

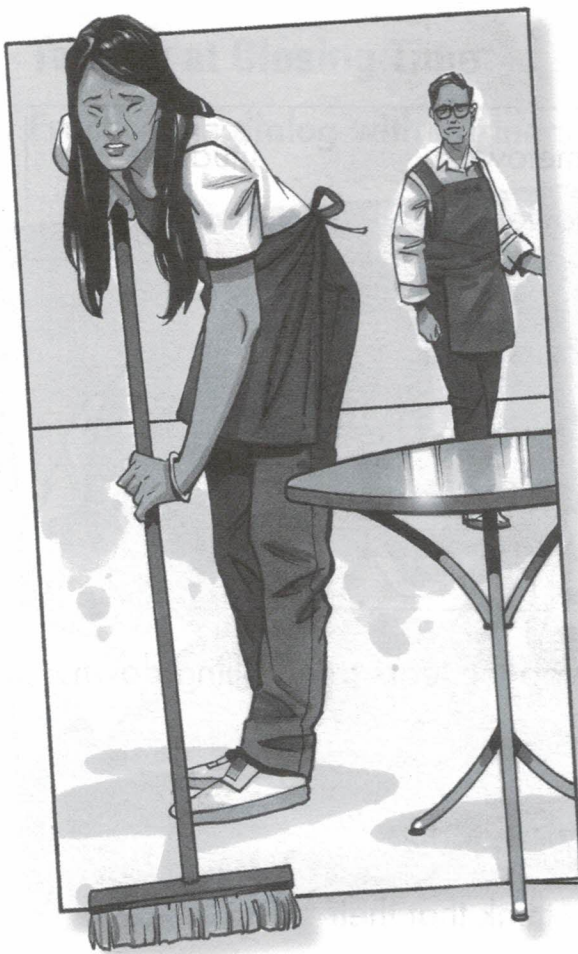
## Chapter 10 Crisis Time



After three and a half months, Soriya finally admits that business is terrible. There aren't enough customers. It's also much more expensive to operate Le Petit Café. Max and Lucie are good employees. But soon there won't be enough money for their salaries. Changing the business model of Lucky Donuts has been a disaster.

There is a lot of tension between Soriya and her parents. Heng and Nary are upset because Soriya changed their shop. And Soriya is upset because her idea isn't working. There are times when Soriya wants to throw in the towel. Often, she thinks it was a mistake to return to her hometown. She had a very successful job before, and her parents didn't really need her help. Now, Soriya and her parents are losing money—a lot of money.

At closing time on Saturday, Soriya is cleaning up the shop. As she sweeps under the café tables, she can't stop the tears from rolling down her cheeks. Her parents notice her sadness and quickly walk toward her. "I'm so sorry," Soriya



cries. "I meant well. I honestly did." Heng and Nary have tears in their eyes too. "But I destroyed everything!"

"Don't cry," says Heng. "It's okay." Nary feels bad for Soriya too. As she strokes her daughter's hair, she begins to think that their situation isn't so bad. Heng and Nary have lived through much worse times. After all, it's only money—and they are all safe and healthy.

"This problem isn't the end of the world," says Nary with a smile. "And I think . . . together . . . we can fix it."

### Answer the questions.

1. What does Soriya finally admit after three and a half months?
2. How expensive is it to operate Le Petit Café?
3. How are Max and Lucie as employees? What won't there be enough money for soon?
4. What has been a disaster? Who is there a lot of tension between?
5. Why are Heng and Nary upset? Why is Soriya upset?
6. At times, what does Soriya want to do?
7. What does Soriya think it was a mistake to do?
8. What is Soriya doing at closing time?
9. What can't she stop as she sweeps under the café tables?
10. What do her parents notice and quickly do? What do they have in their eyes too?

## Complete the sentences.

cheeks  
tears

disaster  
tension

hometown  
towel

situation  
world

1. Changing the business model of Lucky Donuts has been a \_\_\_\_\_.
2. There is a lot of \_\_\_\_\_ between Soriya and her parents.
3. There are times when Soriya wants to throw in the \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Often, she thinks it was a mistake to return to her \_\_\_\_\_.
5. As she sweeps under the café tables, she can't stop the tears from rolling down her \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Heng and Nary have \_\_\_\_\_ in their eyes too.
7. As she strokes her daughter's hair, she begins to think that their \_\_\_\_\_ isn't so bad.
8. "This problem isn't the end of the \_\_\_\_\_," says Nary with a smile.

## Matching: Definitions

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| ___ 1. admit   | a. to see; to observe                  |
| ___ 2. notice  | b. to want or intend to do something   |
| ___ 3. sweep   | c. to move by turning over and over    |
| ___ 4. roll    | d. to confess the truth of something   |
| ___ 5. mean    | e. to wreck; to ruin                   |
| ___ 6. destroy | f. to remove dust or dirt with a broom |

## Talking at Closing Time

Practice the dialog with partners.



- A. I'm so sorry. I meant well. I honestly did. But I destroyed everything!
- B. Don't cry. It's okay.
- C. After all, it's only money. And we are all safe and healthy.
- A. Are you sure?
- C. Yes. This problem isn't the end of the world. And I think . . . together . . . we can fix it.

### Check the examples.

When a person “throws in the towel,” it means that they stop trying—or quit completely. Check (✓) the ways Soriya could throw in the towel at Le Petit Café. Write other ideas on the lines below.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> return to her job at the bank   | <input type="checkbox"/> think of ways to save the business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> change the business model again | <input type="checkbox"/> close the shop forever             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> lower the prices in the shop    | <input type="checkbox"/> invite back their old customers    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> write a new business plan       | <input type="checkbox"/> fire all of the employees          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> refuse to come to work          | <input type="checkbox"/> advertise the shop more            |
- 
-

## Listening

Listen. Check (✓) the correct sentence.

1.  a. There are too many customers.  
 b. There aren't enough customers.
2.  a. They can pay them good salaries.  
 b. Soon, they can't pay them.
3.  a. The business was better before.  
 b. The business is successful now.
4.  a. Everyone is upset.  
 b. Everyone is optimistic.
5.  a. She thinks about quitting.  
 b. She thinks about hiring a barista.
6.  a. She lost her job at the bank.  
 b. She had a successful job before.
7.  a. Soriya is crying.  
 b. Soriya is working late.
8.  a. This is the end of the world.  
 b. They are all safe and healthy.

## Pronunciation and Writing

Say the words from the story. Write the number of syllables in each word. Underline the stressed syllable.

- |                    |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. together _____  | 6. tension _____   | 11. salaries _____ |
| 2. towel _____     | 7. honestly _____  | 12. rolling _____  |
| 3. healthy _____   | 8. disaster _____  | 13. operate _____  |
| 4. Saturday _____  | 9. situation _____ | 14. hometown _____ |
| 5. destroyed _____ | 10. mistake _____  | 15. enough _____   |

## What about you?

Circle **Yes** or **No**. Then write questions and ask your partner.

**Yes No** 1. I sometimes have to admit things that are difficult.

Do you sometimes have to admit things that are difficult?

**Yes No** 2. I sometimes feel tension between people in my family.

**Yes No** 3. I sometimes want to throw in the towel when I have a problem.

**Yes No** 4. I notice when other people are sad and quickly walk toward them.

**Yes No** 5. I think many money problems can be fixed.

## Topics for Discussion or Writing

1. How can being in business with family members sometimes create tension between them?
2. What can employers do when they can no longer pay their employees? What can employees do if this happens?
3. Can the money problems at Le Petit Café be fixed? What advice would you offer Heng, Nary, and Soriya if you were in their positions?