The Statue in the Square (B1 · English B1)

Tekst / Transcript

Mrs Palmer lost her house key on a rainy Tuesday. She searched every pocket of her coat and found nothing. Then she remembered the park bench near the old statue of the town's first doctor. She had rested there for ten minutes after shopping. So she walked back through the wet streets, hoping that nobody had taken it.

The bench was empty, but a boy of about ten stood next to it. He was bored, and he began to kick a small stone across the path. Mrs Palmer smiled at him and asked if he had seen anything shiny. The boy nodded and opened his hand. Unlike many children, he had not kept the key for himself. He had picked it up and waited for the owner. "You are very kind," she told him, and she almost gave him a kiss on the cheek. The boy laughed and stepped back quickly.

They walked together to her front door, because his home was on the same street. A thin layer of mud covered the path, so they moved slowly. When they arrived, Mrs Palmer had to knock loudly on her own door, because her cat was sleeping inside and she wanted to warn it. Then she turned the key and the lock opened easily. She invited the boy in for hot chocolate. On the kitchen table she laid two cups and a plate of biscuits. The boy told her about school and about the latest film he had watched with his father. It was a story about a killing in a big city, and the detective in it never gave up.

Mrs Palmer listened carefully. She said that her days were quiet and that she felt a lack of company since her husband died. The boy promised to visit again on Saturday. Before he left, he found a paper flower in his bag and tried to stick it on her fridge with a magnet. It fell twice, but the third time it stayed. Mrs Palmer looked at that little flower every morning after that.

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