The Ghost of Arden (B1 · English B1)

Tekst / Transcript

The village of Arden had one story that everybody knew. People said a ghost walked along the river road after midnight. It wore a grey coat and never spoke. Most young people laughed at the story. The older families did not laugh at all. They simply stayed at home after dark and locked their doors.

One autumn, a young teacher called Nora moved into the empty house near the water. She did not believe in ghosts, and she did not believe in magic either. To her, the whole story was an imaginary tale invented by bored farmers. Still, the noises at night were strange. Something knocked on her window, and something walked in her garden. The village priest came to visit her on the second week. He was a kind old man with a soft voice. He offered to say a prayer for her, and she thanked him politely. Then he told her the old families still pray for the soul of a man who drowned there long ago.

Nora decided to solve the mystery herself. She stayed awake with a torch and a notebook. On the third night, she saw a giant shadow moving across the wall of the barn. It looked far too tall for a man. Her heart beat hard, but she walked outside anyway. The shadow belonged to a horse standing in front of a lamp. The animal had escaped from a neighbour's field. The truth was suddenly obvious to her.

The next morning, Nora walked to the farm and explained everything. The neighbour laughed and apologised. He also warned her about the plants near the river. Some of the white flowers there were poisonous, and the old villagers had always kept their children away from them. He said one man had once put poison in a well during an argument, many years ago. Perhaps that dark memory had slowly grown into the ghost story. Nora wrote all of it down. She still felt something odd in the air by the water at night. She told her students that the spirit of the village was really its memory. Obviously, nobody wanted to give up such a good story, and the ghost stayed alive in Arden.

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