The Monthly Book Club (B1 · English B1)

Tekst / Transcript

Our small town library has a reading club that meets on the last Friday of every month. I joined it in October, mostly because my flat felt too quiet in the evenings. The club is old, and its primary rule has never changed: everyone must actually finish the book. That sounds hard, but the group chooses short novels. We sit around one long table with tea and biscuits.

In November we read a mystery about a stolen painting. The plot was full of surprises, and nobody guessed the ending correctly. Mr Kovac, who is eighty-one, told us that he had previously worked as a guard in a city museum. Suddenly everyone had questions for him. He answered them slowly and enjoyed the attention. He said it was a real pleasure to talk about those years again, because his family had heard the stories too many times.

The previous month we had chosen a difficult book, and half the group did not finish it. Some people tried to pretend that they had read the last chapters, but their answers were strange. Anna, our leader, laughed and said that nobody needed to feel ashamed. Her main point was simple: a book club should be fun, not an exam. After that evening we started to choose our books more carefully. It is sensible to pick something under three hundred pages when everybody works full time.

Anna also asked us to share one favourite sentence from each book. This little habit changed the whole meeting. People began to bring the book with them and mark pages with small yellow notes. I rarely speak in groups, because I am shy, but I read my sentence every month now. Old copies from the 1960s sometimes appear on our table, and those editions are quite rare today. We handle them carefully and always give them back in proper condition. Last week Mr Kovac brought a novel that his mother had bought before the war. He wrapped it properly in a cloth before he put it in his bag again. Then he promised to bring the next part in spring, and we all clapped.

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