



The Station Master's Heart

Mark Williams



The morning sun casts long, golden shadows across the platform of the old Portuguese railway station. Christina and Jon sit together on a vintage bench, sipping coffee as the mist rises from the surrounding hills of Central Portugal.



Jon climbs into his weathered truck, ready for another day at the local walnut plantation. Christina waves from the station door, her silhouette framed by the architecture of a bygone era that they now call home.



In the station yard, a flurry of feathers greets Christina as she scatters grain for the chickens. The clucking hens and the rustle of nearby olive trees are the only sounds in the peaceful morning air.



Inside the grand waiting room, now a cozy lounge, Christina is never truly alone. A pack of loyal dogs and a trio of curious cats follow her every move, seeking a pat or a quiet place to nap on the cool stone floor.



The kitchen is filled with the fragrant aroma of Greek herbs and fresh Portuguese produce. Christina prepares a traditional meal, blending her Cypriot heritage with the flavors of their new Mediterranean life.



Along the abandoned tracks, Christina has planted vibrant bougainvillea and lavender that spill over the iron rails. She carefully tends to her garden, turning the path of old trains into a blooming sanctuary of color.



Miles away, Jon works under the heavy branches of the walnut trees, the ground covered in green husks. The plantation is a sea of emerald leaves, and he moves with the rhythmic pace of a man who loves the land.



As the heat of the afternoon settles, Christina finds a quiet spot on the platform to read. The dogs lie at her feet, and the station feels like a timeless island in the middle of the rolling Portuguese countryside.



The sun begins to dip below the horizon, painting the sky in shades of violet and orange as Jon returns. He carries a small basket of the day's harvest, greeted by a chorus of barks and the warm glow of the station lights.



Under a canopy of brilliant stars, the couple shares a quiet moment on their platform. The old railway station, once a place of departures, has become the beautiful destination where their two worlds finally met.