



Chapter 14: Richie

The Alpha discussion of the evening centered around the rogue attacks that have been increasing. Everyone has had at least one attack. I take that back, our three packs have had one attack, the other packs have been attacked multiple times in the past year. Everyone said the same thing I noticed when we were attacked nearly a year ago. The rogues are more structured in their attacks and more skilled in their fighting than they should be.

I was never able to get anything from the two in my cells. Rik and Eli were only able to get one each to interrogate and they didn't get anything either. It was almost as if they didn't know anything.

No one had any answers, and it was decided that it would be brought to the council for discussion and next steps.

After nearly getting caught in the bathroom, I was finally able to get my mate to sneak away back to the second packhouse. That night I pleased my mate until we both were satisfied, then I fell asleep curled up around her. I heard Cayden come in very early in the morning and crawl to his room. I also heard a she-wolf prowling around in front of my door before giving up and going back to her own bed. Smart girl.

The next morning, I take my mate as many times as I can before I finally have to let her go to her room to get ready for the sparring matches this morning. I give it a few minutes when I hear her pass my door, before I follow her downstairs.

I'm halfway down the stairs when I hear her angry snarl and multiple yelps. I jump over the stairway banister and run into the living area. I



quickly take in the scene. Emlyn is standing in front of Hope and there are several Betas or soon-to-be Betas on their knees in front of her.

"How dare you!" She snarls. "How DARE you come onto my pack lands, into my packhouse and begin bullying one of MY pack mates."

Several Betas comes rushing in behind me either having heard the commotion or having received a panicked mind link.

"What is the meaning of this?" An angry Beta, I think his name is William, demands as he walks into the room.

"That's what I'd like to know." I say, much more calmly and directing the Beta to me, so he knows he's not in charge here. Not that he would be with Emlyn here, but most ranked males seem to think they outrank the ranked females in the room.

"It's okay, Emlyn." Hope says quietly. She is the daughter of our Beta female, Amber. Before finding her way here, her mother was experimented on when she was pregnant with Hope and the result was that she is a hybrid in the true meaning of the word. When she shifts, she is a cross between a bear and a wolf. Most hybrids have a dominant gene and shift into that animal, even if they have traits of the other shifter. But, due to whatever experiments they did on Amber and Hope, she is different. ²

I know all of our families feel protective of Hope. She's been bullied and made fun of ever since her first shift. I'm guessing that's what was happening here. "Hope, are you okay?" I ask her gently.

She nods.



"Release my daughter!" William yells at Emlyn. Instead of releasing anyone, Emlyn turns to face him and in an instant, he's on his knees as well.

"No!" She snarls and now I can see that Morrigan is shining brightly in Emlyn's eyes.

The other Betas are watching, expecting me to do something. I walk up to Emlyn, putting an arm around her waist and pulling her back to my front.

"What happened, Emlyn?"

"These poor excuses for Betas thought they could come onto my pack lands and harass one of my pack mates." Hope is staring at her feet, her face a bright shade of red.

"Hope is a beautiful young woman and I guarantee she could take any of you in a fight." Morrigan continues to snarl.

"Alpha, please." One of the other Betas whispers. He's right, Emlyn needs to take this up with the Alphas.

"Morrigan, let them go. Emlyn and I can discuss their behavior with their Alphas." I see more than one Beta's eyes go wide, but I'm more concerned about the ones that don't. Obviously, they know their Alphas won't care. I make note of which Alphas those are. I have no intention of maintaining alliances with Alphas that mistreat their pack members or allow the mistreatment of others.

She holds on to them for another moment before releasing them. "Get out of my sight."



When they leave, I release Emlyn and turn to Hope. "Did they hurt you?"

She shakes her head no. Emlyn pulls her in for a hug. "They are stupid, mean, and petty. You are so much better than any of them."

I watch as a single tear runs down Hope's cheek. "Thanks Emlyn."

"You don't have to thank me. You are family."

"I'm going for a run." Hope says before heading out toward the forest.

I watch as Emlyn's eyes go unfocused and a minute after I see Hope shift, I see a large wolf go running after her.

"Levi?"

"Yeah, he'll help her." Emlyn's Uncle Levi is Grace's half-brother. He's about my age, same as Hope. 1

Emlyn turns and storms out to the cars. "Emlyn, I think maybe you need to calm down before you walk into a field full of Alphas."

She grabs some keys and unlocks a car before sliding in quickly and starting it up. "I don't think so Richie."

I can feel the anger radiating off her. I quickly hop into the car before she peels out of the driveway. The ten-minute drive only takes her 6 minutes and I'm gripping the 'oh shit' handle the entire way. When we get there, she's out of the car before I even have my seat belt off. 2

By the time I get out of the car, she's already walking into the packhouse. I run to catch up and hear her telling someone she'll be



back to speak with them in a minute. My mate may be all fire and fury, but she doesn't take it out on those who don't deserve it. I can't help but feel a little smug that she's my mate. She's glorious in her anger.

As I run out the back doors of the pack house, I see she's already got their attention.

"Emlyn, what's going on?" Emerson asks. I take a quick inventory. There are multiple Alphas here from visiting packs as well as Cohen, Clint, Emerson and Xander. Cayd must still be sleeping it off. Riley is here too, standing beside Emerson. And there are various other warriors here to watch the sparring.

I watch as Emlyn stalks up to the Alphas. "Do you want to see what happens when your Betas piss off a Guardian?" She snarls at them.

"EMLYN!" Cohen yells, just as Riley jumps in front of their group, her arms spread wide, protecting our group of Alphas. And then I feel it. Emlyn's raw power thrusts out of her and every Alpha drops to their knees. I'm thankful I was prepared for it and that it's not aimed at me. 1

"This is what happens when your Betas come onto MY pack lands and try to hurt one of MY pack mates. Is THIS the show of power and strength you were hoping to see?" She snarls at them.

One of the Alphas has the audacity to actually question Emlyn, even while he's on his knees in front of her. "Don't you mean your brother's or your father's pack lands Guardian?"

"If my sister says that you or someone in your pack have offended a member of my pack, then you've not only offended her, but you've



also offended me. And I can guarantee that means you will have offended my father and my mother as well. You were invited here as guests, but if you or your ranked members can't abide by the rules of Safe Haven, I have no problem asking you to leave." Emerson says.

I know he will always support his sister, I would do the same if this were Leana, even if I didn't know what happened. But I can tell he's wondering what set her off to this level. Emlyn, in general, is very easy going.

I walk up to Emlyn, pulling her back against my chest again, like I did at the other packhouse, helping to ground her. Her anger is still burning bright.

I look at Emerson. "Hope." That's all I have to say, and Riley is snarling as well, her wolf shining in her eyes.

Emerson walks over, coming to stand beside Emlyn. "I suggest, Alphas, that you have a long discussion with your Betas about mistreating a member of my pack. If it happens again, I will assume that you no longer wish to have an alliance with Safe Haven."

"And since our three packs are so strongly allied, any act against one pack will result in the elimination of the alliance of all three packs." I add, so they know that it wouldn't just be Safe Haven that they would lose their alliance with. I know I'm speaking for Alpha Rik and Canyon Ridge as well, but I also know he would never go against us in something like this, and neither will Cohen when he's Alpha. As I watch, Cohen comes to stand beside Emerson in a show of our solidarity.

I see several Alphas' eyes go wide. Many can't afford to lose their



alliance with the three strongest packs in the country, especially when there are an increasing number of rogue attacks.

"Let them go, Emlyn." Emerson says and she does. They all get to their feet. "This sparring session is over. I suggest you take this time to have words with your Betas." Emerson says to the Alphas.

He waits until they leave before turning to Emlyn. "Is Hope okay?"

She nods. "She went for a run. I sent Levi after her."

"Emlyn, why don't you take the day, go for a run too, relax and come back tonight for my ceremony."

"Is that an order from my Alpha?" She asks, still being snarky.

"It's a request from a brother who loves you." He says, kissing her forehead.

"Come on Emlyn, I'll go for a run with you. Finley could use the time to stretch his legs." I say, before pulling her away and into the forest. 



Cooper  author

What did you think of seeing Hope? It looks like she's having a difficult time.

 14