Leo sleeping. Big Eye turns the lights on in the bedroom at eight o'clock every morning, but that doesn't wake Leo up. Nothing wakes Leo up until he wants to wake up. So he can't have made the flower, I thought. It wasn't the kind of thing he'd do anyway. Leo prefers talking to doing.

Suddenly a voice filled the room. 'This is Big Eye. Would Annie come to the Diary Room please?'

The Diary Room was the place we went to for private conversations with Big Eye. Well, they were private because



the other people in the House couldn't hear what you said. But actually they were very public, because everyone watching the *Big Eye* programme on TV could see and hear you. But you usually forgot about that.

Putting on my dressing gown, I put the carrot flower carefully in my pocket. For some reason I wanted to keep it a secret, although I knew this was silly. Thousands, or maybe even millions, of television viewers had already seen me find it.

'Morning, guys.' Out in the main living area, Pete and Nigel were making breakfast. They smiled at me.

'Morning, Annie.'

I looked at both of them as I walked towards the Diary Room. Nigel was a very intelligent man, but he wasn't very good with his hands. I couldn't imagine him being able to make my carrot flower. Pete was an engineer though. Maybe it was him?

I looked out of the window, searching for Simon. There he was, jogging as usual. Every morning, he ran for an hour before breakfast. He'd already worn out some of the grass in the small garden. By the time the competition ended on Saturday there probably wouldn't be any grass left at all. Had Simon taken some time off from his exercise to make my presents? It would be very nice if he had – very nice indeed.

Smiling to myself, I pressed the button on the wall outside the Diary Room door. As I waited for the door to open, I continued watching Simon. If the women watching the programme were anything like me, then Simon and his beautiful body had an excellent chance of winning this competition. The winner would be the person who