

## INTRODUCTION

*Cena Szczęścia: The Cost Of Happiness* is a bilingual novella. However, it was written particularly for people learning Polish. It aims to provide engaging, accessible reading material for adults. Reading is a brilliant way to gain exposure to a language and learn vocabulary. It also helps you familiarise yourself with grammar by seeing it in action.

The book will suit you if your knowledge of the Polish language is at B1 level (intermediate) or higher. It consists of ten chapters, each divided into smaller parts to help you pace your reading. On the left, you will find the text in Polish, and on the right – its translation into English. The English text is meant to give you a sense of confidence that you understand what you are reading about. It also eliminates the need to use a dictionary and will help you with the correct interpretation of content.

### HOW TO USE THIS BOOK?

Start reading in Polish. Read for gist, not for detail. What does it mean? Reading for gist is not about understanding every single word but about grasping the general meaning of each page. While reading for detail, aims to understand every word in the text.

Read for gist. Accept that you will not understand every word. That's fine, really. Don't interrupt the flow

by checking the dictionary or my English translation whenever you find a new word. Your progress will be much quicker this way than if you read for detail.

If the Polish text is too difficult, read its English version first and get familiar with it. Then try to read it in Polish. I advise against reading sentences alternately in both languages. There is no need for that. Your goal is not to memorize equivalents but to treat each language as a separate entity.

Let me remind you again – don't check every word you don't understand. Also, if you feel like writing down all the words you don't understand – don't do it! You don't need it – it won't be effective. I can assure you that you won't remember all those words. You will lose time. You may even start to become discouraged and stop reading.

After reading each part of the chapter, I suggest you write down a few sentences, words, or phrases that you particularly liked or think will be handy. But remember – only a few! If you feel like it, start creating your own sentences using words or phrases you just wrote down. I'll leave you some space in the book.

Good luck!

**Coś nowego**

**Something New**

I

Powietrze było zimne. Savannah zadrżała, kiedy wysiadła z taksówki, którą przyjechała do pracy. Seattle zawsze było przepełnione samochodami, autobusami i ludźmi, którzy pracują całe dni.

Savannah stanęła na chodniku i spojrzała na moment w górę. Jeszcze nigdy nie widziała tak niebieskiego nieba. Wyglądało tak cicho i spokojnie, aż mu prawie zazdrościła. Przed wejściem do budynku Henson Corporation, naciągnęła spódnicę do kolan. Pracowała tam jako managerka.

Savannah czuła się dziś wyjątkowo zmęczona. Pracowała non stop przez ostatnie pół roku. Była coraz bardziej zmęczona swoim nudnym życiem i chciała przeżyć coś ekscytującego. W każdy weekend chodziła z przyjaciółmi do klubów, ale nic już nie sprawiało jej radości. Kupiła drogie ubrania, swój wymarzony samochód i wymarzony dom. Ale pomimo że udało jej się zdobyć wszystko, czego chciała, czuła się samotna.

Rodzice odwiedzali ją od czasu do czasu i byli bardzo dumni z jej osiągnięć. Ciężko było jej powiedzieć im, że wcale nie jest szczęśliwa. Savannah powoli popadała w depresję, nie zdając sobie z tego sprawy.

I

The air was cold. Savannah shivered as she stepped out of the taxi to go to her workplace. Seattle was always filled with cars, buses, and people who worked all day.

Savannah stood on the sidewalk and looked up for a brief moment. She had never seen such a blue sky. It looked so calm and peaceful that she almost felt jealous. She pulled her skirt down to her knees before entering the Henson Corporation building. She worked there as the manager.

Savannah was feeling extra tired today. She had been working nonstop for the past six months. She was growing tired of her boring life and wanted to experience something exciting. She went to clubs with her friends every weekend but nothing seemed to make her happy anymore. She bought expensive clothes, her dream car, and her dream house. But even after gaining everything, she felt lonely inside.

Her parents came to visit her now and then, and they were so proud of her achievements. She had a hard time telling them that she was not happy at all. Savannah was slowly going into depression without realizing it.