

Nasty neighbours

Susan Read was a house-owner of an old tenement-house and she had been living there on the 3rd floor for 2 years when Joyce Pritchard moved in the ground-floor flat. Joyce was a very nice and kind person, but she was a member of a strange religious cult whose members called themselves “Children of Abraham”. Her membership started to restrict the other habitants of Merrill Street 8 very soon.

The rules of the cult included organizing daily loud meetings that took place in a flat of one of the members, so Joyce's turn was at least twice in a fortnight. “The Children” met at about 5pm and spent 3 hours by singing loudly some awful religious songs. Then they switched off the lights in the house corridors and held a strange ceremony with carols and incense burning. After such a session, Joyce (or another member in whose apartment the ceremony took place) had to burn incense for next 5 days and keep it smell in the whole house .

At the beginning Susan accepted these strange habits without any serious problems, but after a while, it started to disturb her and the other tenants too. When Susan realized that these religious meetings were a part of a rule that would be repeated regularly, she asked Joyce not to hold these sessions in her house, but Joyce refused by saying, that we all had a religious freedom. Susan tried to be obliging, but the smell was so uncomfortable, that she decided to go to the police.

The police ruled out that Joyce had to stop holding the religious meetings at her apartment or she had to move away.