The Walk by the River (B1 · English B1)

Tekst / Transcript

Every Sunday, Marta walked along the bank of the river near her village. She loved the quiet water and the tall grass. It was the best part of her week. She had little free time, because she worked in a busy office from Monday to Friday.

One Sunday she met an old man with a small dog. He offered to lead her to a place she had never seen. Marta was a little nervous, but she said yes. They walked for about twenty minutes. The path became narrow and stony, and she had to be careful. At one point she nearly lost her balance on a wet rock. The old man laughed kindly and gave her his stick. Then he took one careful step backward to let her pass.

Behind some trees there was a small waterfall. The liquid fell into a deep green pool, and the sound filled the whole valley. Marta had not been aware of this place at all, although she had lived there for ten years. The old man told her that the level of the water changed with the seasons. In spring, he said, the pool was much deeper. He also said that the length of the walk was only one kilometre from the village.

On the way back, they talked about books. The old man had been a teacher of English literature for thirty years, and he still read poems every evening. He said he had no limit on the number of books he could buy. His wife did not agree, and he smiled when he told this story. "I sometimes say I bought only one book," he admitted, "but that is a small lie." Marta laughed and promised to keep his secret. She said that reading was her favourite leisure activity too.

When they reached the village, the man invited her for tea. His kitchen was warm and full of paper. He showed her the leading newspaper of the region from 1965, with his own name in it. Marta stayed for an hour and listened. She decided to come back the next Sunday, and she did.

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