

Andrew's Journey to a New Life in America
Modified Version
Barbara Vaille and Jennifer QuinnWilliams

Chapter 4

YaoLin was quiet. She sat next to Andrew on the couch. Two years ago in Hong Kong, they were best friends. They told each other everything. Things were different now. Andrew was more serious and tired. He never cooked. And why didn't Jimmy treat him with more respect?

"What's the matter, YaoLin?" asked Andrew. *"Everything will work out."*

"I'm not sure," sighed YaoLin.

On Sunday, Chinese New Year, the restaurant was very busy. Andrew was surprised when Wei and YaoLin came in to eat. YaoLin was smiling.

Andrew only talked to YaoLin and Wei a few minutes. After they ate and had green tea and fortune cookies, they waved to Charley and Andrew and left.

When Andrew came home, YaoLin handed him a small piece of paper. *"This was in my fortune cookie,"* she said. She gave it to Andrew to read. *"It said, 'Your future and true happiness lie across the ocean.' Andrew, I think it tells the truth. I am not happy here. We have both changed. I want to go back home."*

Andrew was sad, but he said, *"I don't want to leave the United States."*

The two talked and finally they agreed.

On February 1, Andrew wrote in his journal:

My fiancée go back to Hong Kong. We decide no married. I not do anything about identity theft for one week. I have trouble.

Linda responded:

I am so sorry to hear that you will not marry. Please call if you have questions about your identity theft situation or just want to talk to someone. often stay up late and paint.

Several days later, Wei said, *“I learned more about identity theft on the Internet. You filled out a report, but maybe someone opened up a bank account or got another credit card in your name.”*

“What should I do?” asked Andrew.

“Read these papers. I’ll talk to you later.”

Andrew started to read. There was a lot he didn’t understand. He needed someone to help him. Linda. He called her.

“Let’s meet at the coffee shop tomorrow, okay?” she asked.

All during February and March, Linda and Andrew met weekly at the coffee shop. They discussed his credit report and practiced phone conversations.

Sometimes, they talked at night. He missed YaoLin and wasn’t sure they made the right decision. He still had identity theft problems. But on the nights when he talked to Linda, Andrew went to sleep thinking about her wide smile.