271 THE EMERALD NECKLACE

"I did not know," She said her voice breaking. "I swear Xaden I had no idea." 1

"How were you supposed to know?" He asked her with a very mean voice. "What would knowing change? Would it bring back what he did to me? Would it change the past?" 3

She looked down at her hands as she was absolutely weak and even unable to say a word.

Then she looked back up at him. "No. It would not have. But it would have changed the way I looked at him." 3

He was surprised at her words back at him.

Then he straightened up and said. "It does not change what you did too."

"You think I am proud of myself?" She asked him. "You think that I am proud of supporting my father who barely even looked at me from 2

The moment I was born? Do you think that I am proud of myself?" 1

She sighed heavily. "I have been through things. Those scars at my back were all my pack's doing. Luna Maria hated me so much. I was a

reminder of her husband's infidelity. I was the scorn. I was the scapegoat. And she and her daughter used that against me. Bear me with every slight opportunity they had." 2

She laughed and looked at him. "I know you hated me. But if you had Jessica instead of me, then you would have wished you had me. Jessica never did anything for herself. The stories that you heard about the spoiled daughter of Alpha Bale is as true as it could ever be. Jessica portrayed that. And whenever I crossed her she would have me beaten." 1

She sighed and resumed fingering her necklace. 1

"You always touch your necklace when you are anxious." He said. 2

She looked down and saw she was in fact touching her necklace .

"It was the only thing belonging to my mother that I had." She said. "My only memory of 2

Her even though I had one." 2

Then she looked up at him. "Do you want to see it?"

She started to take it off but Xaden felt an uneasy feeling.

"No it is yours." He said. "Yoh should 2

Have it on you always". 1

And then he rose up to his feet and started to head up towards the steps.

"Do you belive me now?" She asked him. "Do you belive that I never meant to hurt you? And that all I did, I did because I was forced to. I had no choice." 2

He stood standing. 1

He held the railings of the wooden steps that led out of the lower deck, then he said. "No I do not." 3

Then he started to ascend the steps.

"Will you kill me?" She asked. 3

He stopped short immediately. 1

Her heart started to race heavily waiting to hear what he had to say.

But then he simply said nothing and walked out of the cabin. 2

Jasmine pulled herself together and then rolled on her side in a fetal position and began to cry.

Then Kire heard her and climbed up the bed and cuddled himself around her. 4

He slowly licked her tears.

She managed a weak laugh and then she rubbed his hair.

Soon the gently rowing of the ship drifted the both of them to sleep 1

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Queen Rose lay in her bed fingering her daughter's emeral gem.

Wondering and hoping.

She still had not given up on her daughter.

When she had found the broken emerald afloat it had been a message.

That her daughter was no more.

But Rose had refused. She had said that she had wanted to see her own dead body with her own eyes.

The emerald was a very powerful relic that the royal family had for thousands of years.

Its history went back as far as the first wolves.

Even before the Lycans.

It had been all where the wolves had begun.

What their history was about.
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What their life was about.

The future Queen was to always wear the emerald necklace.

It was embedded with great power and once it was unleashed it could bring about the end of the race. 4

It could bring about the release of the first monsters that had walked this earth. 3

But Scarlett had worn it as it was expected. And she had taken the weight of it.

And when she had gone missing, they had all been worried about the necklace too.

And they had found a small piece of the emerald.

They had all been worried that the creatures would be unleashed.

But for some reason or the other it hadn't.

They had all been baffled.

Even the castle city of magic had been confused.

It was expected that if even a small 1

Piece of the emerald broke that all hell would 1

Be unleashed. 1

There had been no opinion to back it up.

Only one of the high celestial magicians had said something.

Miria.

She said. "It is what the gods had foretold. The red flame is here. Only the red flame can stop the monster from unleashing." 7

It had fueled the possiblilty and rumor that Scarlet was the proposed one.

The one that was waited for for over thousands of years ago.

The one that had been foretold told come and save them from the impending evil. 1

"But if the red flame is scarlet would I not have known since she was here." The Queen had asked anxiously while all the other magicians had waved it off and said it was all mere child's tale and myth that had been used over the years to scare their enemies. 2

Miria looked at her. "No. The red flames may not be scarlet herself. The red flames may be in her blood stream."

The Queen was quiet for while and then it dawned on her. "You mean to say she was pregnant?! But she is only a child!"

"No." Miria shook her head as she passed her side of the table and walked to where the Queen was. "In the future. When the daughter gives birth then she will have the red flames." 1

"So you think my daughter is alive? She is alive is she not?" She asked her clinging to her as she was the only one that was giving her the hope that her daughter might still be living. 2

Even her husband had told her that it was time for them to go past it and accept that Scarlet was most probably dead.

"Yes your majesty. I belive she is still alive." Miria said and the Queen closed her eyes tight and took in a very deep breath. 1

"Stop feeding the Queen nonsense." The other magicians said. "Your majesty do not listen to her." 2

"You will dare not tell your Queen what to do!" Rose said and her eyes became red and blazing.

Indicating her own red wolf and status as Queen.

They quickly went on their feet down af her. 1

Then she turned to Miria. 1

But Miria was gone.

That was the last time she had seen the magician.

And times had gone. Years had passed and the Queen was still holding unto the hope that her daughter was still somewhere out there.

She had sent so many wolves out to look for Miria. 1

But none had found her.

It had been extremely depressing.

Even the city of magic had no idea where she was. It was like she had just disappeared into thin air.

As the Queen fingered her emerald she felt something was wrong.

She felt the heavy night snow storm coming with a heavy storm.

And then she jumped out of her bed and quickly put a fur robe and went out of her room. 1

One of her maidens were at the door. "Your majesty please you are to rest." 1

But rose ignored her. 1

Since her best friend and closest hand maiden

Hildegard had traveled to see her family in the country she had been forced to have other maidens that Cherry had chosen specially at her service. 2

She hurried down the dark castle walls tang were lif with fire and guards standing at attention. 2

And then she pushed the door of the throne room open and saw that her husband and some men were speaking.

They were high ranking officials of the royal family.

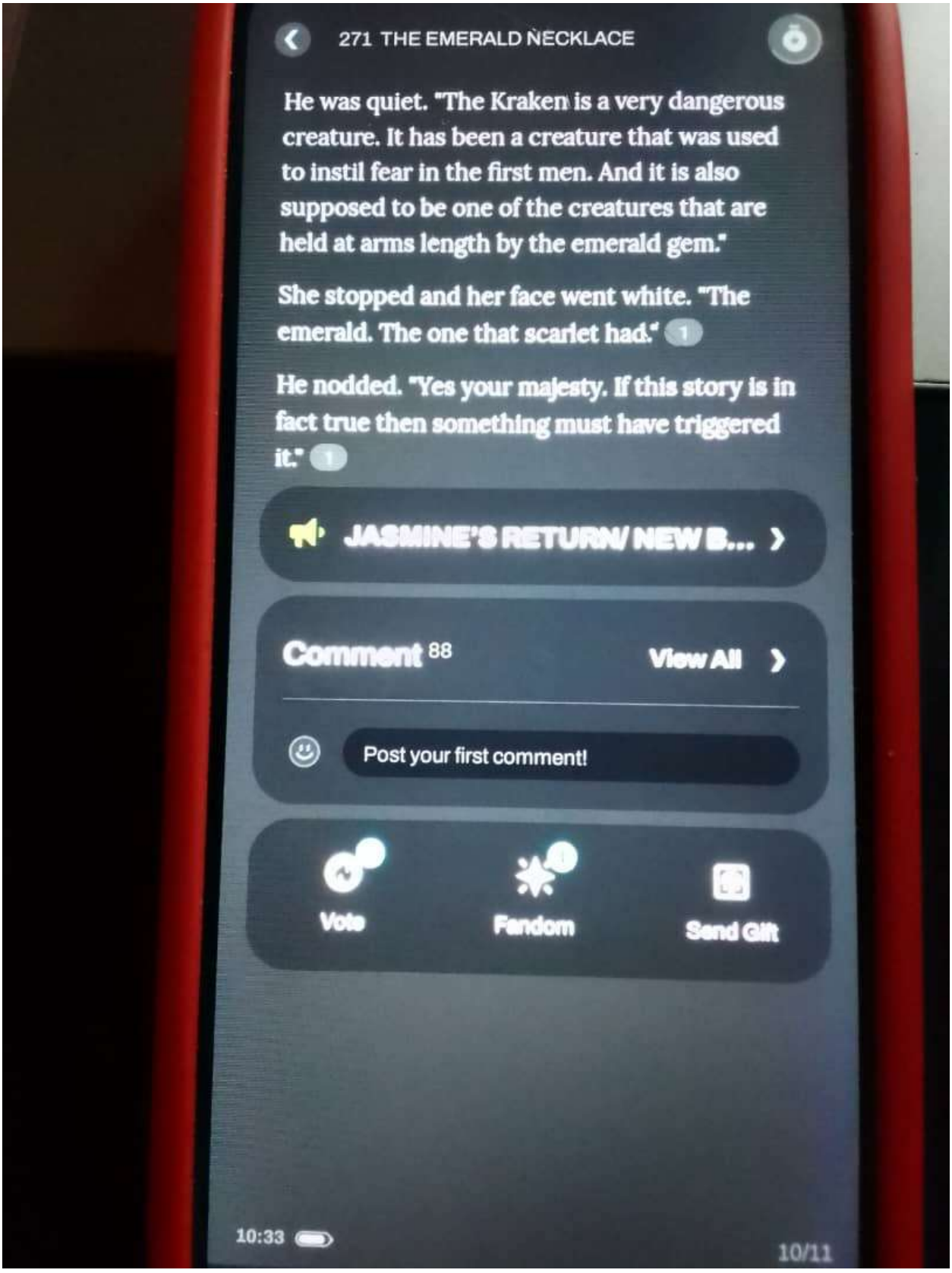
"What has happened?" She asked quickly. 2

Roland turned and saw her. Then he sighed and said. "A message owl came in. There seemed to be sighting of a kraken on the sea leading up to the south." 1

"A kraken?" She gasped. "Krackens are supposed to be a mere myth." 3

"And that is what we take them as." He said. "Probably some sailors saw one of the Marge sea creatures and over exaggerated." 2

She turned to the maester. "What do you think maester?"


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He was quiet. "The Kraken is a very dangerous creature. It has been a creature that was used to instil fear in the first men. And it is also supposed to be one of the creatures that are held at arms length by the emerald gem."
She stopped and her face went white. "The emerald. The one that scarlet had." 1
He nodded. "Yes your majesty. If this story is in fact true then something must have triggered it." 1
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