

# SLOVENSKO

*krajina plná tajomstiev*

# SLOVAKIA

*a country full of wonders*



*Class*

**ŽIVOT NA KOĽAJNÍCIACH**  
**LIFE ON THE RAILS**



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# Predslov

## Foreword

V rukách držíte piatu dobrodružno-náučnú knihu zo série *Slovensko – krajina plná tajomstiev*, ktorá osobitým spôsobom mapuje jedinečnosť a krásy Slovenska. V príbehu *Život na koľajniciach* predstavíme čitateľovi bohatú históriu i technické pamiatky dokumentujúce slávne dejiny železničnej dopravy na Slovensku. Peter, železničiar na dôchodku, zasväčuje svojho zvedavého synovca Janka do tajov života na koľajniciach. V osobe strýka sa prelína silný osobný príbeh človeka s príbehom železnice, ktorý zahrňuje rôzne svety viacerých generácií. Čitateľ nadobudne zaujímavé poznatky o významnej časti našej histórie a presvedčí sa o dôležitosti vzťahov v rodine a spoločnosti.

You are holding the fifth book of the *Slovakia – A Country Full of Wonders* adventure and education series, mapping the originality and beauty of Slovakia in a very unique way. The *Life on the Rails* story presents the rich history and technical monuments documenting the famous history of railway transport in Slovakia. Peter, a retired railway man, introduces his curious nephew Janko to the secrets of life on the rails. The uncle represents a blend of powerful human story with railway history, including the various worlds of several generations. The reader discovers interesting information about an important part of our history and is assured about the importance of relationships within the family as well as society in general.

Lenka Šingovská

# Slovensko

SLOVAKIA



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Oravský Podzámok

Vrútky  
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moje pr





áždminové dobrodružství  
MY HOLIDAY ADVENTURE





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# Prekvapenie pre mladého modelára

## A Surprise for the Young Modeller

Na jednom bratislavskom sídlisku v byte na štvrtom poschodí leží na koberci v detskej izbe chlapec Janko a listuje v časopise. Vlastne už nelistuje. S hlavou položenou na farebnom obrázku spí. Vo sne drží v jednej ruke kus modelu vláčika, v druhej modelárske lepidlo a snaží sa naniesť ho na vláčik. Akási tajomná sila mu však drží ruky na mieste a nedovolí lepidlu priblížiť sa k modelu. Vtom sa Janko strhne: „Uff, to bol ale sen,“ odfúkne si. Rýchlo skontroluje stránky s obrázkami vláčikov, na ktorých predtým ležal. Našťastie nie sú príliš pokrčené. Potom časopis zavrie a prevráti sa na chrbát. Hľadá na plafón a premýšľa nad tým, aká je to škoda, že v lete majú v modelárskom krúžku prestávku. Pokojne by celé dva mesiace hoci aj každý deň lepil, spájal, tmelil, leštil. Janko sa pri tejto predstave opäť zasníva...

Medzitým na jednom košickom sídlisku v byte na šiestom poschodí leží na pohovke v obývačke Peter. Práve sa prebudil z poobedňajšieho šlofika. Včera priletel z írskoho Dublinu, kde spolu s manželkou Majkou navštívil dcéru Lubku a jej rodinku. V Dubline Peter tuho vystískal obidve vnúčatká, strávil príjemný večer s dcérou a zaťom a priletel späť do Košíc. Majka zostane u Lubky ešte pár týždňov. Pomôže jej so starostlivosťou o svoje milované vnúčatká, ktoré vyrastajú tak ďaleko od starých rodičov.

Peter vstane z pohovky a začne sa prechádzať po byte. V kuchyni mu padne zrak na veľkú magnetku s obrázkom vlaku, ktorú pripevnila Majka na chladničku. Z okienka rušňa vykúka Petrova hlava. Pohľad na fot-

Somewhere in Bratislava. A flat on the fourth floor. A boy – Janko – is lying on the carpet in his bedroom, browsing through a magazine. Actually, he is no longer browsing. He is sleeping with his head resting on a coloured picture. In his dream, he is holding a piece of model train in one hand, glue in the other, and is trying to put some glue on the train. However, some strange force is controlling his hand, making it impossible to move it closer to the model and apply the glue. At that moment, Janko wakes up: “Phew, what a dream,” he says, relieved. Briefly, he checks the pages with pictures of trains he was lying on. Fortunately, they are not too wrinkled. Then he closes the magazine and lies on his back. He looks at the ceiling, thinking what a shame it is that the modelling club is off for the summer. He wouldn’t mind glueing, connecting, sealing and polishing every single day for the whole two months. While thinking about it, he fades away yet again...

In the meantime... somewhere in Košice. A flat on the sixth floor. Peter is lying on his sofa in the living room. He has just woken up from his afternoon nap. Yesterday, he returned from Dublin where he and his wife Majka had been visiting their daughter Lubka and her family. In Dublin, Peter had hugged both of his grandchildren, had a nice evening with his daughter and son-in-law, and then flew back to Košice. Majka will stay at Lubka’s for a couple more weeks. She will help her to look after her beloved grandchildren, who are growing up so far away from their grandparents.

Peter gets up and starts to walk around the

ku vyvolá v Petrovi závan nostalgie. Tú fotku urobila Majka pred dvomi týždňami, na konci jeho poslednej jazdy, keď sa po štyridsiatich rokoch rušňovodičovania chystal do dôchodku. Peter sa zamyslene poškriabe po hlave. Na dôchodok sa tešil, no zrazu zisťuje, že nevie čo s toľkým voľným časom...

Z myšlienok ho vytrhne zvonenie telefónu. „Ahoj, Peťo!“ ozve sa veselý pozdrav. Je to Rado, jeho mladší brat. Peter sa poteší, keď začuje známy hlas. S bratom si často telefonujú, vidia sa však zriedka. Rado s manželkou a synom Jankom bývajú v Bratislave a do Košíc sa vyberú len párkrát do roka. „Ako sa máš, dôchodca?“ podpichne Rado svojho brata. Peter priznáva, že sa začína cítiť ako kôl v plote. Rado sa zasmieje: „Aj my máme doma jeden taký kôl...“ A vyrozpráva Petrovi, ako Janko od začiatku prázdnin trávi celé dni doma s nosom zavrútaným do modelárskych časopisov a nezaujímá ho ani bicykel, ani kúpalisko, len modely vláčikov. „Počuj, Rado, a nepožičali by ste mi Janka na časť prázdnin? Pripravím zaujímavý program a zažijeme spolu nezabudnuteľnú železničiarску pánsku jazdu,“ napadne Petrovi skvelá myšlienka. Rado sa zasmieje, bratovým nápadom je nadšený. Najprv sa však poradí s manželkou.

Janka nájdu v detskej izbe ležať na zemi a zasnene pozeráť do stropu. „Janko, máme pre teba prekvapenie...“ začne ocko tajomne. „Modelársky krúžok otvorí aj cez prázdniny!“ zvolá okamžite Janko. „Nie, Janko. Toto je ešte lepšie,“ pokračuje ocko s tajomným úsmevom a odmlčí sa. Janko s otáznikom v očiach pozerá raz na ocka, raz na mamku. „Veď ho už toľko nenapínaj,“ ozve sa po chvíli mamka a žmurkne na ocka. Ten prikývne a pustí sa do vysvetľovania. „Janko, telefonoval som so strýkom Petrom z Košíc.“ Janko si strýka Petra veľmi dobre pamätá z veľkej oslavy babičkiných osemdesiatych narodenín, ktorá bola pred dvoma rokmi. Strýko Peter, že-

flat. In the kitchen, his eyes rest on a magnet securing the image of a train put there by Majka. Peter's head is sticking out of the locomotive's window. Looking at the picture, Peter feels a bit of nostalgia. The picture was taken by Majka after his last journey, when he was retiring after forty years of train driving. Thinking, Peter scratches his head. He had looked forward to his retirement, but now he is discovering that he doesn't know what to do with so much time on his hands...

His thoughts are interrupted by his phone ringing. "Hello, Peťo!" says a friendly voice. It is Rado, his younger brother. Peter cheers up upon hearing the familiar voice. They often speak together but see each other very rarely. Rado, his wife and son Janko live in Bratislava and travel to Košice just a few times per year. "How is the pensioner doing?" Rado teases his brother. Peter admits he's starting to feel really alone. Rado laughs: "Well, we also have one of your kind at home..." And he tells Peter how Janko has been spending his holiday at home with his nose stuck in modelling magazines and thinking about nothing but model trains - not interested in his bicycle or the swimming pool at all. "Listen, Rado, how about sending me Janko for some part of his holiday? I can prepare something interesting for him, and we can have an unforgettable railway-themed party for guys only," Peter suggests the great idea. Rado laughs, thrilled by his brother's idea. But, first, he has to speak with his wife.

They find Janko lying on the floor in his bedroom, looking at the ceiling, daydreaming. "Janko, we have a surprise for you..." Dad starts, mysteriously. "The modelling club is open during the holidays!" Janko exclaims immediately. "No, Janko. This is even better," Dad continues with a mysterious smile on his face and then pauses. With a questioning look in his eyes, Janko stares at his Dad and

lezničiar, vtedy priniesol starú železničiarску čiapku a daroval mu ju. Z čiapky mal Janko veľkú radosť a z Janka a Petra sa stali veľkí kamaráti. „Bol by rád, keby si ho prišiel navštíviť. A môžete spolu precestovať Slovensko. Vlakom,“ predloží ocko Jankovi strýkov návrh. Janko zvýskne, vyskočí na rovné nohy a vrhne sa rodičom do náručia. Je nad slnko jasnejšie, že súhlasí. Mamka sa rozosmeje: „Tak, dohodnuté. Zajtra sa zbalíš a v sobotu ňa odvezieme k strýkovi.“

V sobotu skoro ráno vyrazia na cestu a po šiestich hodinách jazdy sú v Košiciach. Zatiaľ čo ocko parkuje, zbehne strýko Peter dolu. Srdečne sa zvitá s mamkou a otočí sa k synovcovi. „Ahoj, Janko,“ usmeje sa do široka a podá Jankovi ruku. „Dobrá voľba,“ prehodí tajomne pri pohľade na fotoaparát zavesený okolo Jankovho krku. Spoločnými silami povynášajú batožinu do bytu a usadia sa v obývačke. Na stole už čaká káva, džús a čerstvá bábovka. „Neverím vlastným očiam. Ty pečieš?“ začuduje sa Rado pri pohľade na prestretý stôl. „Na staré kolená sa aj to naučím. Majka mi radila po telefóne,“ smeje sa Peter. Všetci si pochutnávajú na výbornej Petrovej bábovke. V príjemnom rozhovore čas rýchlo uplynie a ocko s mamkou sa musia vydať na spiatočnú cestu. Janko a Peter im zamávajú z okna a ich spoločná cesta môže začať.

Mum in turn. “Come on, stop teasing him so much,” Mum says after a moment, winking at Dad. He nods and starts to explain. “Janko, I spoke with Uncle Peter from Košice.” Janko remembers Uncle Peter very well as they had met at Grandma’s 80th birthday party two years earlier. Uncle Peter, a railway man, brought an old railway hat and gave it to him then. It made Janko very happy, and he and Peter became good friends. “He would be happy if you could visit him. And you can travel around Slovakia together. By train,” Dad explains Uncle Peter’s proposal. Janko yells, jumps up and clings to his parents’ necks. It is more than clear he agrees. Mum starts to laugh: “Well, sorted then. Tomorrow, you will pack your stuff, and on Saturday we will take you to your uncle.”

Early on Saturday morning, they hit the road, and after six hours they arrive in Košice. While Dad is parking, Uncle Peter comes down. He gives Mum a warm welcome and then turns to his nephew. “Hello, Janko,” he gives him a broad smile and stretches his arm out for a handshake. “Good choice”, he says in a mysterious way while looking at the camera hanging around Janko’s neck. Together, they take all the luggage up to the flat and sit down in the living room. There is coffee, juice and fresh marble cake ready on the table. “I can’t believe what I’m seeing. Can you bake?” Rado is surprised by the offered food. “Well, it is never too late to learn. Majka was helping me on the phone,” Peter laughs. They all enjoy Peter’s tasty marble cake. The time flies by while having a pleasant conversation and Mum and Dad have to get back. Janko and Peter wave to them from the window, and their trip may begin.

# Tajomstvo európskeho prekladiska

## Secret of the European Transshipment Complex



V pondelok ráno sedí Janko so strýkom Petrom v osobnom vlaku. Z okna kupé pozoruje ľudí vonku na nástupišti. Vysoký pán v hnedom obleku s koženým kufríkom v ruke, staršia pani držiaca za ruku malé dievčatko, skupinka športovo oblečených chlapcov a dievčat s batohmi na chrbtoch, rodičia s dvomi deťmi a dvomi obrovskými kuframi – všetci náhlivo nastupujú do vlaku. Janko netrpezlivo kontroluje čas na svojom mobile. Kedy sa už ten vlak pohne? Presne o 8:06 hod. sa stanicou rozľahne hlasný hvizd píšťalky sprevádzaný buchotom zatvárajúcich sa dverí a vzápätí sa vlak takmer nečujne rozbieha smerom na juh. O chvíľu sú Košice ďaleko za nimi. Janko si s pôžitkom vychutnáva cestu vlakom a v duchu sa už teší na dobrodružstvo, ktoré ho

It's Monday morning and Janko and his Uncle Peter are sitting on a passenger train. Through the window, Janko is looking out at the people outside on a platform. A tall man in a brown suit with a leather case in his hand, an older lady holding hands with a little girl, a group of boys and girls in sports clothes with backpacks on their backs, parents with two children and two huge suitcases – all boarding the train in a hurry. Janko is checking the time on his watch, impatiently. When will the train set off? At precisely 8:06 there is a loud whistle accompanied by the sounds of doors shutting. The train starts on its journey south, almost inaudibly. Soon, the city of Kosice is far behind them. Janko is enjoying the journey very much. He is looking forward

dnes čaká. Od strýka Petra vie, že majú pred sebou takmer dvojhodinovú cestu do Čiernej nad Tisou.

Keď sa dosýta vynadáva z okna na ubiehajúcu krajinu, skloní hlavu a sústredene študuje mapu. „Strýko Peter, dnes sa priblížime až k dvom štátnym hraniciam, je to tak?“ Peter prikývne: „Presne tak. Asi v polovici našej cesty vlak zastaví v Slovenskom Novom Meste, ktoré leží na hranici s Maďarskom. Potom sa obrátíme na východ a keď vystúpime v Čiernej nad Tisou, budeme iba pár kilometrov od hranice s Ukrajinou.“

Janko si to všetko overuje na mape a pritom spokojne prežíva oneskorené raňajky - žemľu so šunkou. O chvíľu sa v kupé objaví pani sprievodkyňa a označí Jankov cestovný lístok. Petrovu kartu priloží k čítačke, aby zistila, či je platná. Pri odkladaní karty si Peter zaspomína: „Nie je to tak dávno, čo sa vo vlaku používali cestovné lístky v podobe malých obdĺžnikov z tvrdého hnedého papiera.“ Sprievodkyňa sa naňho milo usmeje: „Nedávno? Mne to pripadá ako celá večnosť. Už som na ne skoro zabudla. Ale boli to pekné časy.“ Potom sa s Petrom a Jankom rozlúči a pokračuje ďalej, aby skontrolovala cestujúcich v ostatných kupé.

Košice dávno zmizli v diaľke a vlak si to šinie Východoslovenskou nížinou. Janko konečne odtrhne oči od mapy. „Strýko Peter, a prečo je tá široko-rozkročná koľaj v Čiernej nad Tisou taká zaujímavá?“ opýta sa. Peter sa pousmeje: „Široko-rozkročná koľaj, Janko, nie široko-rozkročná,“ opraví zabudlivého synovca. Ten sa zatvári previnilo – vždy ten názov popletie. Ale po dnešnom výlete si ho už určite zapamätá.

to the adventure planned for the day. Uncle Peter told him they would travel for almost two hours to Cierna nad Tisou.

When he has had enough of looking at the country beyond the windows, he puts his head down to have a closer look at a map. “Uncle Peter, we will be near two national borders today, won’t we?” Peter nods his head: “That’s right. Just about halfway through our journey, the train will stop in Slovenske Nove Mesto, located near the border with Hungary. Then we will head east, and when we get off the train at Cierna nad Tisou, we will be just a few kilometres away from the border with Ukraine.”

Janko is checking everything on the map while eating a late breakfast – a bun with ham. A little bit later, a conductor appears in the carriage and clips Janko’s ticket. Then she puts Peter’s card to the reader to find out whether it is valid. When putting the card away, Peter starts down memory lane: “Not long ago, there were small rectangular tickets used, made from hard brown paper.” The conductor smiles at him: “Not long ago? It seems more like a lifetime to me. I had almost forgotten about them. But those were really good times.” Then she says goodbye to Peter and Janko and goes on to check the tickets of the remaining passengers in the carriage.

The city of Kosice is far behind them and the train is travelling swiftly along the Eastern Slovak Lowland. Finally, Janko takes his eyes off the map. “Uncle Peter, why is that broad-gang railway in Cierna nad Tisou so interesting?” he asks. Peter smiles: “Janko, it’s not a broad-gang but a broad-gauge railway,” he corrects