

## Sweet Love 2191

### Chapter 2191: It is his child.

“Why... Why must he treat me this way?!” She howled in anguish and hid under her blanket, crying nonstop.

Jiang Qimeng felt sorry to see her daughter in such a helpless and despondent state yet was also furious to see her being so stubborn!

“Isn’t it a blessing that you’re conceiving Mu Yancheng’s child?! He’s a better choice compared to that cousin of mine now! If he’s competent enough to become the next family head, you’ll be the matriarch of the Mus! Even though things didn’t go according to what you planned, it’s just as well! It’s better that you’re conceiving his child than my cousin’s!”

Her son kept his silence at the side.

Her daughter, too, did not respond to her. The lass was seemingly silently weeping as the outline of her body could be seen trembling under the blanket.

She walked over to her and comforted, “Don’t dwell on the sad things and look on the brighter side! Marrying the right husband is very important for a girl! It’s as good as being given a second life! As long as you pick the right person, you’ll get to live a comfortable yet blissful life! Besides, Yancheng is quite an outstanding child, and he has a much gentler disposition than Yazhe. If you work hard to please him, he’ll surely dote on you and treat you as the apple of his eye! That, however, won’t happen with that cousin of mine! Haven’t you straightened out your thoughts at all? Are you still pining for him even now? He’s not having it good now that he’s no longer the Mus’ family head. You’ll only stand to suffer should you insist on being together with him! I know that you got it bad for him, but love isn’t enough to feed you! While I admit that he’s an excellent man with outstanding looks, he’s a far cry from his brother now that he’s down and out! A good bird chooses a tree for itself to perch on; women should have keen foresight and know how to treat themselves better! They should choose their husbands by seeing who the best choice is! Mu Yancheng isn’t a bad choice!”

Only after much coaxing did her daughter finally cease crying and did her mood slightly improve.

This child was her daughter’s only hope now!

With the child, the Songs might be able to stage a comeback and relive their glorious past through their connections with the Mu family!

Even Song Yunxi said, “Enya, just give up on Uncle Mu! Seeing how he set you up, he obviously doesn’t like you at all! Worse still, he even made use of your chastity to threaten our father and our family’s interest. Why would you be so hung up on such a vicious man?!”

“I can’t take it lying down!” Song Enya gritted her teeth. “I’m filled with indignation! How am I any way inferior to that b\*tch?”

She had actually thought things through last night, but after waking up, she was once again shrouded with dark thoughts!

As she recalled what had happened, she felt that she had been seriously done in by the man she loved!

Yes, she might have schemed and resorted to using dirty means to be with him, but that was all done in the name of love. She had never once harbored the thought of harming him!

Even when her body was in such a frail condition, she chose to suffer and go through with the IVF-ET procedure over the less painful artificial insemination because the latter had a much lower rate of success. It had not been easy for her to conceive this child!

In the end?

She got ruthlessly played by the man she loved. This feeling of anguish was akin to having a knife slashing at her heart time and again!

Her immense love for him had evolved into monstrous hatred!

### **Chapter 2192: Hate him to the marrow of her bones.**

Her present self was full of hatred for Mu Yazhe, down to the marrow of her bones. Her love for him was so persistent and crazy, but what did she get in return? She was made into a clown by him!

She recalled the fear and worries she had when she started the in-vitro treatment, and it stirred up her repressed agony. She could not let the matter rest.

*How did I end up in such a pathetic state?*

“You are exceptional and outstanding; it’s his loss for not choosing you! Don’t harp on this anymore, daughter!” gently consoled her mother again.

Song Enya listened to her words with gritted teeth and felt a little better after that.

*Brother Mu, just you wait and see! One day, I’ll repay all the humiliation you’ve brought upon me!*

When Song Zhengguo returned home from a dinner appointment that night, he looked terribly upset.

His wife had just settled their daughter not long before she noticed his sullen mood. Feeling vexed, she questioned, “What’s wrong with you? You don’t look good!”

“Did you go to the hospital today?” Ignoring her question, he shot his own, instead.

She nodded. “We did the test twice and both results point to Mu Yancheng!”

The middle-aged man looked worried rather than happy when he heard that. “I found out today that, apparently, the Mus did not know about this yet!”

“Of course! Our daughter did a clean job in ensuring that nobody would find out. It’s not surprising that they don’t know about this.”

“That’s not the problem here.”

“Oh? Then, what is the issue?”

Her husband glanced at her obliquely and spouted an unexpected piece of news to her. “Mu Linfeng is going to arrange a matchmaking session for Mu Yancheng! Are you aware of this?”

The middle-aged woman was dumbfounded. "Matchmaking?!"

"Yes! I was told that they already have a lady in mind. The old man wants to matchmake the chap with the third missy from the Lins!"

"Lin Xueya?!"

"That's right!"

Jiang Qimeng's face started sinking as well, and she exclaimed worriedly, "The Lins... are a formidable family, aren't they?! Lin Xueya not only comes from an excellent family but also highly educated. Even though she's the third child in the family, she is doted upon by the Lins. It's no wonder Mu Linfeng is considering this girl for matchmaking, but... what about our daughter now?!"

"I'm also deliberating over this problem!" retorted the man with furrowed brows.

His wife suggested, "How about we speak to Yancheng about this?"

"There's no hurry! That missy is terribly arrogant; she may be keen on Mu Yazhe but not necessarily on Mu Yancheng! We mustn't cheapen ourselves by appearing too eager!"

"So... are you saying that we should adopt a wait-and-see approach?"

"Yes!" Her husband nodded, then asked after his daughter with concern. "How's Enya now? Is her mood more settled now?"

"She is feeling a little better now, but somehow, she's still unable to let the matter rest. It'll take some time for her to come to terms with all this." Suddenly, she recalled something and asked with trepidation, "What about that matter; did you agree to Yazhe's demand last night?!"

"You mean the fee that he blackmailed me with so that he wouldn't spill the beans?"

"Yes!"

His face sank, and after a long, heavy sigh, he shook his head in resignation. "I guess I'll have to give up that land parcel if he wants that! I can't think of any way out other than this. He can consider himself lucky this time!"

"Are you sure that... this is the best way out? That land is priceless!"

Her husband snorted indignantly. "Tell me, then: What else can we do?!"

### **Chapter 2193: Teach him a lesson!**

"Dad!"

Unbeknown to them, Song Yunxi had been standing on the upper level, quietly listening to their conversation all this time. The young chap could take it no longer and blurted out, "Dad, why are you still afraid of that man?! Uncle Mu doesn't have his family's backing anymore; he has nothing to his name now, so we don't have to continue giving him face! If you can't settle him yourself, then I'll do it

on your behalf! I know a band of brothers who can finish off a man like him easily! He's just a poor chap without power and money!"

"B\*st\*rd!" His father looked up and lambasted him. "You-who-know-nothing, you're in no position to rant! Speaking of your so-called brothers, don't tell me you're referring to the Gus? Haven't I told you to stop mixing around with the mafia?! Why are you still speaking to them behind my back?!"

Looking embarrassed and upset, the young chap was stumped on the spot with a red face. "I—"

"If you are so free, why don't you read books to gain more knowledge? Do you think that your uncle is really down and out without the Mus' support?!" His father scoffed and continued mockingly. "That arrogant fella wouldn't have walked away so casually without laying down an exit plan for himself! You may think he's without power and status, but if you go against him directly, you are bound to lose! He established a network of his, with support from legal and illegal sources alike, when he was still the Mu empire's chief! Don't you try to hit a rock with an egg!"

The young man was put off by his father's criticism. After snorting indignantly, he turned around and dashed off to his room, closing the door with a loud *bang*!

This antagonized his father further as the middle-aged man continued angrily. "It looks like this chap is too spoiled, too! How dared he throw a tantrum just because I chided him?! Are the two siblings trying to drive me to death?!"

His wife immediately tried to appease him. "The boy is still young and impulsive. You need not bother with him!"

He did not agree, though. "He's already in his twenties, so how can you say that he's young and impulsive? If not, then when can he learn prudence? Must he reach his seventies or eighties before he learns something?"

Inside his supposedly soundproofed room, Song Yunxi listened to his father's angry reprimand with increasing frustration. His hands balled into fists, and having nowhere to vent his unhappiness, he punched the door, instead. After hitting the door ferociously several times, seemingly unperturbed by the pain on his fists, he was finally able to release some of his pent-up emotions!

*Mu Yazhe!*

*That ruthless man!*

*If not for him, our family wouldn't end up in such a plight!*

*No way!*

*I won't take this lying down. That guy must be taught a lesson, or he'll take us as mere pushovers!*

The young man's eyes glinted with wild fury at the thought!

...

It was late at night where the scene was bustling on East Street.

Inside Jingyi Elite Private Club.

As the most exclusive private club on East Street, as well as one of the Big Fives within the capital, it had all the facilities in one place for entertainment, conference, and accommodation. Not everyone, not even an upstart, could afford a club like this where the membership fee cost millions a year. Those who frequent this club were the business elites and nobilities.

### **Chapter 2194: The Crown Prince**

This was a place meant for the rich and famous. The officials and rich men's sons would descend upon this place to indulge in ultimate luxuries every night without fail.

Jingyi Elite Private Club was a property under the Gus. Hence, their power was also consolidated within this area.

Inside the swimming pool, Gu Jinglian leaned against the pool ledge with a bath towel draped across his shoulders. He was mindlessly sipping the red wine from the glass he held in his hand.

Suddenly, a man in a tuxedo walked over to him, stopped next to the pool, leaned over, and whispered into his ear cautiously, "Master Gu, a guest is here to see you."

His almond-shaped eyes were closed for a quick wink before he heard that. He slowly opened them and glanced obliquely at his subordinate with an arrogant sneer. When he heard the name of the guest, he gulped down the remainder of red wine, turned around, and exited the pool using the pool ladder.

His taut and muscular physique was instantly exposed. Following his beautiful contours, the transparent water droplets dripped onto the ground. The atmosphere was thick with his devilish yet captivating presence. It was enough to set any lady's heart, even a strong-willed one, racing.

The moment he got out of the pool, a helper approached to receive the glass from him. Another respectfully followed suit, draping an extravagant bathrobe over his torso.

Inside the private chamber, Song Yunxi had already drunk a full bottle of red wine. He was feeling unusually frustrated and bothered, especially when he recalled his father's cowardice.

*How could he give up that golden piece of land so readily to Mu Yazhe?!*

The thought infuriated him further, and he gulped down another glass of wine begrudgingly.

Just as he opened the second bottle of wine, the door opened and in walked Gu Jinglian escorted by his entourage.

He looked up, and upon seeing the man he had come to meet, his face broke into a wide, humble smile as he stood up to greet the man in deference. He dared not tarry before this mafia boss even though he was a proud, young master himself.

"Master Gu, how are you?" He smiled politely.

The other man did not seem to hear the greeting as he strode nonchalantly to the couch and took a seat. After sitting down, Gu Jinglian crossed his legs elegantly like a true noble on his throne.

The man had changed into full attire after coming out of the pool. Even though his raven-dark hair was damp and tousled, it did not affect his suave demeanor at the least.

Song Yunxi was not bothered by the haughtiness displayed by the ring leader, nor did he feel embarrassed by the latter's dismissal. In fact, his smile became wider as he attempted to win Master Gu's favor.

To him, a man like this one ought to stand high above the rest!

As one sank deeper in the underground society, one would learn to pay attention to the hierarchy and ranks existing within this circle, and naturally, one's background would denote the status and privilege received!

"Take a seat. You don't have to stand on ceremony."

The mafia prince spouted lightly and signaled with a hook of his finger. Soon, a waiter approached to open a fresh bottle of Château Lafite-Rothschild.

Song Yunxi silently sized up the man sitting before him and could not help admiring the other party's beautiful profile. This was a look that did not fit the image of a crown prince in the mafia world.

Gu Jinglian's mother was one of the top ten beauties in the capital, and he had inherited her beautiful features. He had an androgynous look which was mesmerizing. His sharp contour made him look polished, while his exquisite nose and mellow eyes could make any woman jealous!

It was a look that transcended gender; it was so breathtaking and astonishing that it would make many ladies hung their heads in shame.

### **Chapter 2195: Teach him a lesson on my behalf!**

His eyes were especially captivating with pupils a shade different from the rest. His pure amber irises, shadowed by fluttering lashes, were like top-grade colored glaze which glittered beautifully.

He looked up and raised his wrist to look at his watch as if setting a timer for the young lieutenant's visit.

This was a man who was particular about time. Whoever came to look for him, regardless of their status, he would only give them thirty minutes of his time. Their visit must be short and sweet; he had no patience otherwise.

"Speak; why are you looking for me?"

Song Yunxi rubbed his palms together nervously, gave a few courtesies, and went straight to the point thereafter. He gave a summary of his family's recent tussle with Mu Yazhe to the overlord first, then exclaimed, "That guy is a b\*st\*rd and a bully! I can't swallow my pride further after his act of pushing us to the brink! He needs to be taught a lesson!"

Gu Jinglian lifted his chin ever so slightly before curling his lips slyly into a soft grin. "Oh? Are you looking for me just to complain?"

His retort was not only sarcastic but also tinged with displeasure!

Although the Song chap had known the mafia prince for some time, they were only mere acquaintances. The former had tried ways and means to get close to this mafia elite but all was to no avail. The latter was too high and mighty for him despite his best sycophantic efforts.

He explained, "I'm hoping that you can teach him a lesson on our behalf! Master Gu, I know that you have your means and resources to put down that guy easily! Mu Yazhe is just a puny worm before you—"

"I'm not interested."

Looking bored, the mafia prince interrupted the young man with an impassive face and then gave a lazy yawn.

*Mu Yazhe?*

He knew that the competent leader of the Mu Group had recently relinquished his role, but this did not mean that he was bored or foolish enough to lock horns, head-to-head, with a former powerful leader.

The Gus and the Mus were age-old competitors and knew each other well.

Song Yunxi was obtuse and ignorant, with a shallow understanding of the powers at work, but this was not so for the mafia leader!

Although that former conglomerate leader might seem down and out, crushed and defeated, without the Mus' support currently, he knew that this was only temporary! That guy was merely concealing his power behind the scenes as he bided his time. It would be a matter of time before the man rose from the ashes and regained his former glory!

An ambitious man like Gu Jinglian would know how another similar mind worked. They would never allow themselves to sink so low that they were doomed for failure. The abdication was but a step forward in the long run!

All in all, he had no interest in fighting with another formidable opponent. Besides, the two families had always been minding their business. There was never an outright confrontation between them, nor an existing feud they had to settle with each other.

To outsiders, these two men standing at the zenith might seem to be at odds with each other, but in reality, they were sympathizing with the other party! After all, it would be a pity to lose a worthy opponent as grueling as themselves. Life would be less interesting if that happened!

### **Chapter 2196: You are not interested?!**

Song Yunxi was baffled by his answer. "Not interested?"

"I don't think I have the obligation to help you."

The mafia head seemed to have lost his patience by then, for he stood up and headed straight for the door after tossing that one statement out.

He immediately rose to his feet. "That's not what I meant! As long as you're willing to help me teach that fella a lesson, I definitely won't let you lose out in any way! At the very least, I'll offer you enough remuneration for the help!"

A smirk formed on Gu Jinglian's face. Approaching the mayor's son with hands in his pants' pockets, he bent down slightly to meet the other at face level and spoke in his charming, evil voice. "What makes you think that I'll go provoke my rival, who is as formidable as I am, for the sake of someone whose name I don't even remember?"

The younger chap's eyes bulged wide in surprise.

A cold glint streaked across his eyes as he gripped the other man's chin firmly with his slender fingers and lifted it to scrutinize his face closely.

The latter's stubborn yet indignant look, however, made him appear to be especially childish.

Gu Jinglian suddenly tilted his head, where hints of coldness seeped onto his devilish, handsome countenance, and breathed, "One should never pit themselves against a man with such status and influence like Mu Yazhe unless they're prepared to go all out and stake everything they have to eradicate him."

After a beat, he lazily drawled, "How much do you intend to pay me?"

"How much do you want?"

"How much do I want?" As though he had heard a hilarious joke, he spat, "You don't seem to know the rules!"

"Pardon?"

He patted Song Yunxi's cheek in a provocative yet arrogant manner, which got the latter gritting his teeth sullenly in humiliation, before continuing. "On second thought, he has a net worth of hundreds of billions. Can you even afford to buy his life?"

With that, he released his grip on the mayor's son and turned around scoffing to light a cigarette.

The man took a long drag on the cigarette and, with squinted eyes, nonchalantly added, "Boy, the world isn't as simple as you think. Being the mayor's son doesn't give you the right to come here and cause an embarrassing scene! Just go back to where you came from!"

The waiter then draped a black suit jacket over his shoulders, where its empty sleeves dangled at either side of him, and he coolly made his exit thereafter.

Song Yunxi, who could no longer tolerate the humiliation he had been subjected to, stood up and hollered at the other man, "Stop right there!"

Alas, no matter how authoritative his order sounded, the other man just left the room as though he could not bother to listen to what he had got to say.

Perhaps the wine in his system after drinking an entire bottle gave him the courage, for he daringly launched a furious tirade and vented all his dissatisfaction and humiliation out the next second. "From



what I see, you just don't have the guts to do it! To think the self-proclaimed crown prince of the Gu family is such a coward—no matter how nicely you put your words, you just don't dare to go against Mu Yazhe! The high and mighty Gu Jinglian is nothing more than a wimp, after all!"

In a fit of anger, he aimed a kick at the low table beside him, causing the wine glass to tilt, fall over, and shatter loudly to the ground!

His action earned him weird looks, or perhaps looks of aggression, from the waiters in the private room.

The young man, who had gotten completely tipsy by then, was past caring on whose turf he was on, for he started shouting in an unbridled manner. "What are you looking at?! A bunch of weaklings! Hah!"

He then returned to his seat, picked up a bottle of alcohol, and downed it all in one shot!

### **Chapter 2197: Getting Beaten Up**

Eventually, when he dragged his tired yet inebriated self to leave the place, a group of black-clothed men suddenly barged into the private room.

By now, he was totally wasted to the point that he was staggering and stumbling all over. He swept a look at this group before him and hotly shouted, "What are you guys looking at?!"

Leading these black-clothed men was an imposing fellow, who smilingly said, "You haven't settled your payment yet, Young Master Song!"

"What payment?!" he demanded curtly. "Didn't I only open two bottles of red wine?!"

At the man's signal, the waiter handed the bill over expressionlessly to him. His anger flared up when he saw the amount stated on the receipt. "8,880,000 yuan?!"

"That's right! Please settle the payment before you leave!"

These people were obviously picking a bone with him.

This place belonged to the Gu family, after all. These men, having heard that someone was out to insult their master and had caused a scene on their turf, would naturally try to find ways to make things difficult for him!

"The two bottles of dry red wine cost eight million, while the wine glass you smashed earlier cost 880,000 yuan. Please settle the payment before you leave!"

"My ass! How can that wine be so expensive? You're clearly out to extort money from me!"

"Cut the crap and just hand over the money. We'll no longer play nice if you refuse to pay up!"

Being in a sloshed state, Song Yunxi was not afraid of them at all. He slammed his hand on the table and shot back at them, "Do you guys know who I am?! I'm the mayor's son! What can you possibly do to me?!"

"Ha ha ha..."

The group of people cracked up upon hearing that and did not cease laughing for a good while.

He felt embarrassed and humiliated by their response, so he demanded fiercely, “What are you laughing about?!”

Someone among the group scoffed at him. “To hell with the mayor! Even if the president himself is here, we go by our rules! Mind you, while you’re standing on our turf, you’ll have to play according to our rules! It’s fine if you refuse to pay up, just don’t blame us for turning nasty!”

With that, that person ordered his men, “This chap here dared to dine and dash on our turf; go teach him a good lesson!”

His subordinates, who had been eyeing the scion hungrily from behind their leader, immediately charged forward, surrounded the brazen chap, and gave the latter a good thrashing.

Even though Song Yunxi had a military background and received training in the army, the punches he threw in his current inebriated state were all light and fluttering; there was no strength in them at all. Soon enough, he became at the losing end and got badly beaten up.

Some ten minutes later, he was kicked out of the private club like some sort of trash. He fell to the ground, looking all swollen and bruised.

That man jeered, “Don’t come here and act rich if you don’t have the money, you blithering idiot!”

The door was then closed amid raucous laughter from these people.

With much difficulty, he managed to climb up and stand on his two, wobbly legs. He touched his broken nose, only to feel an excruciating pain shooting through him, and saw his palm stained with fresh blood when he looked down at it. Gritting his teeth, he turned around and walked away unsteadily. Alas, he soon collapsed again after taking just a few steps.

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The leader of the black-clothed men walked into the conference room, where his boss was sitting before a table and leisurely flipping through some documents. He respectfully reported, “Master Gu, we’re done clearing the rubbish!”

Gu Jinglian did not bother to bat an eyelid as he ordered, “Open your eyes wide and see clearly from now on; don’t let just anyone come into the club.”

“Understood, sir.”

All of a sudden, he was struck with a thought, which prompted him to follow-up with a question. “Is he dead yet?”

His underling shook his head and reported, “No, but he’s on the verge of death!”

### **Chapter 2198: Celebrating Lunar New Year Together For The First Time**

He closed the document folder and coldly said, “It’s freezing today. Send a car to take him to a hospital! It’s bad luck for us if he dies here.”

“Noted.”

...

“It’s New Year’s Eve tomorrow!”

Mu Yazhe was in the study, reading a book, when his wife entered the room unnoticed and rested her head on his shoulder. From her cheery expression and her bright, glistening eyes, she appeared to be giddy with excitement!

After her youngest son’s reminder, the woman double-checked the calendar and was only then certain that it would be New Year’s Eve tomorrow!

She was really looking forward to it since this would be the first Lunar New Year that she would be spending with her husband!

The man, however, remained nonchalant and indifferent to the announcement as he continued reading his book and only responded with an ‘oh’.

“Oh?”

Feeling extremely dissatisfied with his aloof attitude, she pried the book away from his hands, forcefully grabbed his chin to make him face her, and enunciated seriously, “Don’t you look forward to the new year at all?”

“What for?”

“...”

Her mood was dampened somewhat by his emotionless response. “You don’t seem to hold much expectation regarding the New Year celebrations.”

Her remark stunned him for a moment, but he soon shot her a bland smile in reply. “I’ve never celebrated Lunar New Year, so it doesn’t feel anything different to any other days!”

“How’s that so?! There are so many things to pay attention to regarding Lunar New Year!”

“Like what?!”

“Since tomorrow is New Year’s Eve, you’re not allowed to busy yourself with work. Come and help us with the preparation.”

Yun Shishi had already started preparing for the new year way before that.

Even though she and the little ones had done a massive spring cleaning, they still needed to do more cleaning the next morning to ensure that both the house and the yard were in a spick-and-span state for the upcoming Lunar New Year. According to customs, one must not sweep the floor of their house for the first three days of the new year, as that would be akin to sweeping away their good fortune.

She had even purchased firecrackers and fireworks in advance. It was a tradition to set off firecrackers in the morning and fireworks at night at the start of each year.

Meanwhile, Youyou had prepared the calligraphy brush, ink, and paper they needed for writing the spring couplets in the living room. By the time Mu Yazhe came into the living room, his wife was already seated before the table with the brush in hand as she racked her brains to think up of some auspicious sayings.

Lying sprawled at the side, Little Yichen mumbled under his breath, “Mommy, is your calligraphy skills up to standard at all?”

His little brother piped up in affirmation, “Of course! Her calligraphy skills are indisputable!”

At that, their mother smugly revealed, “I do have some skills! After all, I always practiced my calligraphy skills during my college days!”

The man approached her and looked quizzically at the two red, spring couplets that had not been inked with words. “What do you intend to write?”

“Erm...” Nothing came to her mind, though, so she had no idea what to write, either.

All of a sudden, Youyou proposed, “For the front door, let’s write ‘May we all be blessed with longevity as time passes, and may our family be blessed with good fortune when spring arrives!’”

He then took out two drawings of Yuchi Jingde and Qin Qiong. “I’ve prepared the drawings, too!”

The older twin’s lips twitched when he saw the drawings. “What are these?”

“Threshold guardians!”

“Threshold guardians?!”

He added, “They are Yuchi Jingde and Qin Qiong!”

Feeling perplexed, his brother asked, “Why do we have to paste these two fellas up?”

He rolled his eyes as he explained, “That’s because they are the prominent generals of the early Tang dynasty! People paste drawings of them on the doors to ward off evil spirits and calamities! Look, they each hold a weapon in their hands, looking fierce and intimidating enough to scare off all bad things.”

### **Chapter 2199: Preparing for Lunar New Year Together**

“I can do the same!” Little Yichen proceeded to flex his arm muscles. “Put a drawing of me at the entranceway! I want to become a threshold guardian, too!”

“You?!”

His brother snorted in disdain. “With your short arms and legs, are you even fit to become a threshold guardian?! Yuchi Jingde and Qin Qiong are marshals under Li Shimin for goodness’s sake! This tradition came about after the latter succeeded the throne. Because he killed countless people, he was unable to sleep well and would always have nightmares haunting him. His courtiers proposed to have the two generals to stand guard outside his chamber, and he managed to sleep well at night ever since. Later, he ordered artisans to draw the two generals on papers and paste them at all palace doors.”

“Youyou... are you a walking encyclopedia? You’re so knowledgeable!”

The younger one shot back in disdain, “Of course! I’m no simpleton like you.”

While the two, little fellows were bickering, their mother finished writing the couplet and proceeded to show off her work. “I’m done writing!”

Surprise colored Mu Yazhe’s eyes when he took a gander at the couplet.

The handwriting was clear, pretty, yet graceful. The calligraphy piece was indeed beautifully written.

The older twin gaped in shock and dumbly cried, “Your handwriting looks pretty good, mommy!”

Yun Shishi, however, suddenly felt lost again. “What should we write for the bedroom then?”

“May the lovebirds live happily together forever, and may all marital couples be blessed with conjugal bliss!” rattled off Youyou once more.

The couple exchanged looks and hung their heads down in embarrassment, feeling ashamed that their cultural level could not even be compared to a child...

The spring couplets were all done, but they were only to be put up on the doors the next day, which was Lunar New Year’s Eve.

Youyou then brought a stack of red papers and two pairs of scissors over, saying that he wanted to do some Chinese paper-cutting.

Feeling curious, his older brother excitedly got him to teach him the craft.

The boy had always been good with handicraft work. In fact, he used to make all the festive paper-cuttings himself, and his work was in no way inferior to those bought outside.

Their father’s curiosity and interest were piqued, while watching the little ones cutting the papers here and there. He, therefore, picked up a piece of red paper and a pair of scissors and tried following them. Alas, his paper-cutting turned out to be a complete mess.

Yun Shishi could no longer resist chuckling as she witnessed this from the side.

Upon seeing how poor their father was at handicraft work, Youyou sniggered behind his hands while his older brother mercilessly mocked the man, “Daddy’s so stupid!”

He shot his older son a disgruntled look and snorted all righteously. “Well, I don’t have anyone teaching me!”

“I’ll teach you, then!”

His younger son then abandoned his twin to sit on his lap and did some personal one-to-one coaching for him!

Paper-cutting was an intriguing craft.

With a fold of the red paper and a snip of the scissors here and there, Youyou eventually unfolded the finished piece to reveal a neat and perfect Chinese character of the word ‘fortune’!

Mu Yazhe turned his attention to learn the craft seriously. Under his son's guidance, he managed to pick up the basic skills of paper-cutting, and his cuttings looked somewhat okay now.

The boy nodded in satisfaction and gave his appraisal. "You've improved a little."

After pasting the paper-cuttings on the windows, doors, and walls, the house was immediately filled with a festive atmosphere.

As the man carried his older son in his arms and stared at the clear glass windows with the red paper-cuttings pasted on them, an involuntary smile spread on his face.

*So this is how it feels to celebrate the Lunar New Year. How heartwarming it is.*

He used to spend most of his Lunar New Year in the office, and by the time he knocked off from work, Little Yichen was already fast asleep. On the rare occasions that he was off from work, he would spend the day accompanying the boy, though they only played chess and some other games at most due to them not having many hobbies and interests. That was how the father and son spent their New Year in the past.

### **Chapter 2200: Big, Red Lanterns Hanging High Up**

He never knew that celebrating the new year with his family could be so heartwarming and blissful.

Truth be told, the true festive spirit was not on the streets but at home and in one's heart.

Having a family reunion was the true meaning of the festive season!

Mu Yazhe suddenly understood the reason why his employees were all so eager to rush back home at the end of each year. According to the company's usual practice, they were free to go on an earlier leave, provided they were done with whatever work they had on hand. They would, therefore, muster all their energy and do their best to clear the pile of work they had over the fortnight before year end. It was for the sake of spending some quality time with their family and loved ones on the meaningful day!

He pasted the last paper-cutting on the study room's window and lifted Little Yichen in his arms, exchanging warm smiles with each other.

"Daddy! Daddy!"

Smiling brightly at him, Youyou came running toward him with two big, red lanterns in his hands. "I need your help, daddy!"

"What do you need help with?"

The man put down the boy in his arms and walked over to his other son, only to be eagerly pulled toward the front door by the latter. It turned out that the younger twin wanted to hang two red lanterns at the entranceway of their house to create a festive mood.

Unfortunately, due to his short stature, it was hard for him to hang them up even with his mother carrying him up. There was also no ladder at home, so he could only seek help from his father.

Standing at 1.88-meter tall, the man lifted his son high in the air effortlessly, allowing the little one to hang up the lanterns easily. The moment the lanterns were hung, their house was filled with a festive mood.

As the eve of the lunar new year was drawing near, Yun Shishi specially drove to the supermarket to buy the vegetables and meat, as well as the dumpling skins for dumpling-making, needed for the reunion dinner in advance.

It was a custom for families to gather together, wrap dumplings, and eat them for dinner on Lunar New Year's Eve.

While on the way home, she was suddenly reminded of something and, as such, suggested, "Let's invite Xiao Jie over for dinner tomorrow! It's only another pair of chopsticks at most, anyway! It'll be livelier with more people around!"

"Okay!" Youyou expressed his agreement excitedly.

Her husband had no objections regarding her suggestion, either. It was his first time celebrating the new year with his family, so he, too, felt that it would be livelier with more people around.

She, therefore, made a call to Gong Jie and excitedly extended the invitation to him as soon as the call connected. "Xiao Jie, it's Lunar New Year's Eve tomorrow. Do you want to join us for a reunion dinner tomorrow?"

There was a long period of silence on the other end before her brother eventually posed a question. "Lunar New Year's Eve? What's that?"

His question stumped her.

Somehow, she had momentarily forgotten that she and her brother had never truly celebrated the new year when they were young. She could vaguely recall that their mother had been tight on cash back then; as such, having meat and fish for their New Year's Eve dinner basically meant that they were having a decent new-year celebration.

Her brother, who grew up abroad after their mother's demise, could be considered half a foreigner. As such, it was only understandable that he was unfamiliar with the practice and terms regarding the spring festival.

She, therefore, earnestly explained, "It's the eve of the Chinese New Year tomorrow, so I'm thinking that we should have a reunion dinner together! It's livelier with more people around! After dinner, we're going to the riverside to release fireworks in celebration of the new year. Do you want to join us?"

She had already purchased the fireworks, in fact.

For this year's celebration, she had bought a lot of pretty, artistic fireworks for them to release at the riverside by midnight to welcome the new year.