

Chapter 0018

He nodded. "Let's start with... how you became alpha and... where this all started."

My gut clenched as I remember the bleak day Eason I buried our father. I pulled the cup of coffee closer to me and took a deep breath. 1

"I inherited it from my father when he died. The pack, too, obviously... Soon after, I met Devin." My lips twitched. "I was ... grieving. I didn't want to date him, but he was persistent. I gave in, and soon, it wasn't reluctance. I wanted to be around him. He made me happy for the first time since my father's death, and I needed that. I got pregnant, and well, I didn't have a head for business, and I wasn't looking to learn. I was in love and running from my grief. Devin was a business major, so I let him run it while I focused on our family."

I sat back with a deep sigh, rubbing my head. "Looking back, I was dumb. I trusted him so completely, so quickly, even though I knew he was reckless and... well, selfish."

I thought back to the years of our marriage. "I ignored every red flag until I couldn't anymore. I regret it, but I'm going to learn from it. I have learned from it."

I looked back at him. "I'm all my kids have now. Devin's made it pretty clear that he's not interested in being in their

lives, so I'm going to do what I have to."

Her nose wrinkled. "Even if that involves boring financial documents."

He chuckled. "I'm beginning to understand a lot about you. Let's start with the basics."

He stood and scanned the desk and started moving pages around. How he knew which pages went where and with what and in what order, I had no idea, but soon, each report was stacked and organized. He took one and started to read it.

He pulled his seat closer to the desk and spread out the pages with them facing me.


"For now, here's what you want to focus on: profit and loss, balance sheet, and the quarter over quarter report."

He walked me through each of the reports in a way that made it easy to understand. At the least, it made more sense than what was in the textbook. I even managed to understand exactly why we hadn't made any money in whatever period this report was from.

He smiled, proud and indulgent and I felt a bit of my fear starting to fade. He gathered the pages then set another report in front of me.

"Now, do the same analysis for this one."

I scanned the document. "Our... cost of goods sold went up,


but we didn't up the sale price, so our profit margin shrank. The debts weren't paid, so our... accrued interest increased, cutting into our balance." I blew out. "We need to figure out how to get our cashflow to be positive and the easiest way would be to lessen the cost of our goods and start getting ahead of our debt." 

He nodded. "Good. Are you ready to go?"

I blinked as my laptop chimed. The hour was nearly over. He gathered another report and offered his hand.

I hesitated for a moment, feeling a mix of nerves and excitement. His strong presence and the look on his face, vicious and challenging, made me feel like we were going to war.

Remembering the way he'd leaped three whole floors in a single bound with me in his arms, the look of conviction in his eyes, and the easy way he'd handled Devin at Apex, I smiled up at him. The deed to the house was already more than enough goodwill for me to try to trust him a little more. He'd proven that he was nothing like Devin already. My gaze dropped to his chest, where I could envision that bright red mark, but I held back the question. That would be too personal, and right now wasn't the right time even if it wasn't. We were going to war, for my pack, my future, and everything my father believed in, but I didn't think I could have asked for a better ally unless my father had risen from the grave to help me.


 +15 BONUS

So, I took his hand and let him escort me to the door.


Dear readers:

If you have previously read this story, I have rewritten the content of the first 9 chapters. You can start reading from the first chapter to ensure clarity. This is also why the update has taken a considerable amount of time. I sincerely appreciate the support from all of you.

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