The Old Bookshop (B1 · English B1)

Tekst / Transcript

Mr Adeyemi had worked in the same bookshop for thirty-two years. Every morning he opened the door at nine and made tea in a small blue cup. The shop was quiet and a little old-fashioned, with wooden shelves and a bell above the door. Customers said the place felt relaxing, because nobody hurried them and nothing was loud. Students came regularly to read for an hour without buying anything, and he never complained.

When a big shopping centre opened nearby, three shops in the street closed within a year. Many people expected the bookshop to close too. But Mr Adeyemi decided to remain where he was. He simply changed a few things. He put two old armchairs near the window and started a reading club on Thursday evenings. He also began to release a short list of new books every month, printed on yellow paper. His customers loved that little list.

The club grew slowly. At first only four people came, and they talked about romantic novels from the nineteenth century. Then a chess group asked for a corner, and similarly, a small poetry group asked for Tuesdays. Mr Adeyemi looked relaxed about all of it, although his wife knew he worried about money at night. He never showed that worry to his guests. The neighbours had great respect for him, because he had helped many of their children find their first books.

On his last working day, the street organised a party. It was a big occasion, with a long table, food from six different kitchens and one very small cake. His daughter said the day felt like a family celebration rather than a normal retirement party. Somebody noticed a funny similarity between the old shop and the man himself: both were quiet, both were full of stories, and both had survived much longer than anyone predicted. Mr Adeyemi gave the keys to his niece, who promised to keep the armchairs. Then he walked home through the park, slowly, with his blue cup in his bag.

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