

CHAPTER ❖ 4 ❖

August

One Saturday, Hyo, Hana, and the children decided to drive to the mountains for a picnic. They stopped at the Korean market first to get some food. Hana and the children went into the grocery store, and Hyo walked next door to a taekwondo studio he noticed. He watched a group of students practice a form. Hyo missed the discipline and beauty of his daily taekwondo practice. In Korea, he worked hard for years to become a fifth-degree black belt, a master. A tall, muscular blonde man came out of the door of the studio.

“Are you interested in taekwondo?” he asked.

“Yes! I used to practice in Korea,” Hyo answered.

The man started speaking in fluent Korean. “*Oh, I studied with some great masters in Korea.*”

Hyo and the man talked about taekwondo and the studio for 10 minutes. Back in the car, Hyo was excited. He told Hana, “*I was talking to Tom, the owner of that taekwondo studio. I’m going to start working out there after work.*”

That evening when Hana and Hyo got ready for

bed, Hana said, *“I think we would be happier if we rented a small apartment of our own.”*

“Not yet,” said Hyo. *Let’s try to stay for a year, and then maybe buy a small house.”*

Hana agreed. She told herself that this was good for her family.



On Monday after lunch, Hyo went into Kwan’s office with the plans and his calculations. He explained the mistake to Kwan. Kwan was very angry.

“What were you doing, checking our father’s work? I told you to leave these plans alone! You disobeyed me and now we’ll have to tell the client that we made a mistake!”

“But Kwan, we found the error in time to fix it with very little cost to anyone.”

This did not make Kwan happier. Hyo never dreamed working with his own brother would be so miserable.

At 5:00, Hyo left his office to go work out. Kwan met him at the door.

“You are acting like a child! It is a bad example for the other workers to leave early. ” said Kwan angrily. *“Taekwondo is not important for an adult with responsibilities to his family and his job! You’ll have to choose! Taekwondo or the company!”*



In English class Hana wrote about her new apartment in her daily journal:

Hana's Journal, Monday, September 15

We moved to new apartment last week. It is same place as Sony lives. It is far from this English class but Sony and I can drive together with each other. My husband change work. Now, he is toiling at Korean grocery store. Maybe he will teach at taekwondo gym in evenings. Apartment is nice. We have our family space alone by ourselves.

Her teacher, Karen, responded:

It's nice that Sony and you are carpooling. How is your husband's new job? Is everything OK?

Hana's Journal, Wednesday, September 24

The brother of my husband is angry. His mother is also not happy. She says I am blame for everything. But we are more happy now. Grocery store is near to taekwondo gym. We can walk to there from apartment. My husband has dream to have own taekwondo gym. I have dream to resume my pottery work.