The Museum on the Hill (B1 · English B1)

Tekst / Transcript

Last spring, a small museum opened in our town, high on the hill above the river. Nobody expected much from it at first. The building was old, and the garden around it looked wild. But the new director, Mrs Nolan, had a clear plan. She wanted the museum to become the main attraction for visitors in the whole region. Her friends thought this was a big dream for such a quiet place.

The first problem was money. The town council gave only a little, so Mrs Nolan asked local shops for support. She promised each shop a small sign near the entrance. After three weeks of talking, she reached an agreement with eleven owners. On the same basis, she also invited the local school to send students on Friday afternoons. Two teenagers came every week to assist her with the tickets and the coffee machine. They enjoyed the work, and Mrs Nolan always said thank you.

One October morning, a heavy storm damaged the roof, and water reached the base of the old stone wall. Mrs Nolan had to close two rooms. A visitor from another city was angry, because he had travelled two hours for nothing. She did not argue with him. Instead, she chose to apologize and gave him a free ticket for the next month. The man calmed down and later wrote a friendly review online. He even said that he appreciated her honest answer.

After the repairs, the council made a strange decision. They wanted to ban all photography inside the museum, because they were afraid of damage to the paintings. Mrs Nolan did not agree, and she said so at the meeting. She admitted that some visitors were careless, but a full rule seemed too hard. Her lawyer advised her to offer a compromise instead. In the end, photos were allowed in three rooms only, and cameras with flash stayed at the door. Visitors also got free access to the garden, which was now clean and full of flowers. By summer, the little museum on the hill was busy every weekend. Its colourful posters attracted families from far away, and the two students still worked there on Fridays.

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