The Museum Guard (B1 · English B1)

Tekst / Transcript

Maria worked in a big museum in the city centre. Her job was to guard the old paintings on the second floor. She loved the quiet mornings before the doors opened, when the light came slowly through the tall windows. Every day she walked the same rooms and checked the same corners. The security team also watched the cameras from a small office near the entrance.

One Tuesday, a stranger came in just before closing time. He wore a long coat and carried a heavy bag, and he did not look at any of the pictures. Maria felt that something was wrong, so she followed him at a safe distance. The man stopped in front of a small painting of a ship. Then he opened his bag. Maria pressed the button on her radio and gave a quiet warning to her colleagues. Two officers came upstairs immediately.

The man was not violent, and he did not try to fight. He said the painting belonged to his family, and he wanted to take it home. He also tried to claim that his grandfather had bought it in 1930. Of course, he could not prove this with any paper or photograph. The museum has a simple rule: nobody may touch a painting without permission. The officers explained this politely, and the man became angry and started to protest loudly in the middle of the room. Visitors turned around and stared.

In the end, the police took the man away, and the painting stayed on the wall. Maria's manager thanked her the next morning. He said she had put the safety of the visitors first, and that was the most important thing. He also said that she should not take such a risk alone again. Next time, she must call for help before she follows anybody. Maria agreed, but she was still proud. Later, she read about the painting in an old book. It showed a ship that had carried people to a new country, and one of them had once been a slave. That story stayed in her mind for a long time.

Woordenlijst

Word	Meaning
arrest	
criminal	
court	
judge	
murder	
prisoner	
punishment	
punish	
victim	
weapon	
illegal	
legal	
escape	
guard	
prove	
claim	
rule	
safety	
security	

slave
violent
protest
risk
stranger
warning

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