



B1-B2

MODERNE LEKTÜRE + WORTERKLÄRUNGEN

easyOriginal

THE PEONY CHRONICLES

002 REFLECTIONS EVERYDAY SHORT STORIES



ENGLISH

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The Peony Chronicles

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001 - When Life Gives You Lemons (B1-B2)

002 - The Peony Chronicles (B1-B2)

003 - Sky Stories (B1-B2)

004 - Little Journeys (A2-B1)

005 - Ancient Greece 1: Dawn of the Aegean (3000-1400 BCE) (B1-B2)

006 - The Daily Brew (A2-B1)

007 - Table for One (A2-B1)

008 - Café Chronicles (A2-B1)

009 - Architecture 1: “Foundations Of Stone” (B1-B2)

to be continued

The Peony Chronicles



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Chapter 1

The Bookshop Bouquet

Rain tapped¹ against the windows of Bookmark as I arranged² the new fiction display³. April showers had been constant this week, keeping the village indoors and my shop quieter than usual. The brass⁴ bell⁵ above the door jingled⁶, bringing in a gust⁷ of damp⁸ air and Emma Lancaster, arms full of flowers.

"Morning, Alice!" she called, dripping⁹ onto the welcome mat¹⁰. "Special delivery. First peonies of the season, and I thought of you immediately¹¹."

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- | | |
|----|------------------------|
| 1 | to tap - klopfen |
| 2 | to arrange - anordnen |
| 3 | display - Ausstellung |
| 4 | brass - Messing |
| 5 | bell - Glocke |
| 6 | to jingle - klingeln |
| 7 | gust - Windstoß |
| 8 | damp - feucht |
| 9 | to drip - tropfen |
| 10 | welcome mat - Fußmatte |
| 11 | immediately - sofort |

My heart lifted¹² at the sight of the plump¹³ pink blooms¹⁴ nestled¹⁵ among ferns¹⁶ and white sprigs¹⁷ of breath. "Emma, they're beautiful! How much do I owe¹⁸ you?"

She waved away¹⁹ my question. "Consider²⁰ it a gift to brighten²¹ this dreary²² day. Besides, they opened a bit early and won't last²³ for selling."

I found my grandmother's old blue vase in the back room and filled it with water. As I unwrapped²⁴ the bouquet, the sweet, subtle fragrance²⁵ transported me instantly²⁶ to my childhood²⁷—to Grandma's garden where peonies lined²⁸ the brick²⁹ pathway³⁰,

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- | | |
|----|----------------------------|
| 12 | to lift - heben |
| 13 | plump - prall |
| 14 | bloom - Blüte |
| 15 | to nestle - sich schmiegen |
| 16 | fern - Farn |
| 17 | sprig - Zweig |
| 18 | to owe - schulden |
| 19 | to wave away - abwinken |
| 20 | to consider - betrachten |
| 21 | to brighten - aufhellen |
| 22 | dreary - trist |
| 23 | to last - dauern |
| 24 | to unwrap - auspacken |
| 25 | fragrance - Duft |
| 26 | instantly - augenblicklich |
| 27 | childhood - Kindheit |
| 28 | to line - säumen |
| 29 | brick - Ziegel |
| 30 | pathway - Pfad |

their heavy heads nodding³¹ in June breezes.

"Perfect spot³²," Emma approved³³ as I placed them on the counter near the register³⁴. "They need to be seen."

Throughout³⁵ the morning, the peonies worked a kind of magic on my customers³⁶. Mrs. Wilson, who normally³⁷ hurried³⁸ through her mystery novel selections³⁹ with barely⁴⁰ a word, paused⁴¹ to admire⁴² them.

"My mother grew these," she said softly, touching⁴³ a petal⁴⁴ with careful⁴⁵ fingers. "The same shade of pink." For a moment, her eyes glistened⁴⁶ with unexpected⁴⁷ tears before she collected⁴⁸

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- | | |
|----|--------------------------|
| 31 | to nod - nicken |
| 32 | spot - Stelle |
| 33 | to approve - zustimmen |
| 34 | register - Kasse |
| 35 | throughout - während |
| 36 | customer - Kunde |
| 37 | normally - normalerweise |
| 38 | to hurry - eilen |
| 39 | selection - Auswahl |
| 40 | barely - kaum |
| 41 | to pause - innehalten |
| 42 | to admire - bewundern |
| 43 | to touch - berühren |
| 44 | petal - Blütenblatt |
| 45 | careful - vorsichtig |
| 46 | to glisten - glänzen |
| 47 | unexpected - unerwartet |
| 48 | to collect - sammeln |

herself and continued her shopping.

Later, ten-year-old Sophie from the village school came in with her mother. While her mother browsed⁴⁹ the cookbooks, Sophie stood transfixed⁵⁰ before the flowers.

"They look like ballet dancers," she whispered⁵¹, then asked if she could draw them. She sat cross-legged⁵² on the floor with paper and colored pencils, her face serious with concentration.

By afternoon, a young couple⁵³ I hadn't seen before wandered⁵⁴ in, shaking off⁵⁵ umbrellas.

"Peonies!" the woman exclaimed⁵⁶. "Mark, look — just like the ones at that garden where you proposed⁵⁷." They shared a private smile, fingers intertwining⁵⁸ as they told me they were visiting Ferndale for their anniversary⁵⁹.

As closing time⁶⁰ approached⁶¹, the rain finally stopped.

49 to browse - stöbern

50 transfixed - gebannt

51 to whisper - flüstern

52 cross-legged - im Schneidersitz

53 couple - Paar

54 to wander - schlendern

55 to shake off - abschütteln

56 to exclaim - ausrufen

57 to propose - einen Antrag machen

58 to intertwine - verschränken

59 anniversary - Jahrestag

60 closing time - Ladenschluss

61 to approach - sich nähern

Sunshine⁶² broke through⁶³, sending golden light across⁶⁴ the wooden floorboards⁶⁵. Some of the peony petals had begun to fall, creating a soft pink carpet on the counter. I was gathering⁶⁶ them when the bell rang⁶⁷ once more.

James Mitchell, the village veterinarian, stepped⁶⁸ inside. His dark hair was slightly⁶⁹ damp, and he carried⁷⁰ a folder⁷¹ under one arm.

"Just made it," he said with a smile. "Has my book arrived?"

"It has." I reached⁷² beneath⁷³ the counter for the bird identification guide he'd ordered⁷⁴. "Came yesterday."

James noticed⁷⁵ the flowers and his expression⁷⁶ softened⁷⁷. "Peonies already? That's early this year."

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- | | |
|----|---------------------------------|
| 62 | sunshine - Sonnenschein |
| 63 | to break through - durchbrechen |
| 64 | across - über |
| 65 | floorboard - Dielenbrett |
| 66 | to gather - sammeln |
| 67 | to ring - klingeln |
| 68 | to step - treten |
| 69 | slightly - leicht |
| 70 | to carry - tragen |
| 71 | folder - Mappe |
| 72 | to reach - greifen |
| 73 | beneath - unter |
| 74 | to order - bestellen |
| 75 | to notice - bemerken |
| 76 | expression - Gesichtsausdruck |
| 77 | to soften - erweichen |

"Emma brought them this morning. They've been quite the conversation piece."

He approached the counter, touching one of the fallen petals. "My mother grew these in our garden in Devon. Not many flowers have such presence, do they?"

"They've been reminding⁷⁸ everyone of someone today," I said. "They seem to carry memories."

Together we gathered the scattered⁷⁹ petals. Our fingers brushed⁸⁰ once, twice, and I felt a surprising⁸¹ flutter⁸² in my chest⁸³. James collected⁸⁴ a small handful⁸⁵ and looked at them thoughtfully⁸⁶.

"Too beautiful to throw away⁸⁷," he said.

I found a small paper envelope⁸⁸ and held it open. "Take them home if you like."

He tipped⁸⁹ the petals inside, his eyes meeting mine with

78 to remind - erinnern

79 scattered - verstreut

80 to brush - streifen

81 surprising - überraschend

82 flutter - Flattern

83 chest - Brust

84 to collect - sammeln

85 handful - Handvoll

86 thoughtfully - nachdenklich

87 to throw away - wegwerfen

88 envelope - Umschlag

89 to tip - kippen

unexpected warmth⁹⁰. "Thank you. I think I'll press them in a book."

"A man after my own heart," I said, then felt my cheeks warm slightly. "My grandmother taught me to press flowers between heavy books. I still do it sometimes."

James paid for his guide, tucking⁹¹ the envelope of petals inside. "Perhaps you could show me your technique sometime? I'd like to preserve⁹² these properly⁹³."

"I'd be happy to," I replied, surprised by how much I meant it.

After he left, I selected one perfect petal from those remaining and placed it inside my current novel as a bookmark⁹⁴. The rain had started again, a soft patter against the windows, but the shop felt warmer somehow.

That single bouquet had created a day of stories and connections I hadn't expected when Emma first arrived. I locked⁹⁵ the shop door and turned⁹⁶ the sign to 'Closed,' wondering⁹⁷ what memories the peonies had stirred⁹⁸ for James, and why the thought made me smile all the way home through the rain.

90 warmth - Wärme

91 to tuck - stecken

92 to preserve - konservieren

93 properly - ordnungsgemäß

94 bookmark - Lesezeichen

95 to lock - abschließen

96 to turn - drehen

97 to wonder - sich fragen

98 to stir - rühren

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