The Last Box of the Day (B1 · English B1)

Tekst / Transcript

Marco worked for a small company that had to deliver furniture all over the city. He started at six every morning. His van was always full of boxes, chairs and other heavy stuff. Most drivers complained about the job, but Marco liked being outside. He knew every street and every shortcut.

One Friday the schedule was totally crazy. There were twenty-two addresses on his list, and the traffic was terrible. His first customer lived in a tiny flat on the fifth floor, and there was no lift. Marco carried a wardrobe up the stairs alone. It probably did not weigh a ton, but it certainly felt like it. He needed all his strength to reach the top without dropping anything. The old lady gave him a glass of water and thanked him twice.

Despite the difficult start, the day slowly got better. Around noon the traffic became lighter and he found parking easily. He ate a sandwich in the van and checked the total number of deliveries left. Eleven. At three o'clock he was still working, but he felt calm. His manager phoned and asked if he could take one extra address near the airport. Marco agreed, although he was tired.

The last customer was a young man who was leaving the country the next morning. He looked nervous and kept checking the departure time of his flight. Marco carried the boxes into the empty flat and put them by the window. The young man explained that he was moving to another city for a new job. He said his father had always strongly advised him to take chances while he was young. Marco listened and nodded. He asked what "success" really meant, and the young man laughed. He said his own definition of success was simple: sleep well and like your work. Marco drove home slowly and thought about that answer for the whole evening.

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