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Chapter 14 A Thunderbolt

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‘Mary, you’ve been so anxious that you’ve become silly,’ she told herself. ‘You don’t even know his name. How can you be sure that he would save your father? Even if he was capable of it, why would he help you? You only met once. How can you get him to help you solve this big trouble?’

The last time he helped you, all it took from him was his words. Things aren’t so simple this time around. He is not even your friend, and he definitely has no obligation to help you. Stop dreaming.

Besides, the aura around that man is cold, scheming, domineering and strong. Obviously, he is not easy to get along with. Once you are involved with such a person, your life might never be the same.’

As she and her mother remained worried and helpless, the day of York’s trial arrived. Since they didn’t have any evidence in their hands, the case against him was practically irrefutable.

The judge finally made the announcement. ‘The court thinks that the defendant, York Liu, has accepted a huge amount of commercial bribes in an illegal manner. According to the terms of the 128th, the 266th, the

69th and the 64th articles of the Criminal Law of the People's Republic of China, the defendant, York Liu, has committed the crime of accepting bribes, and is sentenced to 15 years in prison, and all his property is to be confiscated.'

The verdict came like a thunderbolt, striking Mary and Mindy. They had been mentally prepared before the trial, but the result was even worse than their worst expectations.

'No, I won't accept it. I'm going to appeal. You're abusing the law for personal gain. We won't compromise. You can't just do anything at your will.' Mindy was in grave denial. She had just recovered, but she quickly relapsed into her illness because of the stimulation brought about by the trial. She

leaned weakly in Mary's arms.

'Mom, what's the matter?' Mary was frightened by her mother's reaction, so much so that it barely registered to her when the judge announced the dismissal of the case. Her father walked up to her, and only then did she realize that tears had already been streaming down her face. Her mother leaned against her, sobbing hysterically at her shoulders.

'Mary, don't cry,' York said. 'Do you remember what I told you before? Be a strong girl and don't be sad. You have always been my pride. I believe that you are a brave and strong girl. Promise me you'll take good care of your mom and that you'll study hard. And don't forget your agreement with me. Mindy, you will be the only parent at home for now. Take care of yourself when I'm not with you.' There was no resentment or unwillingness in York's words, except for his reluctance to leave his family.

‘Dad, don’t worry. I will take good care of Mom while you’re not home. I will certainly study hard and protect our family. But you have to promise me that you won’t give up until the end. Let’s work together. I believe that there is a way out.’ Mary was afraid that her father would give up. If he did, they would have no chance at all.

‘Okay,’ York replied. ‘I promise you I won’t give up.’ He knew that he had to try his best for the sake of his wife and daughter. If he was put into prison, they would have no one to rely on, and they would live a hard life. On the other hand, if he kept trying, there was bound to be a turning point to his predicament. Although the possibility was very small, he still had to try. Just as his daughter had said, there must be a way out.

York was taken away as soon as he finished his words. Looking at his retreating back, the mother and daughter burst into tears again.

[Previous](#)

[Next](#)