**10f Page 127 VIDEOSCRIPT**

Pre-Intermediate Student’s Book

Life

Living in Venice

**00.00–00.22** It is early morning in Venice.

Before the light of the sun fills the famous Piazza San Marco, the traders of Venice are preparing for the crowds of tourists. In a few hours, thousands of people will come to this square. But for now, the people of Venice have the city to themselves.

**00.22–00.31** Market traders welcome the first visitors. ‘Signori, buon giorno.’ Early morning is the best time for shopping in the outdoor markets.

**00.31–00.38 Gino Penzo** We have many, many kinds of fish.

**00.38–00.49** This is the part of Venice that most people never see. This is the Venice that some people call home.

**00.49–01.02** Resident Fabrizio Copano says that he lives in the most beautiful city in the world. It’s a city that’s clean and easy to live in, with a high quality of life.

**01.02–01.08** But for some people, Venice has disadvantages, too.

**01.08–01.18 Gino Penzo** My son, he doesn’t love, uh, live in Venice. I am very sorry.

**01.18–01.46** The population of Venice is getting older. Why? Fabrizio says living in Venice is not cheap. Property is particularly expensive, and housing prices have increased a lot in recent years. It’s especially difficult for young people who want their own place to live. Many of them must move away, which leaves Venice to the tourists.

**01.46–02.02** It seems like the whole world has come to the Piazza San Marco. The tourists come to experience a city that feels like it’s still in the fifteenth century. And some local people say that’s the problem.

**02.02–02.08 Giovanni dal Missier** Venice did change a lot since I was born.

**02.08–02.20** Giovanni dal Missier is one of the younger people who is trying to stay in his home town. During the day, the huge crowds of visitors can make just coming home from work very difficult.

**02.20–02.27 Giovanni dal Missier** I get bored with the people, with the tourists. Because there are too much, too many.

**02.27–02.43** Jobs are another problem. Do you want to be a gondolier or work with tourists? If you don’t, it can be difficult to earn a living here. But some say that the young people who are leaving Venice will soon find that other cities are not so different.

**02.43–02.52** Gino Penzo Florence is very expensive, Rome is very expensive, London, Paris, Vienna.

**02.52–03.08** People say that anyone who comes to Venice will fall in love … even if it’s only with Venice itself. Giovanni dal Missier knows the feeling. He says that despite all the challenges here, it’s difficult to think of living anywhere else.

**03.08–03.22 Giovanni dal Missier** I know that it’s a very special gift that, for me, it’s a gift to live in a city as Venice.

**03.22–03.44** Only a few people get to enjoy living in Venice. These days even fewer people are ready to face the challenges of living here. But, for those who stay, it can be a wonderful experience.

**03.44–end** Every day they can experience the joy of falling in love with Venice all over again.

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