Marta and Rocket (B1 · English B1)

Tekst / Transcript

Nobody at the animal shelter expected much from Marta on her first morning. She arrived twenty minutes early with a notebook, a pair of old boots and a huge bag of dog food. The manager, Peter, looked at the bag and smiled, because that gift was unusually generous. Most new volunteers came with nothing but questions. Marta simply said that her grandmother had given her the money for it.

Her first job was the row of small cages near the back door. A young dog called Rocket lived there, and everybody warned her about him. He barked at strangers, jumped at the door and sometimes refused his food. Marta was brave enough to open the cage anyway, though her hands were shaking a little. She sat down on the floor and waited. Rocket came closer, sniffed her boots and then put his head on her knee. Her voice stayed calm and quiet the whole time, and the dog slowly stopped shaking too.

Peter watched from the corridor and shook his head in surprise. He explained that Rocket's previous owner had shouted at him and left him outside in winter. That behaviour was simply cruel, he said, and it had taught the dog to fear people. Marta did not answer at once. Then she asked for a soft brush and started to work on Rocket's dirty fur with slow, gentle movements. She was not trying to look clever in front of the staff; she just wanted the dog to feel safe.

Over the next weeks Marta became the most practical helper in the building. She wrote a list of every dog's food, medicine and walking time, and she fixed the broken gate with two pieces of wood. Once she was careless and forgot to close the outside door, and three puppies ran into the car park. She was honest about it immediately and told Peter before anyone else noticed. He was not angry, because he knew that silly mistakes happen to everyone at the start. He only asked her to check the door twice from then on. By December, Marta felt confident enough to lead the Saturday visits herself, and she was always well prepared with notes and treats. Rocket found a new family that month, and the whole team stayed cheerful all afternoon, even though they were sad to see him go.

Woordenlijst

??????	??????
brave	
careless	
cheerful	
clever	
confident	
cruel	
generous	
gentle	
silly	
calm	
honest	
practical	
prepared	
proper	
properly	

pretend
previous
previously
primary
rare
rarely
sensible
pleasure
plot
point
share

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] 6 [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

استمع إلى هذه الحلقة عبر الإنترنت:
https://course.interactivelessons.nl/local/podcast/episode.php?id=24759

ابدأ هذه الدورة [illegible]: https://course.interactivelessons.nl/mod/quiz/view.php?id=1644