

41. Rhys

Rhys Larsen has been spiraling into despair in the wake of his breakup with Bridget, finding solace in alcohol and isolation within the confines of his hotel room. As news of King Edvard's recovery shifts public attention back to Rhys's failed relationship with Bridget, his pain is further exacerbated by the media's speculation. Mourning the loss of Bridget, who had been instructed that her destiny lies not with a bodyguard but with nobility, Rhys confronts his inadequacy and the heartrending decision she made, which echoes his deepest insecurities.

In a drunken haze, Rhys's reflection on their separation is interrupted by television clips of Bridget, reminding him of his unresolved feelings and stirring a mix of anger, betrayal, and a stubborn resolve to reclaim their lost love. His inner turmoil is heightened when an unplanned visit from his boss, Christian Harper, forces a confrontation. Christian, presenting both a challenge and a reminder of Rhys's professional failures, critiques Rhys's lifestyle and pressures him to leave Eldorra and Bridget behind, suggesting that his visa's impending expiration and the futility of his actions will only lead to more heartache.

Despite Christian's berating, which includes derogatory insinuations about Bridget, Rhys staunchly defends her honor, showcasing his deep, albeit conflicted, love for her. The confrontation escalates to a physical altercation, revealing the depth of Rhys's feelings and the extent he is willing to go to protect Bridget's reputation. Christian, unfazed by Rhys's threats, bluntly critiques Rhys's obsession, labeling it as detrimental love. Yet, he also acknowledges the sincerity of Rhys's feelings, hinting at the complexity of their friendship and the inherent contradiction between rational advice and emotional impulses.

As Christian urges Rhys to abandon his futile endeavors and leave Eldorra to prevent further chaos, Rhys is left to grapple with the realization of his profound love for Bridget—a love that challenges his beliefs about his capacity for emotion and compels him to reconsider his life's direction. The encounter with Christian serves as a crucible for Rhys, crystallizing his feelings for Bridget and pushing him towards a decisive, albeit uncertain, future.