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Her own daughter was also a pillar of the Ouyang family. If her relatives still tried to seize the family's assets, it would only end up hurting her daughter.

A child is always a mother's greatest weakness—her Achilles' heel.

"That's right. No matter how outstanding someone is, even a business genius, there will be times when they stumble. It's normal for a company to suffer losses in one or two quarters. What's important is how we adjust our strategies afterward and turn things around."

"I have confidence in both myself and my elder sister," Ouyang Ting said, expressing her respect for the hardships her sister had endured.

"Go to bed early."

The second wife didn't add anything more. She got up, gave her daughter a few parting instructions, and headed upstairs.

When she returned to her room, her husband had already woken from a nap. Seeing her walk in, still wearing makeup, he asked, "You're still up? Where did you go? Or did something happen?"

It was still pitch-black outside—nowhere near dawn.

"It's still early morning. I was waiting for Tingting to come back so I could talk to her. She leaves early and comes back late every day. As her mother, I feel like I haven't seen her in days."

"Tingting is busy. Don't bother her if it's not important. What did you say to her?"

The second wife sat at the dressing table and began removing her jewelry. "Aya has a boyfriend now, and Tingting is just a bit younger than her. Lately, the young master of the Long family from H City has been pursuing Tingting."

"I asked her if she was interested. But she said she didn't like men with the surname Long and that nothing would come of it. She told me not to worry about her personal life."

Her husband responded, "Why are you getting involved in her business? She has her own mind. That so-called young master of the Long family—what nonsense. He's just the son of a criminal. With what his father has done, there's no way our daughter can marry into that kind of family."

"There's no solid evidence."

"You really think there's no evidence? Of course there is. People say: 'If you don't want others to know, don't do it.' Just wait. One day, he'll face the law and be punished severely."

"Do you really think there's no evidence? There has to be. If you don't want others to find out, then don't do it in the first place. Just wait—sooner or later, he'll be caught and face the full weight of the law."

"Tingting is right not to like that boy from the Long family. He's not worthy of her."

The second wife sighed. "We think some of our local young talents are good, but Tingting doesn't like any of them. Honestly, I have no idea what kind of man she's looking for."

"Back then, those people stirred up trouble from behind the scenes, using our own relatives to try and split up the Ouyang family. Tingting is smart. She's been in the business world for years—do you really think she doesn't know what happened?"

"She's right to look down on local young talents. In fact, I don't even want her to marry one. If we're all in business in the same area, it's easy for interests to clash."

Relatives can quickly become enemies.

"You mean Tingting should marry far away? I really can't bear the thought. Ajun and Ajian are still young, and our family's business depends heavily on Aya and the others."

"Even putting business aside, I still can't bear the idea of my daughter marrying far away. She'd rarely come home. To be honest, when our parents passed away from illness, the daughter who married far away was still on her way back."

"You could invite a son-in-law to live with us, or arrange a dual-residence marriage. Normally, they'd live together, have two kids—one with the father's surname, the other with the mother's. On holidays, each could return to their own family to visit their parents."

"That way, both sides are taken care of."

The second wife fell silent.

It's not easy to find a man willing to marry into your family. Most capable men wouldn't agree. The ones who do are often either lacking ability or scheming "Phoenix men" looking to climb the social ladder. Once successful, they often abandon their wives and turn against the in-laws who helped them.

"I'm done talking. I'm going to take off my makeup, shower, and get to bed."

With that, the second wife stood up and headed off to remove her makeup.