

## CHAPTER ❖ 8 ❖

### **Mid-October**

Hyo stood at the door to the taekwondo studio. He said goodbye to his taekwondo students. Then he went into the office to talk with Tom about progress on their plans. Suddenly, the studio doorbell rang. It was Kwan.

*“Hello, Hyo.”* He looked around the room. *“So this is where you work now?”*

*“Yes. I’m investing in Tom’s company.”*

*“I’ve come to tell you that you have made a mistake. This is not the place for you. You absolutely must not invest in this business. You’re a professional, not an exercise instructor. We are engineers. People respect us. Taekwondo is a job with no respect. Anyone can do it,”* said Kwan.

Hyo was angry but he tried to stay calm. *“I worked hard to get into a good university and become an engineer, that’s true. But I also worked hard for many years to get my fifth-degree black belt. Our father was proud of that. He supported all my efforts to practice and compete.”*

Later, at home, Hyo told Hana about Kwan’s

visit to the studio. Then he asked Hana to start working at the studio.

Hana hoped her emotions did not show on her face. *"Of course,"* she said. *"But let's agree that I will continue my English classes, too."*



The next day, Hana met with Mi Sun. They were going to talk about how to restore family harmony. Mother-in-Law wanted to join them. The three of them sat down to talk.

Hana said, *"Father-in-Law was proud that Hyo could be so good at taekwondo and also go to such a good university and get an engineering degree. Hyo thinks Father-in-Law would support him in this decision now."*

*"Maybe,"* said Mother-in-Law, *"But my husband wouldn't want Hyo to abandon his brother at this time. Kwan took on new projects because he thought Hyo would be a big help. And Kwan is so disappointed."*

*"Mother-in-Law, how can we help these brothers be friends? We are a family. What can we do?"*

The three women talked for a little while. Mother-in-Law said, *"The only solution is for Hyo to go back to work with Kwan. Kwan is the older brother. It is Hyo's place to respect him. You two are their wives. You must help make this happen. Hana,*

*talk to Hyo. Mi Sun, tell Kwan to let Hyo come back without humiliating him. I want peace between my sons. You two are responsible.”*



After English class, Hana went to work in the taekwondo studio. Hyo showed her the office and suggested how she could get started organizing things.

When Tom came in, Hana worked with him to develop a good system for keeping track of student information. She was surprised to find that she was good at it and had simple solutions to some of his problems.

Later, as she prepared dinner, the doorbell rang. It was Mi Sun.

*“I’ve been thinking all day,”* said Mi Sun.

*“I’ve been thinking, too,”* said Hana. *“And I have an idea. Today I worked at the taekwondo studio all afternoon. Mi Sun, all the classes are in the late afternoon and evening. I wonder if Kwan would think about asking Hyo to work from 8:00 to 2:00 every day for the next six months. By that time, they can finish up the biggest projects and Kwan will have time to find someone else to work with him.”*

*“Do you think Hyo would do it?”*

*“I can think of two reasons to do it,”* said Hana. *“One is that he wants harmony in the family, too. The other is that he can invest more money in the business if Kwan will pay him a part-time salary.”*

*But Kwan will have to give him some real work to do.”*

Mi Sun sighed. *“Kwan is so stubborn. He says he needs Hyo by his side, but he won’t give up any responsibility.”*

*“I’ll persuade Hyo to offer to come back and help, and you convince Kwan to give him real work. It’s worth a try. We all want a happy family.”*

If their plan to bring Hyo and Kwan together worked, Mother-in-Law might be nicer to her. Then, with the family harmony restored, she might find time for her art.