Mrs Blake's Hospital Stay (B1 · English B1)

Tekst / Transcript

Mrs Blake was seventy years old and she had never spent a night in hospital. Then, one cold morning in February, she fell in her kitchen and could not get up. Her neighbour heard the noise and called for help. An hour later she was lying in a white room with a nurse beside her bed.

The first thing the nurse did was weigh her, because the doctors needed the number before they chose the medicine. Mrs Blake felt uncomfortable in the thin hospital shirt, and the plastic bracelet on her arm was too tight. On the form the nurse wrote her name, her age and her sex. "Everything is normal," the nurse said kindly. "You will survive this, don't worry." Mrs Blake tried to smile, but her hands began to shake under the blanket.

The doctor arrived in the afternoon. He explained that her hip was not broken, but she would suffer from pain for several weeks. He also said that she was unable to walk without help at the moment, so she needed a special stick. The treatment was simple: rest, gentle exercise and a small tablet every morning. Mrs Blake listened carefully and asked many questions. She had always been an independent woman, and she hated the idea of sitting still.

Her daughter came in the evening with flowers and a warm jumper. The sight of her mother in a hospital bed shocked her, and she nearly cried. Mrs Blake laughed and told her to stop. "They treat me very well here," she said. "The food is terrible, but the people are kind." They talked for a long time about the family, about the garden, and even about a book on sexual health that the daughter had bought for her grandson. Three weeks later Mrs Blake was at home again, walking slowly around her garden with her stick. She still complained about the tablets, but she never complained about the nurses.

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