

# *Hana's Special Place*

Dan's English Student Original Story



**starter**

# Hana's Special Place

## Chapter 1: I Want to Study!

Hana is thirty years old. She lives in a small apartment in Tokyo. Hana is very busy. She works in an office from Monday to Friday. But Hana has a dream. She wants to speak English.

"I want to go to London one day," she says.

Every evening, Hana comes home. She is tired. She looks at her English books.

"I must study," she says.

But her apartment is noisy. Her neighbor plays loud music. Thump, thump, thump! Hana cannot study. She closes her book.

"I need a quiet place," she says.

## Chapter 2: The Park

On Saturday, the sun is hot. Hana goes to the park with her bag. She has her English book, a notebook, and a pen.

The park is beautiful. There are many tall trees and red flowers.

"This is good," Hana thinks. "It is quiet here."

She sits under a big tree. She opens her book.

Unit 1: Greetings. "Hello. My name is Hana. Nice to meet you," she reads quietly.

But then, a dog runs to her.

"Woof! Woof!"

A small boy runs after the dog.

"Come here, Pochi!" the boy shouts.

Now, many children are playing near Hana. They are laughing and shouting.

Hana sighs. "I cannot study here. It is too busy."

## Chapter 3: The Library

Hana walks to the town library. The library is a big, grey building. Inside, it is very quiet. People are reading books.

Hana finds a small desk in the corner. She sits down.

"This is perfect," she thinks.

She studies for twenty minutes. She learns ten new words. She is happy.

But then, she hears a sound.

Crunch... crunch... crunch. A man is sitting at the next desk. He is eating a large bag of potato chips.

"Excuse me," Hana says softly. "Please be quiet."

The man looks at Hana. He does not stop. Crunch, crunch, crunch. Hana looks at him. His clothes are dirty and he has a big, black hat. He looks suspicious. Hana feels afraid.

"Is he a bad man?" she thinks. "Why is he looking at my bag?"

Hana puts her books in her bag quickly. She leaves the library.

#### **Chapter 4: The Old Cafe**

Hana is tired now. She walks down a small street. She sees a small cafe. The sign says: "Blue Bird Cafe."

It is an old cafe. There are no people inside. An old woman is standing behind the counter.

"Hello," the woman says. "Come in."

Hana sits by the window. She buys a cup of coffee. The coffee is hot and delicious.

The cafe is very quiet. There is no loud music. There are no dogs.

Hana opens her book again. She studies for one hour.

She writes many sentences in her notebook.

The old woman walks to Hana. She looks at Hana's book.

"English?" the woman asks.

"Yes," Hana says. "I am studying. It is difficult."

The woman smiles. "I lived in London forty years ago," she says in English.

Hana is surprised. "Your English is great!"

"Come here every Saturday," the woman says. "We can speak English together."

Hana is very happy. She has a quiet place, a good teacher, and a new friend.

#### **Chapter 5: The English Lesson**

It is Saturday again. Hana is at the Blue Bird Cafe. The sun is shining through the window. Hana has her English book and a new yellow notebook.

Mrs. Sato, the old woman, brings a teapot and two cups.

"Today, we speak only English," Mrs. Sato says with a smile.

Hana is nervous. "I... I am not good," she says.

"That is okay," Mrs. Sato says. "Listen to me. Repeat after me."

They start with simple things.

"This is a cup," Mrs. Sato says.

"This is a cup," Hana repeats.

"I like tea," Mrs. Sato says.

"I like tea," Hana says.

Hana feels better. Her voice is stronger now. Mrs. Sato shows Hana a photo. It is an old photo of a young woman in front of Big Ben.

"Is this you?" Hana asks.

"Yes," Mrs. Sato says. "I was a student in London. I lived there for three years. It was a beautiful time."

Hana looks at the photo. "I want to see Big Ben, too," she says.

"You can do it, Hana," Mrs. Sato says. "Now, let's study 'Present Continuous'. What am I doing?"

Mrs. Sato picks up a pen.

"You are writing," Hana says.

"Good! What are you doing?"

"I am learning English!" Hana laughs.

Two hours pass. Hana is very happy. She is not tired today.

Suddenly, the door opens. A man walks in. He has a big, black hat.

Hana stops. She looks at him. "Oh no!" she thinks. It is the suspicious man from the library!

Hana is afraid. She holds her bag tightly. The man walks to the counter.

"Hello, Mother," the man says to Mrs. Sato.

Hana is surprised. "Mother?"

Mrs. Sato smiles. "Hana, this is my son, Ken. He works at the library."

Ken looks at Hana and takes off his hat. He has a kind face.

"Oh! Hello," Ken says. "I saw you at the library. I am sorry. I was very hungry that day. I ate my chips loudly."

Hana laughs. "That's okay! I was a little afraid."

"Ken is a good man," Mrs. Sato says. "He helps me at the cafe on Saturdays."

Ken sits down. "I am learning English too," he says. "Can I study with you?"

Hana looks at her book, then at Mrs. Sato and Ken.

"Yes!" she says. "Let's study together."

Now, Hana has a special place. She has two friends and a lot of English books.

"I am going to London next year," Hana says.

"Yes," says Mrs. Sato. "You are."

Word Count: 958