262 ERIK'S WISDOM

"I was not sent for." Erik replied tartly. 1

"But I sent for you." Xaden replied. "Damian had said that he was going to get you himself."

"Ah Damien." Erik nodded. "Glad you mentioned him. He has been more of your best buddy ever since he informed you of the incidents with Jasmine."

Xaden leaned back in his chair. "Damien did the right thing you know? He found out what and he came to tell me. Did you know about this?"

Erik was wise.

He knew that if he has actually found out and not informed Xaden, when Xaden personally found out he would have had his head.

"Of course not." Erik said. "But I was aware something was off about her. I did try to tell you She was not the rotten spoiled girl you had been looking for."

"When?" Xaden snorted. 2

"I told you times without number. Or rather I tried to tell you and every time you simply rebuked it and told me to let it be." Erik said

folding his arms. "Because why was a girl who was supposed to be unruly and spiked knowing how to cook, excelling at errands that she was supposed to be daft at. Her hands were hard and rough for gods' sake" 1

Xaden rose an eye at that last statement.

Erik laughed. "Good goddes above are you jealous that I mentioned her hands being hard. I didn't touch her if you must know. Belinda mentioned it to me and I heard." 1

Erik grunted and said. "But yes she was different and no matter what you say deep

Down you knew it. You knew something was off but you just let your rage and hate for Bale blind you."

Xaden said nothing.

Continued looking down at the map and marking out the waters with a compass.

"I can only imagine what the poor girl went through back there." Erik said with a weak sigh.

Xaden looked up at Erik, his eyes were almost getting red with rage. "Poor girl? A girl who almost had me killed? And you refer to her as poor girl? What she went through bavk there?" 1

"Xaden." Erik said annoyed. "You heard her yourself. She was forced to come up here. She was a bastard and he switched her up with his respectable and legitimate daughter. Look what she endured."

"And you belive here?" Xaden asked very upset. 1

"You have to be honest with yourself about these things Xaden." Erik said annoyed. "Look at those scars at her back. Now tell me if it makes sense that she did that all to cover up for Bale."

"After all she did. She spied on us and would have had us under siege by her own father!" Xaden said. "She lied and yet you still belive her? The gods are playing with your mind!" 1

"I did not dispute the fact that she lied about who she was and kept it away. I am also not disputing the fact that she deceived us and could have told us. But you need to be honest with yourself. There were things that she had that raised question marks." Erik said.

"She is a liar and an enemy that is all that matters." Xaden said looking back down at his papers.

He picked up his quill and began to write then he looked back up at Erik. "Wait are you taking her side over mine? Over the entire pack's."

"Gods!" Erik swore irritated. "You are being very stupid and you know it!"

Xaden stopped short. He started to speak but Erik cut him short.

"Others might lie to you but I would not! Your ego and your pride will not let you see the truth! What the hell is wrong with you?! When we first men before you made me your second. Before you made me your head what had you told me?"

Xaden said nothing. But he knew here Erik was going with this.

"You had told me that you were going to end all injustice. You were going to end all tyranny and you were going to be an ear and a voice of those who do not have either. You promised that you will be fair and you will not judge a man until he has been trialed. You will not declare a man guilty until he you are sure of it."

Xaden remained quiet.

"Where is she?" He asked him.

Xaden was quiet for a while and then he answered. "I had her locked up down below decks."

"Gods Xaden." Erik said in shock. "Are you

certain that there was a man giving her food? Seeing to her needs? It has been a blood week." 4

"The men will do as I have asked." Xaden said even though he himself doubted it. 1

"The men hate her." Erik said wisely. "Do you think that they will listen to you? Or handle her with care? She is a woman and look at how young treating her like a dog."

"She is a hostage." Xaden said. "And a well

Known enemy. She will be regarded as such. I am certain like I said that the men will obey me and- 1

"Fuck that!" Erik snapped in anger. "What the hell is wrong with you?! You know it! You fucking know what they will do with her if you turn your eye just a bit and from my own perspective you are not even looking."

Xaden sat back down on his chair. "I will not discuss this. It is over."

"Like hell it is." Erik banged down at the desk. "You are acting worse like those slave masters that you so badly hate."

"Do you know what her family are doing to my sister? Do you know how they are treating her?" Xaden demanded. "And here you are

caring for someone who without the blink of any eye betrayed me! Almost had us killed! I have said it. I will discuss it no more and you will regard me with more respect." 1

Erik rolled his eyes. "Oh please."

"I mean it!" Xaden snapped.

"Before you became Alpha we were friends."

Erik said. "And it was you who who had told me that there would never be any difference between us being Alpha and second."

Xaden was breathing heavily now.

"And do not also forget that I am not like everyone else." He said. "I am also an Alpha."

And after that statement Erik took his fist away from the table and stormed back up to the decks.

He slammed the door hard and ut helped him ease down his rage. 1

He sighed heavily and then he went to one of the men. "Who was it that was directed under the charge of the prisoner?"

They pointed out to another wolf.

"Where is the prisoner?" Erik asked him when he finally caught up to him.

"Down in her cell my lord." The prisoner said. "Has she been fed day and night? And have her needs been met?"

The wolf nodded. "Yes my lord".

"Take me to her." Erik said even though he was a bit surprised that they had even obeyed him.

The wolf took him and opened the door.

When Erik started to go down the stairs he saw something disturbing.

There was food on the stairs.

Like it had been spilled.

He saw that once the doors were completely closed it was absolute darkness.

He looked back up at the wolf. "Get me a lantern."

The wolf ran of and a few minutes later returned with the lantern.

Erik collected it and continued down the steps and then hee set it against the floor so he could see the entire cell . 1

He looked around searching for her.

"Jasmine?"

But she did not answer and she was nowhere in

sight.

He sighed and started to go back up when he saw a dark figure hurdled in the corner. 1

He pointed his light towards where it was and then the closer he saw, the closer he soon saw that she was the one.

He set the lantern down once again and called out to her.

"Jasmine." He said.

But she sat there. Not moving and definitely not answering.

He tapped her very gently. "Jasmine."

But she still did not move.

He looked around for any signs of a plate of food but there was none.

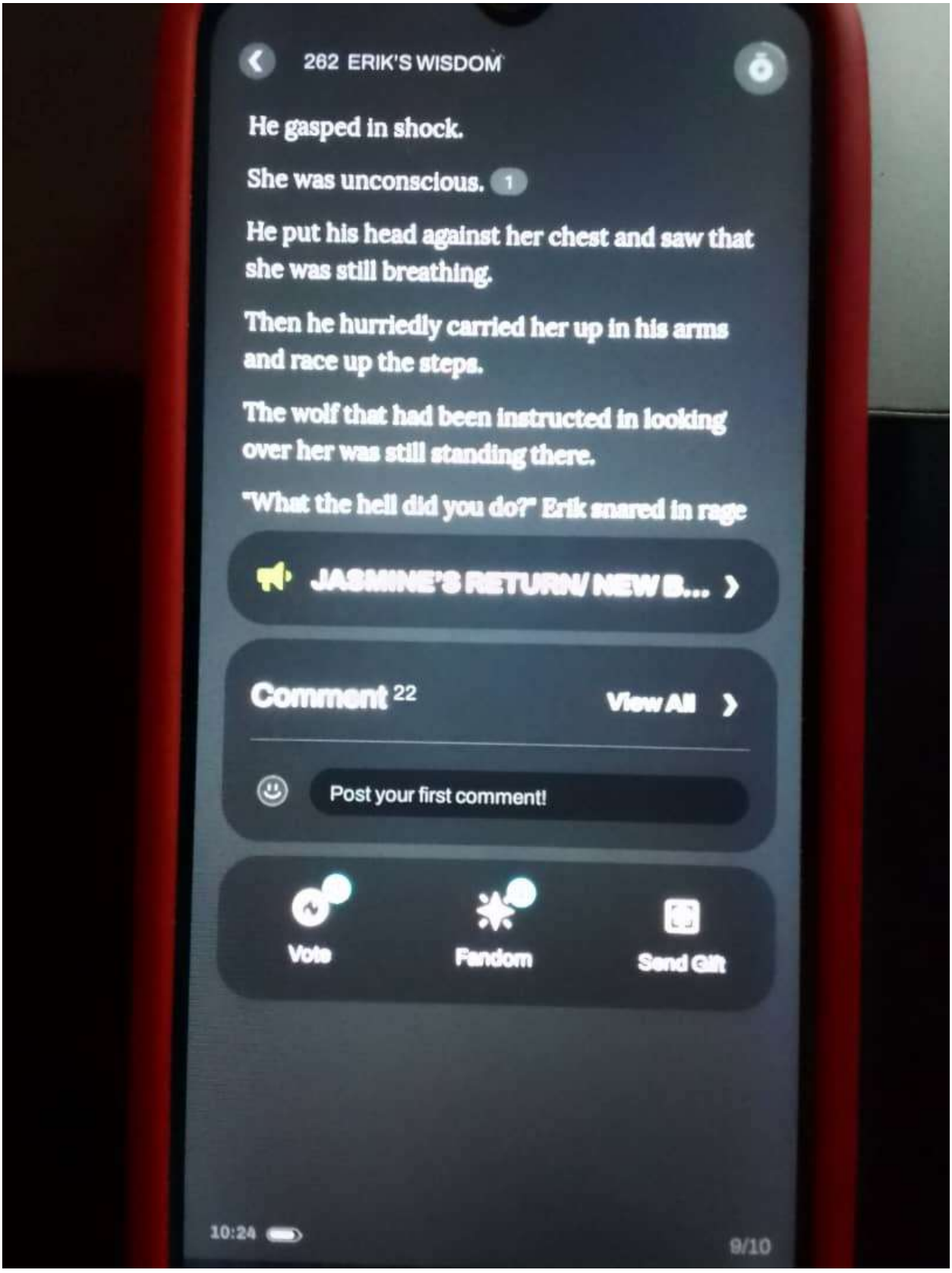
That damned wolf had lied it him! 1

When he was back up there he was going to give a good beating!

Erik turned back to her.

"Jasmine".

He picked her hand and then she fell instantly but he was able to catch her in his arms.


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He gasped in shock.
She was unconscious. 1
He put his head against her chest and saw that she was still breathing.
Then he hurriedly carried her up in his arms and race up the steps.
The wolf that had been instructed in looking over her was still standing there.
"What the hell did you do?" Erik snared in rage
JASMINE'S RETURN/ NEW B...
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