The Village Bakery (B1 · English B1)

Tekst / Transcript

Maria opened her small bakery in a quiet village last spring. The building was old and the roof leaked, but she loved it. On the first morning she raised a small red flag above the door, so people could find her shop from the main road. Then she waited. Nobody came for almost an hour, and she began to worry.

Her financial situation was not good. She had borrowed money from the bank, and she had to pay it back every month. The rent was fixed, so it never changed, even in a bad week. Maria kept every receipt in a thick blue file under the counter, and she checked her numbers each evening. Some nights the numbers made her feel sick.

Then something changed. A group of older folk from the village came in on Saturday for bread and coffee. They liked the place, and they told their families. The following week, Maria sold everything by two o'clock. She had to order more flour from the mill twice, because her flour bags were empty by Wednesday. Customers began to flow through the door all morning, and the little room was warm and noisy.

Maria did not want to grow too fast. She refused to force herself to work eighteen hours a day. Instead, she asked her cousin Tomas to help at the weekend. Tomas was strong and cheerful, and he also cared about his fitness, so he cycled to the village every Saturday morning. Sometimes the two cousins argued about music or prices, but the fighting never lasted long. They laughed about it later, over cold coffee.

One evening in autumn, Maria sat outside and looked at the empty street. She knew the bakery would not stay easy forever. Winter was coming, and fewer tourists would visit. But she had learned something important that year. A small shop can survive if the people around it want it to survive. She locked the door, took down the flag, and walked home under a clear sky.

Try our 6-step method for free and make these words stick.

Listen to this episode online: https://course.interactivelessons.nl/local/podcast/episode.php?id=24045

Start this course for free: https://course.interactivelessons.nl/mod/quiz/view.php?id=1661