READING TIME : A Mysterious Evening in Bogotá



Last Saturday, I had one of the most unexpected experiences I have ever had in Bogotá. I had been planning to meet my friend Daniel in La Candelaria because we wanted to visit a small art exhibition. The weather had been cloudy all afternoon, but the rain had not started yet, so I decided to walk from the city center to our meeting point.

When I arrived near Plaza de Bolívar, many people were walking around, taking photographs, and buying souvenirs. Street musicians were playing traditional Colombian music, and several tourists were sitting outside small cafés. I was looking for Daniel when I suddenly noticed an old man standing next to a street artist. He was holding a small, mysterious wooden box.

While I was watching the man, my phone rang. It was Daniel. He told me that he was going to be late because the bus had stopped in traffic. I decided to wait for him near a café. I had been waiting for about ten minutes when something strange happened.

The old man dropped the wooden box. It fell onto the pavement, and the lid opened. Inside, there was an old black-and-white photograph of Bogotá. The photograph showed Plaza de Bolívar, but it looked completely different from the square I could see in front of me. Curious, I picked it up and looked at it carefully.

Suddenly, the old man came toward me. He asked me if I had seen his photograph. I gave it back to him and asked him why it was so important. He smiled and explained that his grandfather had taken the photograph many years ago. His grandfather had been a photographer who had documented important moments in Bogotá's history.



While we were talking, Daniel finally arrived. He had been trying to call me, but my phone had stopped working because the battery was almost dead. I introduced him to the old man, and the three of us started talking about the photograph.

The old man told us that he had been looking for a particular building in the photograph for many years. He believed that his grandfather had hidden an important message somewhere near that building. Daniel and I were fascinated. We decided to help him look for it.

We walked through several narrow streets in La Candelaria. It was getting dark, and people were leaving the area. After we had walked for almost an hour, we found the building. It looked old and abandoned, but there was a small blue door at the back.

Before we could open it, we heard someone calling us. It was the old man. He had followed us and was carrying the wooden box again. He opened it and showed us a second photograph. It revealed the same building, but the blue door was clearly visible.

We never discovered what was behind the door because the building was private and we could not enter. However, the experience changed the way I saw Bogotá. I had always thought of the city as a busy and modern place, but that evening I realized that its streets were full of stories, mysteries, and memories from the past.

Choose the best answer. These questions require you to infer information from the text.

1. **Why was the old man probably carrying the wooden box with him?**
   A) He wanted to sell it to tourists.
   B) He was protecting something important to his family.
   C) He wanted to give it to Daniel.
   D) He was carrying food inside it.

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2. **What can we infer about the old man's grandfather?**
   A) He was probably interested in Bogotá's history.
   B) He worked as a bus driver.
   C) He owned the building with the blue door.
   D) He was a street musician.
3. **Why did the narrator and Daniel become interested in helping the old man?**
   A) They wanted to enter the private building.
   B) They were curious about the possible historical mystery.
   C) They wanted to buy the old photographs.
   D) They were looking for a place to hide from the rain.
4. **What can we infer from the second photograph showing the blue door clearly?**
   A) The blue door was probably connected to the grandfather's message.
   B) The old man wanted to paint the door.
   C) The building had recently been constructed.
   D) The photograph was taken by Daniel.
5. **What does the narrator's final reflection suggest about Bogotá?**
   A) The narrator now thinks Bogotá is dangerous and confusing.
   B) The narrator believes Bogotá is only important because of tourism.
   C) The narrator has developed a greater appreciation for the city's history.
   D) The narrator wants to leave Bogotá permanently.



Complete the summary with the appropriate words. They can be found in the text.

Last Saturday, the narrator had an unexpected experience in La Candelaria. While waiting for Daniel, the narrator noticed an old man carrying a mysterious 6_____ chest. Inside it, there was an old photograph of Bogotá. The old man explained that his grandfather had been a 7_____ who had documented important moments in the city's history.

The old man had been looking for a particular 8_____ because he believed his grandfather had hidden an important 9_____ near it. The narrator and Daniel decided to help him. They eventually found the building and a small blue door.

They never discovered what was behind the door, but the experience changed the narrator's view of Bogotá. The narrator realized that the city's streets were full of stories, 10 _____, and memories from the past.

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