

47. Rhys

One week after the highly publicized press conference where Rhys and Princess Bridget's relationship made headlines worldwide, they visit Erhall, the Speaker who is also Rhys's biological father, to push for the repeal of the Royal Marriages Law. Erhall, unaware of their appointment due to a scheduling mishap, is reluctantly forced to meet them. Throughout their encounter, Rhys, the protagonist, reflects on his newfound public identity as the princess's bodyguard-turned-love interest, noting the media frenzy and public fascination with their story. The chapter delves deep into Rhys's thoughts and emotions, particularly his resentment towards Erhall, whom he has only recently discovered is his father, and his dedication to Bridget and her cause.

In their meeting, Bridget and Rhys confront Erhall with the demand to repeal an outdated law that restricts royal marriage choices, using the knowledge of Rhys's paternity as leverage. Erhall's initial dismissiveness turns to shock and desperation as Rhys reveals their familial connection, supported by DNA evidence. While Erhall attempts to deflect and offer excuses, Bridget's strategic acumen shines through as she navigates the conversation with authority and finesse, ultimately forcing Erhall's hand to consider their proposal.

The dynamics reveal a complex web of personal and political motives, showcasing Bridget's intelligence and determination, Rhys's inner turmoil and growth, and Erhall's flawed character. It ends with Erhall begrudgingly agreeing to bring the motion forward, not out of goodwill, but to preserve his political career and avoid scandal. Rhys's confrontation with Erhall is both a moment of personal closure and a significant political maneuver, with Rhys firmly distancing himself from any familial or emotional connection to Erhall. The chapter closes on a lighter note, with Bridget joking about their potential as public speakers, symbolizing their comradeship and shared resolve amidst the ongoing struggle for their right to love freely.