The Old Photo in the Box (A2 · English A2)

Tekst / Transcript

Nina: Look at this old photo, Peter. I found it in my grandmother's box this morning.

Peter: Wow, that man looks very young. Is he wearing a uniform?

Nina: Yes, that is my grandfather. He was a soldier when he was only nineteen years old.

Peter: Nineteen! That is so young. What did he do?

Nina: He drove trucks. He never carried a gun, but he was in the army for four years.

Peter: Four years is a long time. Did he talk about it with you?

Nina: Not often. He said the war took everything from his family.

Peter: My grandmother is the same. She only tells us small, happy stories.

Nina: I understand her. Some memories are too heavy.

Peter: Did your grandfather's town change a lot in those years?

Nina: Oh yes. A big fire destroyed the old market and the school.

Peter: That is awful. Did people rebuild them later?

Nina: They built a new school, but the old market disappeared forever. Now there is a car park there.

Peter: My town has a small museum about that time. We can go together on Sunday.

Nina: I would like that. My grandmother has more photos at home too.

Peter: Bring them! I love old pictures. They tell you more than books.

Nina: She also has letters. In one letter he writes about a night attack on his village.

Peter: Really? Was your family in the house?

Nina: No, they were in the fields, so they were safe.

Peter: Lucky. My grandmother says people slept outside because of the danger in the streets.

Nina: Yes, my grandmother says the same thing.

Peter: It is strange. We sit here with coffee and talk about it.

Nina: I know. For us it is history. For them it was every day.

Peter: Did your grandfather ever have a fight with another soldier?

Nina: He never told me. He was a very quiet man.

Peter: Mine too. He only spoke about food and the cold winters.

Nina: Grandmother calls those years a big disaster for the whole country.

Peter: That is a good word for it. Come on, let's put the photo somewhere safe.

Nina: Good idea. I will make a small album for the family.

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