

Chapter 0052

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Her eyes hardened and she nodded. "Where do we start?"

"With reviewing the existing departments, identifying areas where consolidation could yield benefits," I smiled. "A fair warning: it will be very, very boring."

Grace's lips curved into a determined smile. "It can't be worse than tanking. Let's do it."

I moved to the other side of the table so we could sit side by side as I spread out the documents I found. Grace ran out to get the updated paperwork to add to the discussion. As Grace and I dived into the intricate details of Wolfe Medical's financial landscape, I couldn't help but be impressed by her determination to set things right. She was shaky on concepts, but she listened and caught on quick. 1

As her head was bent over a page of pack financials, I allowed my gaze to linger on Grace for a moment, observing the furrow of her brows as she concentrated on the numbers before us. Her dedication was admirable, and it only fueled my desire to help her succeed and my desire for her.

"Charles," she began, drawing my attention back to our task. "You're quite knowledgeable about budgeting and optimizing resources for the pack. How did you become so comfortable with this?"

I met her gaze, a flicker of memories from my past crossing my mind. "I inherited a complex situation at a young age. When I assumed leadership of the Lycan clans, I was faced with the responsibility of managing our resources. Budgeting became second nature as I navigated the challenges of leading our community."



I thought back to my father. "Admittedly, my father had been tutoring me for a long time. I was on the cusp of going to college here in the States when he died."

She nodded. I could see the weight of her own past in her eyes. "I can relate in a way," she admitted. "After my father's passing, I suddenly found myself in charge of Wolfe Medical and the pack. But I was still grieving and overwhelmed, which is probably why it was so easy for me to hand control over to Devin."

She shook her head. "You've already figure out that I didn't know much of anything about business. Just the thought of sitting where he say, doing what he did, felt like acknowledging he was really gone, and I just couldn't." 3

She shook her head. "I ran. I can admit that. I regret it more and more every day."

My heart ached for her as she spoke of her struggles. "Grief can cloud our judgment and lead us to make choices we may later regret."

She sighed, the expression on her face a mix of regret and determination. "I see that now. But with your help, I'm beginning to believe that it will be okay."

I leaned in slightly, our arms brushing against each other in the process. "You're doing an excellent job, Grace. And as I promised, I'll help you restore Wolfe Medical and Mooncrest to rights."

She nodded. "Thanks... for everything."

She looked back down. "What is a procurement department for a school

supposed to do?"

I looked down and started to explain. She scooted her chair closer to the table, the scent of her captivating me. As we delved into the company's financial records, her focused energy was contagious. As much as we were engrossed in our work, I couldn't help but feel the electric current passing between us. Every accidental touch set my senses ablaze, and I struggled to maintain my composure. The line between professionalism and desire was thinning, and it was becoming increasingly challenging to ignore.

Time seemed to blur as we combed through the numbers, exchanging ideas and strategies. It was sweet torture at its finest. The chemistry between us was undeniable, impossible to ignore, and I found myself yearning for something that could complicate matters significantly. 1

As Grace's fingers brushed against mine once again, I fought to steady my breathing. The air seemed charged with an intensity that was palpable.

A glint of light flickered through her eyes, that burning red as they grey bright with excitement. 1

"You're saying we could free up five hundred thousand if we just put everyone in one building?" She bounced in her seat. "That's enough to pay for the lien against the equipment!"

I bit my lip and took a deep breath, basking in her excitement and doing my best not to pull her into my lap and taste her mouth.

"That's exactly what I mean, and if you update the phone system..."