The Cold Night at the Cabin (B1 · English B1)

Tekst / Transcript

Every winter my family drives up to a small cabin in the mountains. The road is narrow and the last village is far away. My father always checks the car before we leave. He fills the tank with fuel, because there is no petrol station near the cabin. My mother packs food, blankets and two big torches.

This year the snow came early. When we arrived, the lake next to the cabin was already frozen. The trees looked white and heavy, and the air smelled clean. My little cousin Tom came with us for the first time. He is nine years old and he asks questions all day long. We walked further up the hill to see the view before dinner. The sun was going down behind the rocks. Tom held my hand and told me about his school.

Inside the cabin, the old heater does not always function well. My father hit it twice and it started again. My mother told us to gather dry wood from the shed while there was still light. We carried it in three trips. Then she began to fry potatoes and eggs in a big black pan. The smell filled the whole room. We generally eat late in the mountains, so nobody was in a hurry.

After dinner we sat near the fire and my grandfather told stories. He talked about his generation, when families walked to the cabin instead of driving. He said the winters were harder then. Tom listened with wide eyes. Suddenly an owl called outside, and the sound seemed to frighten him. He jumped and dropped his cup. Everybody laughed, and my grandfather said the owl visits frequently in cold weather.

The next morning the sky was bright blue. We measured Tom against the door, and my aunt marked his growth with a pencil. He had grown four centimetres since summer. Before we left, my father talked about global warming and the strange, short winters. He said the snow used to stay until April. Then we packed the car and decided to go home slowly, because the road was still icy.

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