



AUTHOR'S NOTE:

Dear Reader,

Lunar New Year is the most important holiday of the year in many Asian countries. The holiday celebrates the beginning of the new year. No matter how far away families may be during the rest of the year, they come together at Lunar New Year to celebrate.

Each of these countries have their own customs and traditions. In Taiwan, the celebration begins with the reunion dinner on the eve of Lunar New Year. Families connect once again with food and drink, stories and songs. And much laughter and joy.

Many of the foods served at Lunar New Year in Taiwan are special. Oranges are a traditional food because they are a happy color and, in Taiwanese, *orange* sounds like *good luck*. Another dish that is eaten because of similarity in sounds is turnip cake. It is actually made from daikon radish, and *good radish* sounds similar to *good omen*.

The fish is served whole so the new year will be one of happiness, peace, and health. Fortune cake is special not only because of its name but also because the top of it looks like it is smiling. Everyone loves to ring in the new year with a smile!

Like many families, my American holiday meals growing up incorporated foods from two cultures. Alongside a holiday turkey, we made hot pot. Our celebrations became so much richer by simply

bringing our cultures together. Here, Chloe's family adds apple pie as a new tradition for Lunar New Year. Who can resist a warm apple pie at a holiday meal?

