The Old Mine on the Hill (B1 · English B1)

Tekst / Transcript

My uncle Tom lives in a small village in the north. Every summer I visit him for two weeks. Last year, on my first evening there, he mentioned an old tunnel in the hills behind his house. He said nobody had walked inside it for many years. I could not stop thinking about it that night.

The next morning my aim was set: I wanted to see that place with my own eyes. Tom laughed and said young people are always curious. He agreed to come with me, because he did not want me to go alone. He set his alarm for six o'clock, and we left the house before breakfast. The weather was mild for that time of year, so we did not need heavy coats. We walked for almost an hour along a narrow path. Tom pointed to a dark opening in the rock and told me that it was an old coal mine.

Inside, the air smelled of wet stone and earth. Old tools and broken boxes lay everywhere, and the whole floor was a real mess. I felt a strange mixture of fear and excitement in my stomach. Tom told me to stay close and not to move anything with my hands. He walked ahead of me with a strong lamp and showed me the wooden supports in the ceiling. Some of them were more than a hundred years old. Men had worked here from a very young age, sometimes twelve or thirteen. I really admire those workers, because their lives were hard and dangerous.

We stayed inside for about twenty minutes. Then Tom said the air was getting heavy, and we walked back to the daylight. My mood changed completely when I saw the green hills again. I was absolutely happy to be outside. On the way home we did not talk much. Later, in the kitchen, Tom made coffee and we mixed it with warm milk. He told me more stories about his own father, who had worked underground for many years. I wrote everything down in my notebook that evening, because I did not want to forget a single word.

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