The Storm Over the Old Town (B1 · English B1)

Tekst / Transcript

On Friday morning the sky above our small town turned grey. By ten o'clock it was raining heavily, and water ran down the narrow streets like a river. I stood at the window of the museum where I work and watched the market sellers pack their boxes. My colleague Anna arrived late, wet from her shoes to her head. She said the buses had stopped and she had walked the last two kilometres.

The museum is in a historic building from the sixteenth century, and the roof is old. Every winter we worry about the rain. That morning the heating stopped working too, so the rooms became very cold. Anna and I put on our coats and carried the smallest paintings upstairs. Some of them are highly valuable, and our director always says they are worth more than the building itself. We could hardly carry the biggest frames alone, so a neighbour came to help us.

Around midday the water reached the door. Anna looked at the dark line on the floor with real horror in her eyes, because she remembered the flood of 2002. We had to hurry, so we moved the historical documents from the lower shelves into plastic boxes. Old letters, maps and photographs filled twelve boxes. Then the electricity went off and we worked with torches. It was a horrible afternoon, and nobody wanted to talk about lunch.

At three o'clock we heard a strange noise above the roof. A helicopter was flying low over the old town, checking which streets were under water. Two hours later the rain finally stopped. We went outside and began to hunt for missing objects in the garden: a wooden sign, a bench, three flower pots. We found most of them near the wall. Later, when the mayor thanked us on local television, she called our work the highlight of the day. Anna laughed and said she would prefer a hot shower and dry socks.

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