

### **Chapter 3**

In the morning Andrew went to the home improvement store. At the customer service desk he showed the clerk his bill. He tried to tell her his problem. She was not very nice. She gave him some long forms. He told the clerk he was going to come back later. Then, he went to school to see if Karen could help him with the forms. Karen was busy, but the nice volunteer, Linda was there. "I'll help you," she said.

Andrew liked her. She understood how embarrassing this was. Linda spoke in a slow voice. She was easy to understand. They filled out the forms together.

When they were finished, Linda said, "Now I'll take you back to the store in my car. You can give the forms to the clerk. Then, I'll take you to work."

"Really?" asked Andrew.

"Really," said Linda.

When he finally got to work, Jimmy was mad at Andrew for being late. "*Get to work,*" he snapped.

In the evening, after all the customers left, Andrew went in to talk to Jimmy. He told him he was sorry for being late. He explained about YaoLin's visit. He asked for some time off.

"*You can have one day off,*" said Jimmy. "*But not Chinese New Year.*"

Andrew felt angry. Only one day? After two years of hard work?

On January 21<sup>st</sup>, Wei took Andrew to the airport to pick up YaoLin. When Andrew saw YaoLin, he hugged her and kissed her. He suddenly felt shy. He and

YaoLin used to know each other so well. Now, he was a different man. She was a different woman.

When they left the terminal, YaoLin said, *“Oh! It’s so cold!”*

Andrew took off his warm jacket. He put it around YaoLin’s slim shoulders. *“Where’s your coat?”* he asked.

*“I have a raincoat in my suitcase.”*

Andrew didn’t think a raincoat was going to be warm enough, but he didn’t say anything. When they got to the apartment, Andrew showed YaoLin his room. She smiled at him. *“Where are you sleeping?”* she asked.

*“On the couch,”* he said, blushing.

She put her arms around him, and he kissed her.

The next morning, Andrew got up at 8:30. He got dressed. Then he sat on the edge of YaoLin’s bed. *“I’ll be home at 9:30,”* he whispered.

YaoLin opened her eyes. *“9:30? Tonight?”*

*“Yes. But Wei will be home at 5:00, and he will take you out to dinner.”*

At work, Andrew thought about YaoLin all the time. He called home at noon. She was watching TV and reading. She sounded bored. Finally, at 9:15 Andrew went home. Wei and YaoLin were both dressed in nice clothes. YaoLin seemed much happier. She said, *“We’re going out to sing karaoke.”*

*“Right now?”* asked Andrew. *“I just got home. It’s late.”*

*“It’s not too late for karaoke,”* said YaoLin. *“Please?”*

Andrew had to say yes. YaoLin loved karaoke. He went into his room and changed into clean jeans. YaoLin smiled at him when he returned to the living room. *“Now we can have some fun,”* she said.

But YaoLin didn't like the karaoke place they went to. The next night, Andrew took her dancing. She didn't like the disco, either.

*"Yingen," she said on the third day, "stay home today. Let's go shopping. I'm spending more time with Wei than with you!"*

Andrew was very tired from staying out late two nights in a row. *"I can't stay home. The restaurant will be busy tonight. We can shop and go sightseeing on Monday and Tuesday."*

YaoLin was looking at Andrew strangely. *"And Sunday? Sunday is Chinese New Year."*

Andrew felt terrible. *"I am working hard for our future!"* he said.

*"I know,"* said YaoLin. *"I'm sorry. I thought we would have a good time here in Denver like we did in Hong Kong."*

Andrew leaned over and kissed her. *"Someday it will be like that again,"* he said. But was that true? He wanted so much from this new life in America, but YaoLin wanted the old life in Hong Kong.