Murder in Redhill (B1 · English B1)

Tekst / Transcript

The small town of Redhill was usually quiet, but one cold morning everything changed. A shop owner was found dead behind his counter, and the police called it murder. The news travelled fast, and by lunchtime everybody was talking about it. Parents kept their children at home, and the market stayed almost empty all day.

The police worked quickly. They found a knife in the garden behind the shop, and they took the weapon away for tests. Two officers spoke to the neighbours, and one woman remembered a tall man in a grey coat. She said he had run down the street just after eight o'clock. The next morning, the officers went to his flat and decided to arrest him. He did not fight, but he shouted that he was innocent. Later, the police learned that he had also sold illegal medicine for years, which surprised nobody in the town.

The trial began three weeks later. The room was full, and the family of the dead man sat in the front row. The victim of the crime had been a kind, quiet person, and many people came to show their respect. The lawyer said that his client had done nothing wrong, but the evidence was strong. The judge listened for two long days and asked many careful questions. She wanted to be sure before she made her decision. In the end, the court decided that the man was guilty, and everyone in the room went silent.

His punishment was fifteen years in prison. Some people thought this was fair; others said that the law should punish him more strongly. The man became a prisoner in an old grey building outside the town. In his first month, he tried to escape through a window at night, but a guard saw him and stopped him. After that, he stopped fighting the system. He worked in the prison kitchen and studied in the evenings. A young criminal once told a reporter that everything in his life was legal now, and that he only wanted to see his daughter again one day. The town slowly returned to normal, but the shop on the corner never opened again.

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