264 ERIK'S AID TO JASMINE

Erik gave a sigh of relief. 1

"Thank you." He said.

Ned nodded and then Erik walked up to where the steps back above the deck was.

He stopped at his wolf.

"Stay with her boy." Erik said to the grey wolf. "Protect her." 4

The wolf sighed softly and then Erik brushed his fur hair and then the very large wolf walked up to where Ned and Jasmine were.

Ned stiffed him when the wolf came up to him.

"He will not do anything to you." Erik answered the question that he knew was already in Ned's mind.

Ned sighed in relief even though he was still tensed.

"Unless you give him a reason to." Erik added.

Ned became alert and then Erik comfortable that he had delivered his message went up the steps above deck.

He went across the ship and walked by the

captain still lying down on the floor.

The men had done nothing to help him and he was most definitely still alive.

"Feel free to help him if you wish to." Erik finally grave the go ahead.

And then he went down to where the cook was.

"My lord." The cook bowed.

"Davis." Erik nodded. "I need you to prepare a meal for someone who is unwell. But enticing enough."

Davis nodded. "Yea my lord. Is it for his lordship Alpha Xaden. Is everything well?"

"Yes all is well." Erik replied. "Just have the new taken down to my chambers when it is ready. How long will you take?" 1

Davis turned to his assistant and shrugged. "Perhaps two hours; an hour depending on

How urgent it is."

Erik nodded. "Two hours is fine."

Then Erik looked at the assistant. "How trusted is your assistant chef?"

Davis turned and looked at the young girl standing beside him.

"She is efficient enough my lord. A distant relative by marriage." Davis said.

Erik sighed heavily and the he walked up to the girl. "Girl. The food that you will assist Davis in cooking. Do not make that mistake of poisoning or adding some thing to it. Do you understand?"

The girl was a bit shaken but she nodded. "Yes my lord. Of course my lord."

Erik reduced his stance over her and stood back to face the chef.

"Make sure that under no circumstances does anyone take the food that you have prepared. You will bring it yourself along with your girl down to my quarters. No one will assist you." Erik said. 1

"Not even to assist my lord?" The chef asked with question.

"Not even to assist." Erik finished. "If the food is many the you will lock up your kitchen till you return and carry the rest. You will allow no one but you and your girl in. Do you understand?" 1

"My lord is there something that I need to know?" The chef asked. 1

"No. Just do as I have told and do not disobey

me." Erik said. "Now do you understand me!"

The chef signed in heavil and eventually nodded. "Yes my lord. I understand." 1

"Good." Erik said taking a step back. 1

Erik did not want to risk the men poisoning Jasmine.

They hated her enough to starve her, what could they not do to her.

Yes she was a prisoner but she did not deeerve to die. 1

He knew that Xaden was blinded by his rage and pain.

If he had a heart he would have said heartbreak . 1

But Xaden was hurting horribly and he was steaming from betrayal.

He understood that and that was why he was acting the way he acted.

But then again .

From the very first moment Erik had set eyes on Jasmine he has senses something different from her. 1

She was different and then her actions had

shown it.

He had seen how she had taken punishments.

How she had obeyed them and not defied them.

Her story of being taken hostage by an Enemy pack had been off to him. 1

Anyone who could reason would have seen it.

But most people were blinded by their hate for her and her family.

For the likes of Xaden simply chose to turn a blind eye.

The rotten spoiled girl was nothing like what had been expected of her.

The people hated her enough to have her poisoned.

Coupled with the fact that most people now knew that her family had almost planned to kill Xaden. 1

"That will be all." Erik said and got up from the seats and then he walked up to deck. 1

The chef and his girl bowed down.

Once Erik reached the decks of the ship he saw that the captain had finally been taken away

and they were now cleaning up the pool of blood that he lay in.

Then Xaden came up to him. "What the hell is going on?"

Erik turned and looked at him.

"You cut out the tongue of the captain? Threatened my men?" Xaden demanded.

"The captain was the only who called for it. I would not have judged him in such a way if he did not demand in and you know it. You can ask the rest of the men. They were there to see it all Happen." 1

Then Erik turned on him. "I asked you about Jasmine. And you had told me that she was fine. You had assured me that the men were seeing to it that she was alive and well below the decks."

"And she was." Xaden said. "My men will never disobey me." 2

Erik took Xaden'a hand and led him

Down the decks to where his cabin was.

When they were finally inside the cabin Erik let him be and then he motioned to Xaden.

"See for yourself. Is she?" Erik asked.

Xaden looked up saw that she was lying down weak on the bed.

Erik's wolf tnat had been lying down at tne foot of the bed stood up growling. 1

"Stay down boy." Erik asked of his wolf.

His wolf whimpered but still with his teeth out and him growling he gave way for Zaden to pass. 2

But the wolf still stood by her side.

Then he looked at her.

Ned who had been treating her rose up once he saw Xaden.

"My lord." Ned bowed hastily. 1

"Why did you take her out of her cell?" Xaden asked turning back to face Erik.

His face was hard and cold.

Erik blinked at him in disbelief.

"Are you joking?" Erik asked him. "Do you not see the state that she is in?"

Xaden turned away from Erik and started to head towards the steps back up on the deck.

"She is using her skills to deceive you noting is wrong with her." Xaden said. "My men will

never disobey me. Take her back to where she was. That will be all." 1

Erik walked up to him and angrily turned him around.

"Look at him Xaden! You will not do anything." He snared at him. "Look at her! Your men?! Your men?!" 1

Erik scoffed in a bitter laugh.

"Your men asked obeyed you alright. They gave her her meals day and night. But they tossed it down on the straits. Threw it for her the way they would feed a dog. So if you mean to say that they did not disobey you then of course they did not because gig did not ask or tell them specifically how to take care of her." 3

"Look at her! She has starved for over a week! She would have died if I did not bring her down here." Erik said. "Regardless of who she is you of all people should know that she is incapable of surviving in such ways."

Xaden started to walk away and then Erik stopped him.

"If you treat her like this! If you insist that she is to be sent back to her cell! Then I will leave this ship and I will leave your counsel: because I will

not stand and see you driven by your anger and despair and turn to hate." Erik said. 1

Xaden breathed heavily and then he slowly turned around.

He did not acknowledge Erik but the healer instead.

"What is wrong with her?" Xaden asked him.

Ned hurriedly bowed. "My lord. She was unconscious due to starvation and dehydration."

Xaden sighed heavily. "Will she live?"

Ned bowed. "Yes my lord: the dark hour has passed. If she has stayed any longer than when lord Erik found her then she would have been dead." 2

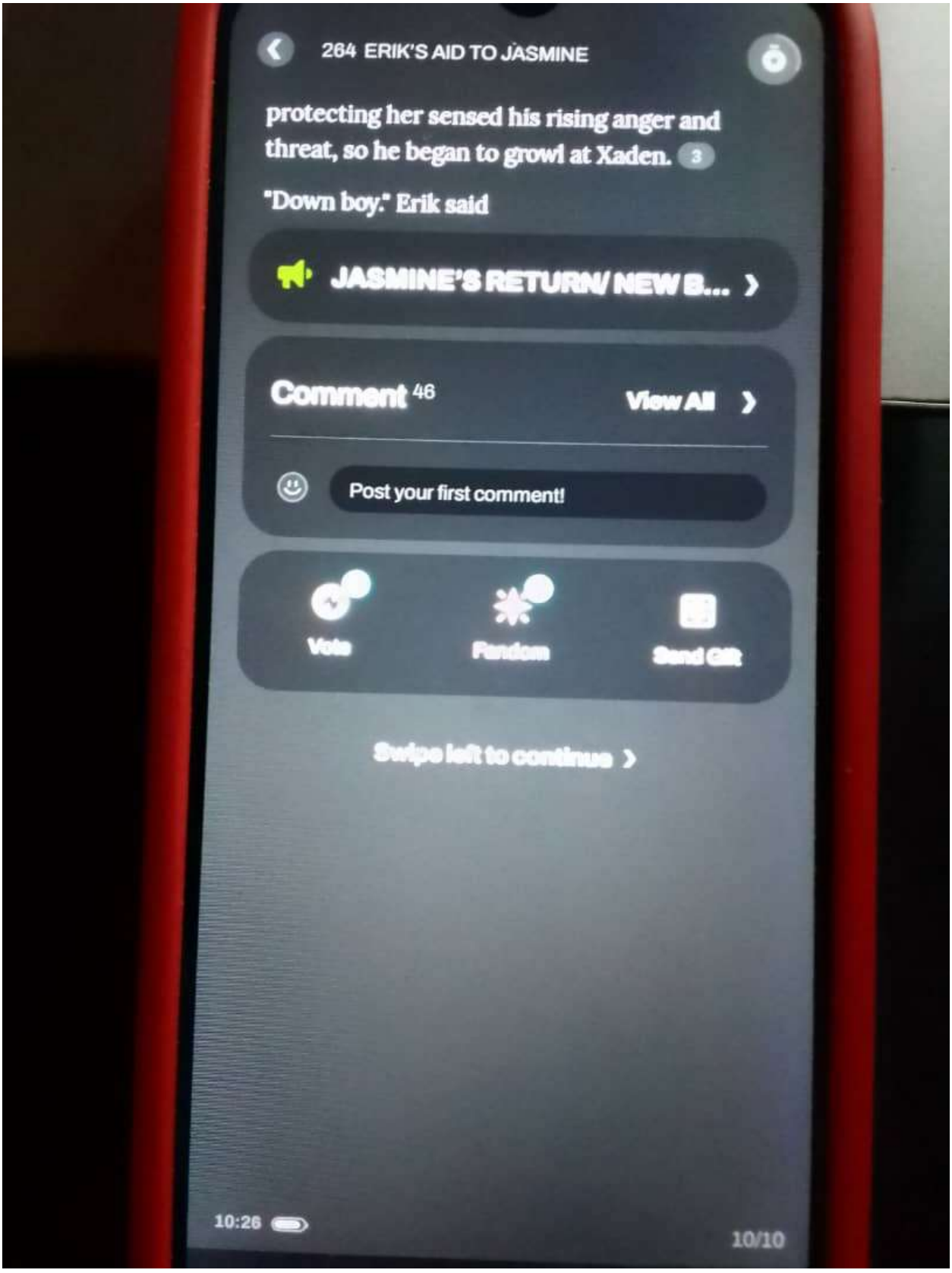
Xaden sighed and nodded to Ned. "See to it that she is taken care of." 4

Ned nodded. "Yes my lord."

"She will be chained by her feet when she comes to." Xaden said. "Because of regardless of her current condition it does not change the fact that she is an enemy." 1

Erik said nothing to that statement.

And then Erik's wolf who had been charged to


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protecting her sensed his rising anger and threat, so he began to growl at Xaden. 3
"Down boy." Erik said
JASMINE'S RETURN/ NEW B...
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