A House in the Hills (B1 · English B1)

Tekst / Transcript

Anna had lived in the same noisy street for almost a decade. Every morning she woke up to buses and car horns. She often dreamed about quiet mornings and green fields. So last spring she made a plan and started to look for a small house in the countryside. Her friends thought she was joking. Anna was serious, and she saved money every month.

The first house she visited was old and cold. The roof was covered with green moss, and the windows did not close properly. The owner wanted too much money for it, so Anna said no politely. The second house was better, but it stood next to a busy road. The third one felt right the moment she opened the gate. Behind the garden there was a deep pool where ducks were swimming. Anna stood there for a long time and listened to the birds.

The seller was a farmer called Tom, and he was easy to talk to. He explained that his current plan was to move closer to his daughter in the city. After an hour they agreed on a price and shook hands on the deal. Anna could not believe it. She was currently living in a rented flat, but in two months the house would be hers. Tom smiled and said that in his village there was a nice custom: new neighbours bring a cake, and the old ones bring coffee and cream. Anna promised to bake something on her first Saturday.

On the day she moved in, the sky was grey and rain began to fall. Anna had to cover the boxes with plastic sheets before she carried them inside. Her brother helped her, and they laughed about the mud on their shoes. In the evening they sat by the fire with tea. Anna tried to define the feeling in her heart, but she could not find the right words. It was something between peace and excitement. She only knew one thing for sure: her definite answer to city life was finally no.

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