The Ring in the Charity Box (B1 · English B1)

Tekst / Transcript

Every Saturday morning, Nadia worked at a small charity shop in the town centre. People brought bags of clothes, books and toys to the door, and the team sold them cheaply. The money paid for warm meals for families in the neighbourhood. Nadia liked the work because she could see the development of the shop from year to year. When she started, only three people came on a Saturday; now there was often a queue.

One cold morning, an old woman came in. She was dressed in a long grey coat and a red scarf, and she carried a heavy box. She said she wanted to donate everything inside it, because her house was too full. Nadia thanked her and carried the box to the back room. Later, while she was sorting the clothes, something bright fell out of a shoe. It was a gold ring with a small diamond in the middle. Nadia had a strange feeling immediately, and she began to doubt that the woman had meant to give it away.

The manager, Tomas, was a very direct man who always said exactly what he thought. "We must try to find her," he said. "That ring is probably worth more than everything else in this shop." The problem was that nobody had taken the woman's name. Nadia had difficulty remembering her face, because so many people had come in that morning. They decided to divide the work between them: Tomas would ask the other volunteers, and Nadia would put a note in the window. The big disadvantage of this plan was time, because the woman might never walk past the shop again.

Three days later, a young man came in. He said his grandmother had lost a ring, and he described it perfectly. Tomas asked a few careful questions, because he wanted to determine that the man was telling the truth. The answers matched, so Tomas gave him the ring directly. The man's grandmother arrived an hour later to say thank you. She told Nadia that she usually dislikes crowded shops, but she would come back to this one. Then she took ten pounds from her purse and put it in the box on the counter. Nadia was more determined than ever to keep working there every Saturday.

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