A New Shift at the Garage (B1 · English B1)

Tekst / Transcript

Daniel had worked at the same garage for six years. Every Monday he started an early shift at seven o'clock and finished at four. He liked the smell of oil and the sound of the radio in the workshop. His job was to repair engines, brakes and old car doors. Customers trusted him because he explained problems in simple words.

Last spring, however, the company hired a new manager. The manager wanted more cars finished each day, and he pushed Daniel to work faster. Daniel tried to ignore the comments at first and simply continued in his own careful way. But the repeated complaints did not stop. Every evening the manager stood by the door and said the same thing again and again, as if he had to repeat a lesson to a slow student. The pressure grew week after week, and Daniel began to sleep badly.

One rainy Thursday a woman brought in a small blue car with a broken engine. She said she could not possibly pay for a new one, because she was a student with very little money. The manager wanted to send her away. Daniel looked at her face and remembered his own first car. He worked two extra hours that evening and fixed the engine himself. The woman came back the next morning, almost crying, and asked for his name so that she could write a recommendation online.

That review changed things. New customers arrived and asked for Daniel by name, and the workshop suddenly had more work than time. But Daniel had already decided to quit. He opened a tiny garage on the other side of town with his brother, using their savings as their only resource. It was hard at the start. They had to push old machines through a narrow door and paint the walls at night. Today the little garage is busy from morning until evening, and Daniel feels that his work matches his own identity again.

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