

## Sweet Love 2201

### Chapter 2201: Let us spend New Year's Eve together.

Some fireworks were over 10 yuan for a bundle, while some were worth several hundred yuan for just one second. These fireworks were the ones she had never thought of buying.

In recent years, the local government had imposed a strict prohibition of setting off fireworks in the city. Nonetheless, there were many people who would still light fireworks near the river bank on New Year's Eve. First, it was fun and exciting. Second, playing with fireworks was suitable for the young and the old. It was one of the children's favorite activities. Without it, it was inevitable that some of the festive mood would be lost.

Setting off fireworks was an old tradition by the ancestors. It would be a pity to lose it.

Gong Jie consented cheerfully. "Sure!"

"Then, it is settled! Come by at 6 PM, and don't be late, or else you'll have to drink!" warned his sister.

"Alright!"

Knowing that his mother was talking to his uncle on the phone, Youyou rushed to the side and shouted, "Uncle, you must remember to give red packets to Little Yichen and me!"

Gong Jie laughed on the other end. "Little Tuhao, are you sure you will be keen on my red packet?"

"It is still a token of your appreciation. As for how much you will give, it will depend on your performance!" The boy was a little imp, so he had his uncle wrapped around his fingers with just a few words.

The man cleared his throat and declared, "Just wait obediently for your uncle's red packet!"

Yun Shishi was incomparably happy after hanging up the call. She felt as if she were sitting on a helium balloon which was slowly floating into the clouds.

This was when she happened upon Hua Jin's number. Feeling stunned for a moment, she then furrowed her brows, hesitating a bit before decisively dialing the number while hiding a trace of expectation.

...

In the City Apartment.

Hua Jin, who was dressed in a bathrobe, was leaning against the window, admiring the beautiful nightscape, when his phone rang. He immediately answered it, only to hear Yun Shishi's gentle and careful voice. "Hua Jin, it is New Year's Eve tomorrow. Do you want to come over to my house for dinner?"

He was unable to react in time, causing him to cough when a breath of smoke stuck in his throat.

Hearing the worrying coughs on the other end, the woman raised her brow and asked in surprise, "What's wrong?"

The reason the woman thought of him was out of worry that it would be lonely for him to be by himself with his relatives not around.

Therefore, she thought of inviting him over to celebrate the new year together.

The idol was stunned for a moment before suddenly laughing. "Why did you suddenly think of me?"

"Because it is the New Year! Isn't it lonely to spend it by yourself? It is New Year's Eve, after all, so it will be more festive with more people around!" She paused for a moment before she asked, "What's wrong? Do you not want to, or perhaps you already have plans?"

"No! No..."

Hua Jin immediately responded, "It's just that I was surprised. I didn't think you'd ask me to spend New Year's Eve together!"

"That's because you are also part of my family!" replied Yun Shishi matter-of-factly.

He froze. For a moment, his lips curled into a smile as he felt warmth envelop around him. 'Family' was such a simple term, yet it was incomparably moving.

"Alright!" he replied gently.

"Then, make sure to come tomorrow! I've reserved you a bowl and chopsticks! After dinner, we will be heading to the river bank to play with fireworks, alright?"

"Okay!"

After hanging up the phone, he glanced at his mobile screen and could not stop smiling. His heart felt extremely warm and cozy.

*It feels great to be remembered!*

## **Chapter 2202: Bad Luck**

On a cold, winter night in this bustling city, he suddenly did not feel so lonely anymore!

*It's great being able to spend New Year's with everyone...*

...

Song Zhengguo was inevitably shocked by the call he received from the hospital. When he rushed over with Jiang Qimeng, all they saw was their son lying in the intensive care unit with his face badly swollen and his limbs and bones broken at several places.

New Year's Eve was just right around the corner. It was going to be the next year soon, yet his son was lying in the hospital. He felt as if he had been hit with a stroke of bad luck.

This son of theirs was just fine yesterday, but after he headed out in the middle of the night, they received a call notifying them that he was in the hospital. The old couple hurried over, only to see him battered and exhausted on the bed. It was obvious that he had been beaten up by someone!

The mother felt as if a knife were piercing her heart as she dashed to the bed, her tears falling like raindrops. “Yunxi... Yunxi...”

However, after calling out to him for half a day, the young chap did not have the energy to respond to her.

He was still partly unconscious and muddleheaded. With his lower jaw unhitched, he could not even open his mouth to talk.

She gritted her teeth and cursed, “Which b\*st\*rd would beat someone up until he’s this?! It’s close to New Year—such bad luck!”

The father stood by the bed and examined his son with furrowed brows. “What exactly did this son of ours do last night?! He’s clearly been beaten up by someone! Where did he go and who did he mingle with?!”

His wife could not respond as tears streamed down her face.

He was momentarily frustrated. He smacked the bedside cabinet and swore, “Cry! That’s the only thing you do! You only know how to cry when you’re facing troubles. What else can you do besides that?!”

“How can I not be heartbroken when our boy is reduced to such a state?!”

She retorted indignantly, “I don’t know where he went last night either! If not for the call you received from the hospital, I would think that he had just gone somewhere to mess around!”

“You can’t look after our daughter and you can’t discipline our son properly either! Can you put in more effort as their mother?!”

“I—”

Before she could refute him and defend herself, a row of doctors and nurses came through the door. When the head doctor saw the middle-aged man, he immediately greeted him politely and courteously, “Mayor Song, nice to meet you!”

The doctor exchanged pleasantries with Song Zhengguo before inviting him to his office to share the details of his son’s injuries.

Half an hour later, he walked back in the room with a dark expression and sat by the bedside angrily. Song Yunxi was still unconscious. Jiang Qimeng walked over and asked worriedly, “Husband, what did the doctor tell you?”

“This rascal was seriously injured by someone! Not only did he have broken ribs, knees, and hamstrings, he also suffered from internal bleeding and got a mild cerebral concussion. The doctor said that this couldn’t have been done by only one person. It’s more like a group fight! He will not recover any time soon! Even after surgery, there will still be inevitable sequela... Some of our son’s injuries signify that he will have to retire from the military early!”

“Retire from the military?!”

She widened her eyes in shock. “Why?!”

Song Yunxi was currently serving in the BU military unit. Due to his celebrated merits and remarkable background, his future was bound to be bright if he continued to serve in the army.

Chapter 2203: Everything is awful.

However, if he retired from the army now, this meant that all the merits he had accumulated over the years would be for naught!

Song Zhengguo appeared calm outwardly, but he was actually completely riddled with bitterness and hate inwardly!

He had worked so hard and sacrificed a lot, all so he could give this son a bright future while he still had the power yet look at what had happened?!

They had lost it all!

By the time his son retired and returned home from the BU team, it was hard to say if his career would be on the rise!

This fella had ruined his great prospects just like that!

What was more hateful was that Song Yunxi was still unconscious even now, leaving him with no leads on whom he should hold culpable for his son’s injuries.

He was absolutely frustrated, and his thoughts were in turmoil!

Every person in the family, be it his daughter or his son, was unrelenting in causing trouble for him!

It was fine if it was just Song Enya!

She had been spoiled and conceited, therefore offending Mu Yazhe with her hard-to-please temper was somewhat expected, but before he could solve that issue, something had to happen to his son!

He was utterly frustrated!

Why were there so many things for him to worry about?!

Exactly which respectable deity’s toes did he step on? Everything was just awful this year!

It seemed that they were destined to spend New Year’s Eve in the hospital!

When the middle-aged man thought of this, he smoked two cigarettes in a row before standing up and running off to get some work matters sorted out.

Jiang Qimeng stayed by her son’s side and held the latter’s cold hand lovingly. She could not stop crying as though she could vent her emotions through this!

...

The morning of the Lunar New Year.

Yun Shishi got out of bed.

The reunion lunch on this day was indispensable as it was one of the grandest lunches of the year.

Everyone had to be present, and the dishes must be mouth-watering. All of them had to flock home to enjoy the reunion meal at the table and spread the family love and joy!

There were many details they ought to pay attention to during the reunion meal.

The dishes which must be present during the reunion lunch included fish, which symbolized an abundance of wealth.

There had to be chicken, which symbolized good fortune.

Tofu and Chinese cabbage, which symbolized happiness and wealth.

Vermicelli which symbolized longevity.

Youyou had even prepared cans of peaches, which symbolized good health and aversion to disaster. The woman was surprised, for even she had not thought about that.

Finally, the meal was accompanied by fine liquor, which symbolized eternal happiness.

The mother-son pair was in the kitchen, busying about nonstop since early in the morning.

In the afternoon, Yun Yecheng and Yun Yehou arrived. Only then did she recall that she had not invited Xiang Yu and her daughters to the reunion feast.

However, she was not very willing to invite the trio. They were very annoying and might cause some unhappiness if she were to invite them over!

She did not want to bring about any bad luck for the new year, but when she thought about it, she felt a little bad for not inviting them.

After all, one was her aunt and the other two were her cousins. If she just forgot about them like this, she would seem quite heartless.

She was caught in a difficult dilemma.

In actuality, the aunt in question had given her father a call prior to this. She said that the family should have a meal together on New Year's Eve to celebrate it.

However, her uncle declined, for he believed that the trio would only cause trouble. If he brought them over and they behaved badly, it would just upset the family. He did not want a fight to occur when they were celebrating the New Year.

**Chapter 2204: He has a rich son-in-law, has he not?**

Hence, he came up with an excuse to reject them. “My brother and I plan to have a simple meal at home on New Year’s Eve. There’s no need for us to have a family feast!”

Xiang Yu was unhappy when she heard that. “Why? Do you find us an embarrassment? Now that your brother has struck a fortune with a famous daughter and a rich son-in-law, is he trying to chase his poor relatives away?! We are still your family even though we are poor! We aren’t asking for much except to have a reunion dinner with you guys. What’s wrong with that?!”

In reality, the woman had spent all the money she had with her over the last two months.

Before they moved to the city, this mother-daughter trio had high expectations and anticipation for life away from the village. However, as they finally settled down in the capital, the expensive rent and hefty daily expenses were starting to stress them out! It was difficult for them to maintain a decent standard of living with the high cost of living.

Her daughters had looked for employment soon after they found a place to stay. As they were new to the city, they did not manage to earn much with their part-time jobs. Each of them could only bring home about 3,000 yuan or so each month. In combination, their monthly household income of 6,000 yuan or so barely allowed them to survive each month after deducting expenses for their meals, transportation, and occasional shopping!

The woman was thick-skinned enough to borrow money from her brother-in-law a couple of times. Yun Yecheng knew, of course, that the money he lent her would never be returned!

Still, he was worried that the greedy trio would target his daughter if he refused. Hence, he passed her some money a few times behind his brother’s back. Alas, the woman had enjoyed too much to let go of this money tree by then!

On this New Year’s Eve, he believed that this shameless woman would try to squeeze some money from his daughter on the pretext of a reunion dinner. Thus, he decided to be forthright with her. “Are you out of money again?”

His sister-in-law was furious with shame. “What do you mean by that, brother-in-law?! Are you taking my daughters and me as beggars? Do you really think that we are out to exhort money from you and your family? We just want to enjoy a reunion with our extended family—that’s all! Are you so stingy to refuse this humble request of ours now?!”

Her accusations put her brother-in-law on the spot, instead. He was struck dumb by her fierce rebuttal.

His brother blurted out angrily, “Isn’t it true that the three of you are always asking for money?! Do you think I don’t know that you’ve been borrowing money from my older brother behind my back?! You’ve owed him tens of thousands by now, but are you able to pay any of it?!”

The woman did not learn anything much from her stay in the urban city other than cultivating brazenness. She laughingly retorted, “We have to borrow because our money isn’t enough! Anyway, we are a family so there’s no need to be calculative with us, is there?”

Her husband was not amused and told her off. “There’s a saying that even biological brothers need to be clear in their debts and ledgers! My brother has already spent a lot of resources in order to take care of me. Are you trying to kill him by asking him to support the three of you, too?! You three lazy b\*gg\*rs!”

His wife turned red with embarrassment and lashed out indignantly, "What's wrong with that?! He has a rich son-in-law, hasn't he?!"

## **Chapter 2205: Touring the Villa**

The woman's simple retort fully expressed the greediness in her heart!

Yun Yehou was so antagonized by his good-for-nothing wife that he almost blurted out there and then, "Get outta here and return to the village, you shameless woman! Don't leech on others when you aren't capable of taking care of yourself over here!"

His brother quickly stopped him, not wanting to kick up a fuss within the family on an auspicious day.

Left with no other option, Yun Yecheng pulled his daughter aside and put forward an awkward request. "Shishi, I have something unreasonable to ask of you; can you invite your aunt and her two daughters over to your place for lunch on this day? Your relatives seem adamant to have a meal with you. I know she's up to no good, but I don't want to put your uncle in a tight spot. I hope that lunch will be sufficient to stop their grumbling and gossiping! I'll send them away once we finish lunch!"

His daughter agreed readily; after all, families were meant to gather on New Year's Eve for a meal. Her father's request was not harsh.

Unfortunately, the festive mood was somewhat muted by the arrival of this materialistic trio.

Logically, the guest would bring a gift or two, such as a carton of milk, a tin of biscuits, or even a small toy for the kids, when paying a visit. It was customary, even for close relatives, for one to express their goodwill for the owner in this way.

She was not expecting them to come with a present, though a small gesture like that would easily reflect a person's heart.

Alas, not only did her aunt come empty-handed, she even did not bother to remove her shoes before she started exploring the interior excitedly!

"Wow, niece; what a grand villa you have here! I can see your unit the moment we enter through the gate. Is this estate only for the rich?"

The trio, who had taken a cab to Xiangti Walk, did not bother to pay the fare and just dashed straight to the house. It was Yun Yecheng who quickly went to pay the driver upon receiving their call.

Xiang Yu was immediately taken aback by the row of elegant villas as they entered the more luxurious section of the estate!

Even though they were aware that Mu Yazhe was exceptionally rich and powerful, their eyes were set ablaze with greed again when they saw the opulent district.

Her two daughters were slightly better than their mother, where they expressed basic courtesy by removing their shoes before entering the house and exchanging pleasantries with their cousin. They, too, were instantly attracted by the lavish interior when they stepped into the place.

“Cousin, can we tour your house, please?” Yun Qinli could not hide the excitement in her voice.

Before Yun Shishi could agree, Yun Qingmiao grabbed her sister’s hand to explore every room eagerly.

The siblings grew up in the countryside and were used to houses built of mud and bricks. When they came to the capital, they had only stayed in a rented apartment of dozens of square meters. They had only come across luxurious villas on TV!

Hence, being inside one of such simply took their breath away!

Luckily, the protagonist had the good sense to lock the master bedroom and her kids’ bedroom before her relatives’ arrival.

When the younger of the sisters realized that the bedroom doors could not be opened, she was quickly attracted by the cloakroom. Pulling her sibling along, she opened the door to see extravagant furnishing on either side. It was hand-built with fine oak; they could see beautiful attires glittering at them, while rows of polished stilettos beckoned. The woman almost turned green with envy!

#### **Chapter 2206: Hand over the red packets!**

Yun Qingmiao’s eyes almost turned red from envy!

Yun Shishi had just walked over when the pair of sisters walked out enviously. “Cousin, you have such a huge closet! Are all the beautiful outfits inside yours?!”

“Yes—” Just as she nodded her head, Yun Qinli interrupted, her voice dripping with jealousy. “I am so envious! With these many clothes, you can probably wear them all for an entire year even if you wear a different outfit every day, right?!”

“That is probably a bit exaggerated.”

The older of the siblings snorted before complimenting. “Cousin has the money. Even if she buys an outfit daily, she can wear different styles every day!”

The corners of her lips twitched. This relative’s praise made her feel awkward, instead.

Many of the clothes were actually given by her sponsors.

She had previously signed a contract with Louis Vuitton, so when Louis Vuitton released new styles, she would be sent a few outfits. There was a clause on her contract which said that she needed to wear their brand whenever she attended an important event.

In other words...

While many girls were eager to wear Louis Vuitton’s outfits every day, she was compelled to appear in their outfits even though she did not like wearing them often.



She felt aggrieved but could not voice it out for fear that these two would say sour words like how she was living in plenty without appreciating it.

As she was closing the door to her closet, she saw the duo dashing upstairs while holding hands.

The house's exquisite renovation had been completed. Although she did not head upstairs frequently, its renovation was done as well. There was even a rooftop garden that she had been managing regularly.

Very soon, she could hear the astonished gasps of the siblings while still standing on a lower level.

"These flowers are so beautiful!"

"That's why it's great to live in a villa! It must've cost a fortune to buy such a spacious house, right?!"

"It's definitely at least tens of millions! For a place like the capital where every inch of land is as precious as gold, villas are unreasonably expensive! That's why it is important to marry a good man. If our cousin did not marry such a rich guy, do you think she'd be able to stay in such a luxurious villa?!"

"Exactly! Though we want to live in such a villa, we will probably be unable to earn enough money for it in our entire lives!"

Downstairs, Yun Shishi nursed an oncoming headache by rubbing her temples. Why did she feel so uncomfortable hearing all their compliments?

Her twin sons were clearly not in high spirits, either. Seeing their unhappy expression, she felt tremendously guilty.

Hearing noises, Mu Yazhe walked out of the study. The moment he stepped out, he was stunned when he came face to face with Xiang Yu, who had been 'touring' their villa.

"Auntie..."

"Xiao Mu!"

The middle-aged lady was the first to speak. "You look energetic with what you are wearing today!"

He gave a lukewarm smile, his attitude cold. He ignored her and turned around to leave.

Given a cold shoulder despite her warm greeting, the woman instantly felt awkward.

The two lads exchanged glances and evil smirks. With tactic understanding, they stood in front of their relative and cupped their hands in greeting. "Grandaunt, Happy New Year; may you be prosperous! Hand over the red packets, please!"

They were asking her for red packets!

Her face sank instantly as she laughed awkwardly.

If an adult were to say this, they would seem a little petty, but children's words carried no harm. Instead, the two kids seemed amusing and adorable!

Since a child was asking for a red packet, she naturally had to be generous with it!

Moreover, Youyou and Little Yichen's mouths were sweet with their greetings.

## Chapter 2207: Being Spiteful

Moreover, Youyou and Little Yichen's mouths were sweet with their greetings. How could she bear to reject them?

Even if they were just asking for an omen of good luck, she had to be generous with the red packets!

Xiang Yu was taken aback as she bit her lower lip uneasily. She had never thought that these two kids would directly ask her for red packets in front of everyone!

She originally thought that Yun Shishi's children were taught the rules from young not to ask for red packets directly. Therefore, she reckoned that she would be able to get by without giving one!

She was strapped for cash recently, after all. If not for being in a difficult situation, why would she shamelessly come here for a New Year's Eve reunion meal?

Even the money they used for the cab was shamelessly borrowed from Yun Yecheng!

These two boys were clearly trying to make fun of her by asking for red packets at a time like this!

She was momentarily at a loss on what to do.

Seeing how she was stunned on the spot, not taking out any red packets even after a while, the younger boy's expression collapsed as he said in disappointment, "It couldn't be that grandaunt did not prepare our red packets, could it? So petty!"

The older one covered his mouth with his hand as he laughed secretly before saying in a slightly disdainful manner, "Grandaunt, it couldn't be that you're unable to give us a few hundred yuan, could it? It's the New Year today. It's fine that you came empty-handed, but if you didn't even prepare our red packets, then aren't you just here for the free food and drinks?!"

The two fellas echoed after each other as they tried to tear down the older woman's dignity!

If such words were said by their mother, she would seem acrimonious and unreasonable. She may even appear mean by saying something like that.

However, as it was said by these two dumplings, it only made people laugh at their innocuous words when they heard it. They would not think that these two were being disrespectful and rude!

After all, every action and word from Xiang Yu had been observed clearly by everyone. It would really seem as if she were just here to indulge in the revelry like the two dumplings had said!

If she had not prepared red packets for the children, it was inevitable that they would be disappointed!

Xiang Yu immediately crouched in front of the children and tried to reason with them. "It isn't that I didn't prepare money for you two; it's just that I forgot to bring any red packet envelopes with me! We were in a hurry to avoid being caught in a jam, so blame me for not having the time to prepare it properly! Grandaunt will prepare them for you both tomorrow, alright?"

“So it’s because you didn’t bring any red packets! Hang on a minute, grandaunt!”

Youyou smiled mischievously before running into the living room and pulling open a drawer to retrieve a stack of brand-new red packet envelopes from the supermarket. He took out two packets, ran back to Xiang Yu, and handed them to her.

“Here!”

Mu Yazhe tried to hold back his laughter as he sat at the side.

How could he not grasp this fella’s intention?!

His son was obviously annoyed by the mother-daughter trio. The boy genuinely wanted to embarrass the three so he refused to give them an out.

He was not lacking in red-packet money, but he could not stomach these three ingrates’ presence.

The middle-aged woman looked at the red-packet envelopes handed over to her by the boy awkwardly before resentfully accepting them. However, she did not make any further actions.

What kind of joke was this?!

She had only brought a hundred yuan with her. What was she going to do? Tear the hundred into two and give each child half?

This child may seem fair, adorable, and innocent, but why was he such an imp?!

She was using the excuse of not bringing any red-packet envelopes, yet he had ‘thoughtfully’ prepared for her two!

## **Chapter 2208: Opening Gambit**

“This...”

Xiang Yu felt so awkward that she wanted to cry.

“Lil’ bro, forget it; I can tell that grandaunt isn’t prepared at all. She’s too poor to be capable of taking out 200 yuan!” coolly said Little Yichen all of a sudden.

Her face flushed with anger as if blood were about to seep out from her.

Youyou furrowed his brows in dissatisfaction. “Grandaunt didn’t put in the effort for us at all; it’s heartbreaking that you didn’t even prepare red packets for us!”

Yun Yecheng and Yun Yehou exchanged glances, not knowing whether to laugh or cry. At the same time, the latter felt humiliated. This wife of his was utterly embarrassing!

He could not continue watching this. His wife was an embarrassment for letting two kids treat her like a joke, and he said immediately, “Boys, come here. Granduncle has prepared red packets for you!”

The twins held hands and walked to their granduncle, who pulled out two red packets from the canvas bag beside him. These red packets were secretly prepared earlier by this old man, and they looked quite thick.

Though he had come to the capital, he had been receiving allowance in his bank account periodically from his hometown despite him being handicapped. Plus, he was restless. Therefore, when his older brother was at work, he would do some crafts at home or simple needlework, which let him accumulate a small sum. Although these red packets did not contain much, they were still a token of his appreciation.

It was the New Year. Preparing red packets was a must as it symbolized the festivity.

Seeing this, Yun Yecheng immediately stopped him. "Yehou, forget it; you don't have much on you, so keep them to buy something for yourself to eat! It's enough for these two children to know your kind intentions!"

"Oh, my! Older brother, it is the New Year! Red packets for children are a token of happiness, you can't save much on them!"

Adamant on giving these to the boys, he pulled both kids to the side and stuffed one red packet into each of their hands gleefully.

Youyou glanced at his great uncle's rough fingers, with some of them still wrapped in band-aids. He did not need to think much about it to know how this money was earned!

Little Yichen was slightly embarrassed to take the red packet, while his younger twin smiled with squinted eyes. "Thank you, granduncle! I wish you good health and a Happy New Year!"

With that, he naturally stuffed the red packet into his pocket.

His older twin accepted it as well when he saw his actions and returned his granduncle some new-year blessings with a smile.

After his handicapped sibling gave the kids red packets, Yun Yecheng naturally had to follow suit. Thus, he handed each of his grandsons huge red packets as well.

The lads competed in saying their new-year blessings as they received the red packets.

The older boy even adorably opened his grandfather's red packet to peek.

His twin went over to look as well, only for him to hide it as he asked vigilantly, "What are you doing?"

"I am just looking! It's not like I'm snatching your red packet, petty fella!"

He smiled evily before reaching out to take his younger twin's red packet. "Let me look at yours first!"

"No!"

The little boys caused a din with their bickering.

Both older men laughed loudly before replying at the same time, "You two dummies, you received the same amount!"

The atmosphere slowly became warm again.

The awkwardness in the air finally melted.

With only this opening gambit, Xiang Yu retreated. She sat at the table and forced herself to act nonchalant as she ate some melon seeds. It seemed that she had finally known her place!

Youyou rushed back to the kitchen after resting for a while to prepare the reunion meal with his mother.

Suddenly, the doorbell rang.

### **Chapter 2209: Uncle is so petty!**

Suddenly, the doorbell rang.

Yun Yecheng immediately stood up to open the door. His son-in-law held him back by the shoulder and said, "Dad, you can take a seat; I'll open the door, instead."

"Oh, alright!"

The elderly man was taken by pleasant surprise and, with a smile, sat down obediently.

Mu Yazhe walked to the front door and opened it, only to see his brother-in-law standing there.

"Brother-in-law?"

Gong Jie was surprised to see him opening the door. He raised his eyebrow but still naturally addressed him as so.

The latter hummed in acknowledgment.

Surprisingly, the former did not wear his iconic white coat today. Instead, he wore a red shirt with a black, long coat which covered his knees. He had a pair of black, straight, and fitting pants on with a matching pair of black long boots. He seemed high-spirited, tall, and intimidating.

It was unclear if he was conforming to the festive occasion, but the red shirt he was wearing added more charm to his fair skin and soft, deep eyes.

There were very few men who could pull off a red shirt.

He stuffed his hands in his coat's pockets and walked in. He glanced across the living room and smiled at the unfamiliar faces as he greeted, "Happy New Year!"

"You're Shishi's younger brother, right?" asked Yun Yehou with a smile.

He had seen this young man once during his niece's engagement ceremony. As he had very similar features to her, he had a strong impression of the chap.

When Gong Jie saw him, he gave a proper gentlemanly bow and smiled. "Yes! Hello, uncle!"

"Nice to meet you! Come have a seat!"

“The reunion meal isn’t done yet! Go and have some melon seeds and peanuts first!” chimed in Yun Yecheng as he received the man.

When Little Yichen saw his uncle, he flocked to greet him like a lively bird. He circled him, jumping and chattering, “Uncle, Happy New Year! May you be prosperous!”

In other words, hand over your red packet!

The man was stunned. He immediately slapped his forehead heavily and lowered his head guiltily, confessing, “Little boy, I forgot to prepare a red packet for you. What should I do?”

BOOM!

The lad’s face collapsed as if the sky had been ripped apart.

He shriveled his lips indignantly and seemed to be very unhappy.

His uncle’s red packet was the one he had been looking forward to the most.

Last night, under the covers, his younger twin secretly told him that their uncle was an extremely rich and powerful man. One could say that his wealth flowed like oil, and he was worth millions and millions. Last year, their uncle gave Youyou a red packet during the New Year, and his method simple and rough. He directly transferred ten million pounds to his account.

The boy was utterly shocked.

Ten million and in pound sterling?!

This felt even better than winning the lottery.

Little Yichen widened his eyes when he heard that!

Oh, gosh!

He had never seen such an impressive red packet before!

The biggest red packet he had received on New Year’s Eve came from his father, and it had only been a few million. That was already an enormous amount!

Therefore, he was genuinely excited about Gong Jie’s red packet. He had even prepared his bank account for it, yet now, his uncle was telling him that he forgot to prepare his red packet.

Mu Yichen’s face darkened in an instant.

“Uncle is so petty!”

The little fella spat bitterly before turning to leave coldly, planning to ignore him.

### **Chapter 2210: Star Cruise!**

Gong Jie let loose a chuckle and carried the boy from his back to sit on his lap. Little Yichen continued to ignore him. With his arms folded across his chest indignantly, he refused to look at his uncle.

The man decided to tease his nephew. He perked the boy's cherubic cheek with his lips, but the action rendered no effect on the boy. He squeezed the kid's small hand carefully and asked with a slight frown, "Is my little nephew angry with me?"

"Uncle, you're so petty! You didn't even prepare a red packet for me, so why should I bother with you?" grumbled the lad matter-of-factly.

Just then, the Yun sisters came downstairs after touring the villa. They were chit-chatting away until they reached the hall and saw Gong Jie sitting with the older lad at the table. The siblings' faces, especially Yun Qingmiao, turned ashen almost instantly!

The older sister's face was especially terrible-looking as she vividly remembered how this man had splashed wine on her without mercy at her cousin's engagement party! At that time, she had tried getting close to him but was given such a humiliating experience after she touched his sleeve accidentally. This had left an indelible fear in her.

Hence, when she saw him again, she retracted her shoulders in fear subconsciously and dared not approach the table. Instead, she went to hide in the living room.

Her younger sister, meanwhile, gracefully walked up to the table and sat next to her mother.

"Mom—"

"Keep quiet! Mind your manners and don't chatter!" warned her mother immediately.

The younger daughter obeyed her instruction and kept mum subsequently.

Meanwhile, the man was still trying to cheer up his nephew. Alas, the latter was too upset to bother with the former.

In the end, the adult had no choice but to take out a small, exquisite gift box from his pocket. Actually, the man had already prepared special gifts for his two nephews. He had ditched giving out red packets in favor of giving them more novel presents this year. Originally, he planned to pass these gifts after midnight when the day crossed into a new year, but since his nephew was looking terribly unhappy, he decided to present the gift now!

Little Yichen was still sulking when he noticed the man behind him shifted and looked away. The next instant, a small box appeared before his eyes in his uncle's palm!

"Here. This is your new-year present!" cajoled his uncle lovingly.

Cocking a brow, the boy looked at the man in mild surprise.

"New-year present?!"

"Yes, red packets are passé!" Gong Jie hooked his lips into a smile. "I prepared this especially for you; I think you'll like it!"

The boy's eyes sparkled somewhat upon hearing that. Feeling curious, he took the present from his uncle's hand and seemed as if he could not wait to open the box. He swept his gaze obliquely at his

uncle, who was looking at him with a sly smile. The boy cleared his throat and tried to appear nonchalant. "What kind of a present is this?"

"Why don't you open it to see? You'll know soon enough!"

Nodding in agreement, the lad opened the box gently and, under everyone's watchful eyes, took out an extravagant key from inside the box.

The key had a vintage design, where a mini grand yacht was carved on the antique key tag. Its intricate patterns hinted that this was handmade.

The shape of the key was also particularly unique. It was shaped according to a bird's-eye view of the yacht, its back marked with some glittering English alphabets which spelled 'Star Cruise'.

The reason one could use the description 'glittering' on these words was that every alphabet was inlaid with beautifully carved diamonds!