



A2-B1

MODERNE LEKTÜRE + WORTERKLÄRUNGEN

easyOriginal

THE DAILY BREW

006 REFLECTIONS EVERYDAY SHORT STORIES



ENGLISCH

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The Daily Brew

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to be continued

The Daily Brew



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Chapter 1

On this late September morning, I wake before my alarm at 5.47 a.m. The cottage is dark and silent except for the ticking¹ of the grandfather clock² in the hall—a wedding gift from my late³ husband John's parents that I've wound⁴ every Sunday for thirty-five years.

I move through my kitchen by memory and muscle memory. Three steps from bed to door, fourteen steps down the creaking⁵ stairs (avoiding⁶ the particularly⁷ loud seventh step), five paces⁸ to the kitchen. The ritual is so familiar I could perform it blindfolded⁹.

The real ceremony begins: filling the kettle¹⁰, measuring¹¹

-
- 1 ticking – Ticken (der Uhr)
 - 2 grandfather clock – Standuhr
 - 3 late – verstorben
 - 4 to wind – aufziehen (eine Uhr)
 - 5 creaking – knarrend; quietschend
 - 6 to avoid – vermeiden
 - 7 particularly – besonders
 - 8 pace – Schritt
 - 9 blindfolded – mit verbundenen Augen
 - 10 kettle – Wasserkocher; Kessel
 - 11 to measure – abmessen

coffee grounds¹² into my French press, the quiet bubbling¹³ as water approaches¹⁴ the boil. I've used the same blue French press for twelve years. Its plastic handle has a crack¹⁵, and I know I should replace¹⁶ it, but we've been through too much together.

As I pour water over the grounds, the first sensory¹⁷ gift arrives—that earthy, promising aroma that bridges¹⁸ the gap¹⁹ between sleep and wakefulness²⁰. Steam²¹ rises in the dim²² kitchen. I press the plunger²³ down slowly, deliberately²⁴, counting to thirty as I was once instructed by an enthusiastic barista named Max who worked briefly²⁵ at The Bean Counter before moving to Australia.

The first cup is always in my lighthouse²⁶ mug²⁷—a souvenir

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- | | |
|----|--|
| 12 | grounds – Kaffeesatz |
| 13 | bubbling – Blubbern; Sprudeln |
| 14 | to approach – sich nähern |
| 15 | crack – Riss |
| 16 | to replace – ersetzen |
| 17 | sensory – sensorisch; die Sinne betreffend |
| 18 | to bridge – überbrücken |
| 19 | gap – Lücke; Abstand |
| 20 | wakefulness – Wachsein |
| 21 | steam – Dampf |
| 22 | dim – schwach beleuchtet; dämmrig |
| 23 | plunger – Stempel (der Kaffeepresse) |
| 24 | deliberately – absichtlich; bewusst |
| 25 | briefly – kurz; kurzzeitig |
| 26 | lighthouse – Leuchtturm |
| 27 | mug – Becher; große Tasse |

from a coastal²⁸ holiday in Cornwall²⁹ fifteen years ago. Its once-bright colours have faded³⁰ with hundreds of washings³¹, and there's a chip³² on the rim³³ that my lips automatically avoid.

I carry my coffee to the east-facing³⁴ kitchen window. The garden is still mostly dark, but the blackbird³⁵ who always sings first has begun his morning performance from the apple tree. I can just make out his silhouette against the gradually³⁶ lightening³⁷ sky.

These twenty minutes before the world fully wakes are mine alone. No radio, no newspaper, no plans yet forming. Just the warmth of the mug between my palms³⁸, the slow sipping³⁹ of coffee, and the transition from night to day. The ritual creates a threshold⁴⁰ space—not quite night, not fully day—where

-
- 28 coastal – Küsten-; an der Küste
29 Cornwall – Cornwall (Region in England)
30 to fade – verblassen
31 washing – Waschgang; Wäsche
32 chip – abgeschlagene Stelle; Absplitterung
33 rim – Rand (einer Tasse)
34 east-facing – nach Osten gerichtet
35 blackbird – Amsel
36 gradually – allmählich
37 to lighten – heller werden
38 palm – Handfläche
39 to sip – nippen; in kleinen Schlucken trinken
40 threshold – Schwelle

thoughts can wander⁴¹ freely.

This morning, I watch a fox⁴² trot⁴³ confidently⁴⁴ across the bottom of the garden, unaware⁴⁵ of being observed⁴⁶. The sky shifts⁴⁷ from charcoal⁴⁸ to deep blue to a pale violet. Mrs Parker's chimney⁴⁹ next door starts producing smoke; she's another early riser⁵⁰.

I notice how differently the garden catches⁵¹ the dawn⁵² in September compared to June. The angle⁵³ of light is more sideways⁵⁴, golden rather than white, illuminating⁵⁵ the dew⁵⁶ on the spider webs⁵⁷ between rosebush⁵⁸ branches⁵⁹. These observations

-
- 41 to wander – wandern; umherschweifen
 - 42 fox – Fuchs
 - 43 to trot – traben
 - 44 confidently – selbstbewusst
 - 45 unaware – sich nicht bewusst; ahnungslos
 - 46 to observe – beobachten
 - 47 to shift – sich verschieben; wechseln
 - 48 charcoal – Holzkohle; kohlegrau
 - 49 chimney – Schornstein
 - 50 early riser – Frühaufsteher
 - 51 to catch – einfangen
 - 52 dawn – Morgendämmerung
 - 53 angle – Winkel
 - 54 sideways – seitlich
 - 55 to illuminate – beleuchten
 - 56 dew – Tau
 - 57 spider web – Spinnennetz
 - 58 rosebush – Rosenstrauch
 - 59 branch – Ast; Zweig

feel significant⁶⁰ somehow, worth⁶¹ noting⁶² and holding⁶³.

By the time I finish my cup, the day has officially arrived. Birds are in full chorus⁶⁴ now, and I can hear the distant⁶⁵ rumble⁶⁶ of the first London-bound⁶⁷ train. My neighbour Mr Abernathy coughs⁶⁸ in his garden—his morning cigarette, a ritual I've heard through the seasons for decades⁶⁹.

I rinse⁷⁰ my cup and place it upside down⁷¹ on the wooden draining board⁷². The day can properly⁷³ begin now, with its tasks and interactions, its small challenges and pleasures. But this peaceful bridge between sleep and activity, marked by the warmth and aroma of that first cup, has provided⁷⁴ something

-
- 60 significant – bedeutsam
61 worth – wert
62 to note – bemerken; notieren
63 to hold – festhalten
64 chorus – Chor
65 distant – entfernt; fern
66 rumble – Grollen; dumpfes Geräusch
67 London-bound – nach London fahrend
68 to cough – husten
69 decade – Jahrzehnt
70 to rinse – ausspülen
71 upside down – umgedreht; kopfüber
72 draining board – Abtropfbrett
73 properly – richtig; ordentlich
74 to provide – bieten; bereitstellen

essential—a moment of mindfulness⁷⁵ I rarely⁷⁶ achieve⁷⁷ in busier hours.

Tomorrow's first light will bring another first cup, another quiet ceremony. The comfort lies in the repetition, in the knowledge that some rituals remain constant whilst⁷⁸ the world outside changes with each passing⁷⁹ season.

75 mindfulness – Achtsamkeit

76 rarely – selten

77 to achieve – erreichen

78 whilst – während

79 passing – vorübergehend

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