An Exhibition at the Library (B1 · English B1)

Tekst / Transcript

Marta had never enjoyed art classes at school, but a new town project changed her mind. The old library was going to close, and the council wanted to fill it with local art for one last week. Marta's neighbour, an old man called Bruno, was a poet who had lived in the town for fifty years. He knocked on her door one evening and asked if she wanted to help him.

They started work the next morning. Bruno read her a short poem about the river, and Marta was surprised by how much she liked it. She had always thought that poetry was difficult and boring, but his words were simple and warm. He explained that every good text needs a clear narrative from beginning to end, even a very short one. Marta wrote three lines about her grandmother's kitchen, and Bruno smiled at them.

Other neighbours joined the project during the week. A young woman brought a heavy metal sculpture of a bird, which took four people to carry inside. A photographer hung a large black-and-white portrait of the old baker near the door. Everyone agreed that the main theme of the exhibition would be memory, because the building itself was full of memories. Marta helped to set out the chairs in a long row in front of the small stage. The drama group promised to perform a short play, and their teacher was still correcting the script on Friday afternoon.

On Saturday the library was full. Somebody had put a piano in the corner, and two students sang songs from a famous musical. The old telephone in the office suddenly began to ring, and everyone laughed, because nobody knew that it still worked. Bruno read last. He stood under the window, held his paper with both hands, and spoke very slowly. Afterwards, a woman from the city offered him a small studio near the museum, where he could write and meet other artists. He thanked her, but he said he preferred his own kitchen table. Marta walked home that night and started a new page in her notebook.

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