The Photograph in the Attic (B1 · English B1)

Tekst / Transcript

Daniel found the box while he was cleaning the attic on a cold Sunday. Inside there was an old photograph in a broken wooden frame. The glass was cracked, and dust covered everything. He carried it down to the kitchen and put it on the table. His sister Ella was making tea.

"Is this ours?" she asked. "I have never seen it before." Daniel turned the picture over. On the back someone had written a short note in blue ink: "The house, before the war." Neither of them recognised the building, nor did they know the two young people standing in front of it. The attic was freezing, and Daniel's hands were red with cold.

They decided to ask their grandmother. She lived on the next street, only five minutes away. When she saw the photograph, she went quiet and did not move for a moment. She seemed to freeze completely. Then she smiled and touched the glass gently. "That is my mother," she said. "And that house was originally ours, many years ago. We sold it when I was ten."

Daniel had once heard a story about a family house in the mountains, but he had thought it was a joke. His grandmother explained everything slowly. The family had been quite organized in those days, and they kept letters, photographs and papers in careful order. Later, during a difficult winter, they lost most of it. Only a few pictures survived, and this was probably the original one.

"You ought to keep it somewhere safe," she told him. Daniel promised that he would. He took the photograph to a small shop in town, and the owner repaired the frame and cleaned the glass. It cost more than Daniel expected, but he did not mind. Now the picture hangs in the hall, near the front door. Every visitor stops and looks at it, and Daniel enjoys telling the story again.

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