



Chapter 11: Emlyn

I'm so excited to see my brother take his oath as Alpha tomorrow. Mom, Riley, Amber, our Beta female and I have been preparing all week. Just like Richie's inauguration, this one will host several ranked members from neighboring packs.

Therefore, we've had to make sure there is plenty of room in the packhouse, food in reserves and that the decorations and music are prepared for a huge party.

There's a lot of pomp and circumstance for any Alpha ceremony and Emerson's is no different. We spend the day welcoming our guests and showing them to their rooms, Riley and I acting as perfect hostesses. I suffer my share of interested Alphas trying to gain my affection and attention. None of them compare to my boyfriend.

I can't wait to see Richie. A week feels so long since I've seen him. I've gotten used to seeing him at least every couple of days. If I'm being honest with myself, I did exactly what I told myself not to do. I've fallen head over heels in love with him. I want to be with him every minute of every day. When he called me a couple of days ago and asked me to be his acting Luna, my heart fluttered. He wants me closer, and he wants me to be in a position that will look like I'm his. We've agreed it's not time to tell my father or anyone about us, but this will make being together so much easier.

I've planned my dress tonight and tomorrow knowing Richie will be as desperate as I am to be together. I know he'll take every opportunity possible to be inside me and I can't wait. When the Canyon Ridge ranked members show up, I take Cohen and Clint to their rooms, letting Riley take Uncle Rik, Aunt Cara and their Betas



Chase and Lacey to their rooms. Cohen is only a few months away from taking over as Alpha of Canyon Ridge pack, so this weekend is almost as important for him as it is for Emerson. And since our Beta family didn't have any boys to take over the Beta role, Emerson is planning to make Clint his Beta. He wanted Xander, but he is planning to take over as CEO of Holstin Enterprises and can't do both jobs. Because of their upcoming positions as ranked members, we've put both Cohen and Clint in the main packhouse where the other Alphas will be staying. 3

I had to work my magic, but I set it up that Richie is staying in the second packhouse with me. My parents moved there after our pack expanded. The second packhouse is closer to the center of the pack which makes it more accessible to everyone. However, with all the visiting Alphas staying here, they have temporarily moved back into the original packhouse. Since we need a family representative in the second packhouse for our guests, it leaves an opportunity for Richie and I to have some time together. 1

The ceremony tomorrow will be in between the packhouses so, while most of the Alpha families are staying in the original packhouses, most of the Betas and their families are staying at the secondary packhouse. That is how I convinced my parents that I needed to stay there, and also how I convinced them that Richie needed to stay there with me. Since Emerson will be schmoozing with the other Alphas, and Cohen and Clint will be doing the same, Richie was the perfect 'adult' to watch over me at the secondary packhouse. I had to agree to having Xander and Cayden over there too, which is fine. Uncle Liam, Aunt Angel, Quinn, Malin and Reagan are staying at the main packhouse.



I put Richie in my room as it's across from my parents and at the front of the hallway, so he can 'guard' me from wandering Betas or Alphas that want to try to steal me away so they can have a Guardian. Xander and Cayd are farther down the hall as I put them in the spare rooms on the other side of Emerson and Riley's rooms. I moved into Riley's room for the weekend. So, while my room isn't sound proofed, no one will question Richie's scent in my room, and we won't have to be overly concerned about anyone hearing us.

When I come down from showing Clint and Cohen to their rooms, Shadow Falls pack is arriving. They come up and say hello. Richie is completely appropriate, starting with my mom and dad, while Cayd runs straight to me, pulling me into a hug and swinging me around. I'm laughing when he finally puts me down and Xander pulls me into a hug, kissing the top of my head. "Please tell me we're not staying in the stuffy packhouse." He whispers to me.

I look up and smile at him. "You're in luck. I worked it so you're with me." I tell him. He smiles before walking over to Emerson.

"Yeah man, thanks for ditching me on my big weekend." Emerson says to his best friend.

Xander looks like a deer in headlights. "Oh, well, if you want me nearby..."

"Perfect!" Emerson interrupts him. "Mom, I told you Xander would want to stay in the main packhouse." He says, turning to mom. I hear Cayd snicker behind me. Because I have beyond excellent hearing, I hear my brother when he leans in to whisper to Xander. "Don't think for an instant that you're throwing me to the she-wolves this weekend. If I'm going down, you're going down with me." With all the



Alphas in attendance, every possible unmated Alpha and Beta female will be here vying for an Alpha's attention.

I tried to hide my smile as Richie walks up, wrapping his arms around me and kissing the top of my head like Xander did. "Do I want to know?" He asks me.

"I'll tell you later."

"So Richie," I say, bringing my voice back to a normal tone, "you're on guard duty this weekend. I hope you don't mind, but you're in the second packhouse with me. You're in charge of making sure none of these visiting ranked wolves steal me away."

I watch his eyes darken as he struggles to let me go.

"Richard, if you don't want to look after Emlyn, we can make other arrangements. I understand as an Alpha you may want to have time to meet with other Alphas or search for your mate." My mother chimes in, not at all helpfully.

"That's okay, Aunt Grace." He says, pulling his eyes away from me. "I'm feeling a little lonely now that Leana is gone. And, actually, Uncle Eli, Emerson, I'd like to speak with both of you this weekend. Maybe Sunday before I head home."

"Absolutely." Dad responds, even though, by then, Emerson will be Alpha and it should be him that answers Richie. I see Emerson side-eye dad but it's my amazing boyfriend that smooths things over. "Does that work for you as well Alpha Emerson?"

"Yes, Alpha Richard. It does."



"Good, now can we stop calling each other Alpha?" Richie says, slap-shaking with my brother.

"The sooner, the better," Emerson says.

I say hello to Uncle Liam, Aunt Angel, the twins and Reagan before telling Cayd and Richie that they can put their luggage into the van we have set aside to transport luggage to the other packhouse.

"Now that you're here, Rich, why don't we join the festivities that have already started," Emerson says.

"Do you want me to go get Cohen and Clint?" I ask. If they are going to schmooze, this is a perfect time for Cohen to get involved.

"A great idea, Emlyn," Richie says to me and it's all I can do not to arch my back at the sound of my name on his lips. I love when he praises me, and he does it so much in the bedroom, that's it's almost become a conditioned response. I watch his lips twitch and know he did it on purpose.

This weekend is going to be interesting. But I hope it ends with me going back to Shadow Falls pack with Richie.



Cooper author

Let the next Alpha ceremony begin! Updates daily.

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