A Prize for the Small Café (B1 · English B1)

Tekst / Transcript

Nina opened her little café three years ago, in an old building near the station. At first, business was slow. Only approximately ten people came in each day, and most of them just wanted coffee to take away. Nina never lost her friendly attitude, even on the quietest afternoons. She believed that good food and warm service would bring people back.

Last spring she decided to act instead of waiting. She put a small ad in the local newspaper and another one online. In addition, she started baking fresh bread every morning at five o'clock. The smell reached the street, and slowly the tables began to fill. Her old coffee machine was not automatic, so she made every cup by hand, and customers liked watching her work. The atmosphere in the café became warm and busy. People stayed longer, read books, and talked to strangers at the next table.

In June something surprising happened. A food journalist visited the café and wrote a short review. Two months later, Nina received a letter about a regional award for small businesses. She read it three times before she believed it. The ceremony was in the city, and her sister came with her. The arrival of the guests took almost an hour, because the room was small and everybody wanted photos. Nina felt nervous, but she smiled and shook many hands.

When her name was called, she almost automatically stood up, without thinking. The judges said her café was far above average for a town of that size. Back home, her regular customers hung the certificate on the wall themselves. Only one thing continued to annoy her: some visitors now came only for photos and left without ordering. Her sister told her not to worry about it. "They will come apart soon," she said, "and the real customers will stay." Nina laughed and went back to the kitchen, because the bread was ready.

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