

## Chapter 20: Bridget

Chapter 20: Bridget finds herself in a delicate emotional state after a memorable and intimate evening with Rhys, where their relationship briefly crossed the line from professional to something more personal. She wakes up feeling a sense of elation, but as reality sets in, Bridget soon realizes that the dynamic between them has shifted back to its usual professional boundaries. This causes a sense of disappointment to settle in her chest, and she wrestles with her feelings. With her brother Nikolai's abdication on the horizon, Bridget feels increasingly alone in her position, and she offers Rhys a proposition to extend his contract, hoping he will stay by her side as she navigates the complexities of her new role. She wants to maintain the comfort and stability that his presence offers, even if the circumstances have become more complicated. Despite the tension between them, she believes that Rhys's support is essential during this transitional period.

Rhys's response, however, is non-committal, leaving Bridget to contemplate the implications of her request. As they make their way to New York, the silence between them is deafening, with neither of them fully acknowledging the feelings that have been left unresolved. Rhys's avoidance and Bridget's growing anxiety make their journey feel longer than it really is. Yet, despite the palpable discomfort, Bridget holds on to the memories of the moments they shared, recognizing that those experiences were more than just fleeting distractions—they were essential to understanding the deeper bond they've developed. As she contemplates her future, both personal and professional, she clings to the hope that the connection they've built can withstand the complexities of their relationship.

Upon arriving in New York, Bridget faces the daunting task of preparing for the press conference that will officially announce her new role following Nikolai's abdication. The anticipation and pressure of standing before the media fill her with anxiety, but she

finds solace in Rhys's presence, knowing that he will be there to support her during this crucial moment. His acceptance to be by her side provides Bridget with a temporary sense of relief, offering comfort amid the uncertainty that surrounds her new responsibilities. Bridget recognizes that this press conference will be a defining moment in her life, as it marks the beginning of her transition from a royal figurehead to a powerful leader in her own right. The weight of the public eye and the shifting dynamics of her royal duties hang heavy, but Rhys's presence offers her a sense of security that helps her stay grounded.

As the day of the press conference approaches, Bridget's nerves continue to get the better of her, but she takes comfort in the calm support Rhys provides. His understanding and reassurance allow her to prepare for the event, even though the stress of the situation continues to build. Watching her brother publicly renounce his title and his place in the royal family forces Bridget to come to terms with the magnitude of her new role and the responsibilities that now fall to her. The media frenzy, the pressure to succeed, and the uncertainty of the future weigh heavily on her, but Bridget steels herself for the task at hand. She knows that this moment will test her ability to handle the complexities of her royal obligations while maintaining her sense of self.

Throughout these developments, Bridget navigates the delicate balance between her evolving relationship with Rhys and the increasing demands of her public duties. The emotional turmoil she feels is mirrored by the pressure she faces to step into a more visible and influential role, one that will require all her strength and composure. Bridget's journey is not only about her personal growth but also about learning how to manage her emotions in the face of overwhelming expectations. Rhys's role in her life is pivotal, and she realizes that navigating the future together—whether personally or professionally—will require vulnerability, trust, and mutual understanding. The chapter underscores Bridget's internal conflict as she learns to embrace her evolving role, while also finding a way to preserve the connection she shares with Rhys. As she faces the challenges ahead, she must reconcile her personal desires with her royal responsibilities, all while figuring out what kind of queen she wants to be. The journey

toward self-discovery and leadership is only just beginning, and Bridget is determined to meet it head-on, with Rhys by her side, regardless of the obstacles.

