

Chapter 16: Non-Hostile Takeover

The businessfolk sat around an oval table, as per staple for the company. Everyone was to be included, but the table needed a clear head. A clear head, by the window, which now sat empty.

ForeverTech team leaders and managers sat in silence for many moments, before the head of engineering dared to speak up.

"We uhhh... We are missing... Another. What's his name-Alex Grey, the one from internal affairs, where is he?" The man asked, the uneasiness in his voice resonating with the rest of the room as everyone glanced around briefly, until the HR team leader spoke up.

"Actually, Alex will not be joining us today; his brother went missing after the... incident. He cleared it with me last night," she spoke, a hint of sympathy in her voice as some others only voiced frustration.

"This is not the time for family matters. We have a company to salvage," the head of accounting stated, "If anything the head of internal affairs should be the one leading this discussion."

Then the head of security chimed in, "I agree, but I do suggest that this *is*, in fact, a time for family matters. Do

we have a suitable heir to the company? How many of Accada's relatives remain in the city?"

The head of accounting glared at her, "This is no time for a monarchy, Adams. We need a pragmatic CEO who can keep these cogs turning."

"I actually am of a mind with Adams, in this," engineering spoke, "Accada's work is an absolutely colossal cornerstone to modern tech. If we do not continue this company in his name, with his name, we will lose our credibility."

A deafening silence returned to the table.

"What of his son?" The leader of HR suggested, "Dorian Accada should be of age by now, why not him? He should be easy enough to tame; all we have to do is make sure that he knows his father's legacy."

"Dorian Accada is a lowlife, unfit to continue his father's legacy. If he were to rise to power, this company would be doomed," the head of communications barked.

"What of Alex? He is young, eager, and stalwart in the face of impossibility. If anyone can keep a straight face in this time, it is him," HR imagined.

"Alexander is not even here for this meeting, how can you believe him to be a fit leader?" Security retaliated, when his phone started buzzing violently.

"Set your phone to 'emergencies only', David," Accounting hissed.

"I did," Security sighed as he looked at the flood of messages coming in, when his eyes widened.

The room's attention shifted further to Security, when David got up from his seat and barked a quick command, "This meeting is broken, at my veto. We have PKF on our doorstep."

Then the elevator pinged, and Communications sighed, "Smile and wave."

The elevator doors shot open just a moment later, revealing the grim black plates of PKF armour and one glaring red eye, accompanied by two lieutenants.

The board members rose from their seats, but Seer stopped them, "Don't get up on my account. We have a lot of catching up to do."