

CHAPTER ❖ 9 ❖

Late October

The red and yellow leaves on the trees were brilliant against the bright blue sky. Hana looked at them out the car window as she drove home from English class with Sony.

Sony asked, *“How is your pottery?”*

Hana sighed. *“I didn’t join the co-op. Hyo needs me to help at the taekwondo studio. And I want to continue English classes. I miss doing pottery, but I have to have several hours at a time to do it. It doesn’t matter now. I already told Linda my answer was no. She was disappointed.”*

“Linda can work on her art full time. She’s single. Maybe she doesn’t understand how much time it takes to take care of a family.”



Hyo came home late that evening. Hana saw that something was wrong. Hyo told her some bad news about his and Tom’s plans for expansion of the taekwondo studio.

“One of Tom’s two investors backed out. Now we

can't afford to expand. All our plans and dreams are ruined."

Hana sat quietly, thinking. If Hyo went back to work for Kwan part time, could he make enough money to invest in the company himself? With this upsetting news about the investor, would Hyo consider asking Kwan to take him back? She decided to ask him.

"What do you think about giving up the job at the grocery store and going back to work with Kwan part time? Would you try it for six months? You could work at the company in the morning and early afternoon and go to the studio for your classes after that. I think Kwan will give you more responsibility. He's very sad and disappointed about how things turned out."

Hyo looked at Hana. *"How do you know how Kwan feels?"*

"Mi Sun, Mother-in-Law, and I talked. We all want family harmony, especially your mother. It's too hard on all of us, and family is too important, to let the tension between you and Kwan continue. There must be a way to fix it."

Hyo was silent. *"I'll think about it, Hana. One thing I know is that Kwan will not make the first move. He would lose face."*

"I agree. You will have to ask him."



The next day, after his shift at the grocery store, Hyo went to the taekwondo studio to work out. Hana and Linda were in the office. The furniture was simple but comfortable. The walls were painted light green. They were looking at a colorful painting with light brown ovals in the center.

“These are just the right colors for this room.” said Linda.

“Do you have name for this painting?” asked Hana.

“Yes. I call it Harmony,” said Linda.



Hyo finished his workout and went into the office. The women were gone. He looked at the painting on the wall. It was calming yet vibrant at the same time. He thought about Hana’s idea. He wanted his brother to respect him. He wanted the engineering company to do well. He wanted to honor his father. He wanted to continue doing taekwondo and be Tom’s business partner. He wanted to provide for Hana and the children. But most of all, he wanted to get along with his brother. Discontent was not good in a family. This was not a good model for his children to see and grow up in. He knew he had to fix his relationship with Kwan. He might fail, but nothing would change if he didn’t try.