



B1-B2

MODERNE LEKTÜRE + WORTERKLÄRUNGEN

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SKY STORIES

003 REFLECTIONS EVERYDAY SHORT STORIES



ENGLISH

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Sky Stories

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Medieninhaber:

EasyOriginal Verlag e.U.

Eroicagasse 18/3, 1190 Wien, Österreich

Verlagsort: Wien, Österreich

Cover & Layout: Multimediana e.U.

Printed in Germany

Text Originalfassung: Lucas Penry

Wörterklärungen: Verena Huber

Audiobook: © Copyright EasyOriginal Verlag e.U.

1. Auflage

ISBN 978-3-99168-902-7 Taschenbuch + Audio-Online

ISBN 978-3-99168-904-1 Taschenbuch + Audio-CD

Auch als E-Book (pdf, epub, mobi) verfügbar.

Website und Online-Shop:

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Sky Stories



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Chapter 1

Morning Light

Good morning! My name is Richard. I am a pilot, and I have been flying planes for more than 30 years. Every morning when I drive to the airport, it is still dark outside. The roads are quiet. Most people are still sleeping.

Today, I arrive at Heathrow Airport at 4:30 am. The big terminal building is never completely quiet, but at this time, it feels peaceful¹. I walk through the special security area for staff. The security officer, Bill, has worked here for fifteen years.

"Good morning, Captain," he says with a smile. "Flying to Edinburgh today?"

"Yes," I tell him. "The 6:15 flight. Should be a beautiful morning up there."

After security, I walk to the crew room². Here, pilots and cabin crew³ prepare for their flights. I check my flight information and the weather report⁴. Then I meet Sarah and David, the cabin crew for my flight. We have worked together many times before.

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- 1 peaceful - friedlich
 - 2 crew room - Personalraum
 - 3 cabin crew - Kabinenbesatzung
 - 4 weather report - Wetterbericht

"I heard there might be some fog⁵ in Edinburgh," says Sarah as we walk to the plane.

"The report says it should clear⁶ before we arrive," I tell her.

Our plane today is an Airbus A320. It's like an old friend to me. I do my pre-flight checks⁷ carefully, like I always do. Check the fuel⁸. Check the systems. Check the flight plan. These small routines keep everyone safe.

Passengers begin to board⁹ at 5:45 am. Through the open cockpit door, I can see their sleepy faces. Some are business people in suits¹⁰. Others are families going on holiday. A young boy, maybe seven years old, looks into the cockpit with big, excited eyes. I wave to him, and his face lights up¹¹ with a smile.

At exactly 6:15 am, we push back from the gate¹². The engines¹³ start with a familiar hum¹⁴. This sound still excites me, even after all these years. We taxi¹⁵ to the runway¹⁶, and

5 fog - Nebel

6 to clear - sich auflösen

7 pre-flight checks - Vorflugkontrollen

8 fuel - Treibstoff

9 to board - an Bord gehen

10 suits - Anzüge

11 to light up - aufleuchten

12 to push back from the gate - vom Gate zurückschieben

13 engine - Motor

14 hum - Summen

15 to taxi - rollen

16 runway - Startbahn

then it's time for takeoff¹⁷.

"Cabin crew, prepare for takeoff," I say into the microphone.

The feeling of takeoff never gets old¹⁸. The power of the engines. The moment when the wheels¹⁹ leave the ground. The city of London gets smaller below us as we climb²⁰ higher and higher.

Today is special because we are taking off just as the sun is rising²¹. At first, the sky ahead is dark blue. Then it turns purple, then pink. Finally, as we reach 10,000 feet, the sun appears - a bright orange ball on the horizon.

From up here, the sunrise²² looks different than it does on the ground. The colors are more intense. The clouds below us turn golden in the new light. It's like a painting that changes every second.

"Ladies and gentlemen, this is your captain speaking," I say to the passengers. "If you're sitting on the right side of the aircraft²³, you might want to look out your window. We have a beautiful sunrise this morning."

17 takeoff - Start

18 never gets old - wird nie langweilig

19 wheel - Rad

20 to climb - steigen

21 to rise - aufgehen

22 sunrise - Sonnenaufgang

23 aircraft - Flugzeug

I see a few passengers lift their window blinds²⁴. Some take photos. Others just look. In our busy lives, we don't often stop to watch the sunrise. But up here, at 10,000 feet, we can all enjoy this quiet moment together.

The flight to Edinburgh only takes about an hour. As we fly north, I see the English countryside²⁵ below - green fields, small towns, winding rivers²⁶. Then we cross into Scotland, where the land becomes more rugged²⁷. Mountains appear. The morning light makes everything look fresh and new.

As we begin our descent²⁸ into Edinburgh, the fog that Sarah mentioned is indeed clearing. Edinburgh Castle sits on its hill in the distance. The city is waking up. Cars move along the streets like small toys.

Landing²⁹ is my favorite part of flying. It needs focus and skill. Today, the wind is calm, which makes things easier. We touch down³⁰ smoothly on the runway. I always feel proud when the landing is perfect and the passengers don't even feel the moment when the wheels touch the ground.

24 window blinds - Fensterblenden

25 countryside - Landschaft

26 winding rivers - sich schlängelnde Flüsse

27 rugged - zerklüftet

28 descent - Sinkflug

29 landing - Landung

30 to touch down - aufsetzen

After the passengers leave, I complete my paperwork³¹ in the cockpit. Sarah comes in before she leaves.

"Beautiful sunrise today," she says.

"One of the best," I agree. "That's why I still love this job after all these years. Every day, we see something special from up here."

Later, I will fly the plane back to London. But I will remember this morning's sunrise for a long time. In my job, the ordinary becomes extraordinary³² when you add morning light at ten thousand feet.

31 paperwork – Papierkram

32 extraordinary - außergewöhnlich

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