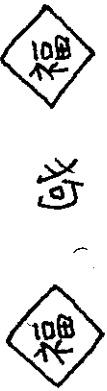


Happy Year of the Dog!

余愛蓮  
新年快樂  
Vol. 2

Cousins-in-law

with the  
New Year  
Chinese



Ris mother  
Try a little  
piece of  
年糕!

The redish  
cake is very good.  
Have this  
small \*  
\*not small  
Aunt A.

The cousins-in-law live in a house across the street from the Huntington. There's a marble staircase in the foyer. I am immediately pried with food. Aunt A brought a suitcase of 粽子 from Minnesota. Ri's family slices them and fries them in egg.

生日快樂!  
萬事如意!

Look how  
well she  
waffles!

if they believe me.  
understand, so I don't know they keep saying stuff I  
Mandarin is pretty bad, but  
"國語!" I keep saying my  
R. tells everyone "She speaks  
what I wrote in Chinese.  
card, and she shows everyone  
give Aunt A her birthday  
Delighted exclamations. I  
and satunas to R.'s mother.  
I present the mandarin

The next day we went to Din Tai Fung for an early lunch. This location was in a mall much decorated for Chinese New Year. We had Xiaolongbao and noodles and black sesame buns for dessert.



Back at the house, I got to hold 4-month-old baby  
A. ü

The younger cousins expressed New Year's wishes to their elders in exchange for 紅包. R. and her sister E. gave me 紅包 too. I gave E. the UCLA t-shirt for baby A. One of R.'s uncles sang a couple of karaoke songs.



Dinner was at a restaurant. There were fourteen of us in a private room. Four generations. There was char siu, roast pork, duck, shrimp, scallops, lobster, fish maw soup (who knew maw didn't mean mouth in this case?), drapy white mushroom, fried rice, lettuce wraps, and more. Red bean soup and the second tier of Aunt A's birthday cake from 85°C for dessert. R. and her aunt kept putting morsels on my plate.

Are you dating anyone in LA?

E.

No.

Do you like Asian guys or white guys better?

E.

...

me