A Lonely New Start (B1 · English B1)

Tekst / Transcript

When Tomas moved to a small town near the sea, he knew nobody there. His new flat was clean and bright, but very quiet in the evenings. For the first two weeks he only spoke to the woman in the bakery. He felt lonely every evening and often called his sister in the capital. She told him to go out and meet people, but that idea made him nervous.

Tomas had always been shy , even as a child at school. His biggest fear was that people would find him boring. One Saturday he walked to the beach early in the morning. The water was flat and the air was cool and peaceful . An old man was painting the harbour on a small canvas near the rocks. Tomas watched him for ten minutes without saying a word. Finally the man asked him if he liked art.

They talked for an hour about colours, boats and the weather. The old man, Peter, ran a small painting group in the town library every Wednesday. Tomas said he could not draw at all. Peter laughed and answered that nobody in the group could draw at the beginning. Tomas promised to come, but on Wednesday he almost stayed at home. His old worry came back and he sat on his bed for twenty minutes. Then he took his jacket and walked to the library anyway.

The group was small and friendly. One woman told him that she had been upset for months after her divorce, and that painting had helped her more than anything. Tomas understood that feeling very well. He was surprised by his own hands: his first picture was terrible, but he did not worry about it. In fact, he found a new passion that he had never expected. His shoulder was painful after two hours of work, but he did not want to stop. Peter said that art is not about talent, it is about time. Now Tomas goes to the group every week and he is glad that he spoke to a stranger on the beach. He no longer hates the long evenings, because he uses them for his paintings. Sometimes he still feels a little sad, and once he got mad at himself for a ruined picture. But the small studio in the library has become his best source of happiness .

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