341 JOURNEY HOME

During the journey, Jasmine noticed that Erik had been very quiet. 1

He kept to himself while everyone laughed and made jokes together.

The only good thing about the journey to Jasmine was the fact that she didn't have to face Anna.

Anna was still in her princess carriage which meant Jasmine didn't have to deal with her.

She remained on Kire's back as the journey progressed.

The last time she had been at Xaden's pack was after Eleanor's death.

He hadn't even let her mourn Eleanor before he started pointing fingers that she was the culprit.

Xaden was ahead with the rest of the pack while they continued the journey.

Kire yawned and Jasmine leaned down at him and whispered.

"Tired aren't you?" She asked him.

He made some noises and she very gently rubbed his ears and looked onward at Erik.

She wondered if it was the fact that he was still detached from his wolf that was making him weak.

She very gently nudged Kire to where Erik was until they were side by side.

He didn't notice either of them had come around him.

His head was straight ahead on the road but his mind was very much elsewhere.

"Hey." She said and then he turned to see her.

"Jasmine." He said in surprise. "What are you doing here?"

She gave a light smile. "Came to check up on you. You seem far away."

"I was just lost in thought." He said.

She gave a beautiful laugh. "I could tell. Is it because Kire hasn't merged back to your wolf?"

"Huh?" Erik seemed a bit confused at first.

"Kire not merging with you till now. That's why you aren't really here." She explained further.

"Oh that." He nodded. "Yes of course. That's

what has been happening."

She sighed. "Do you think there is a reason why he doesn't want to merge back with you?"

Erik shrugged. "I don't know. He hasn't stayed out this long. I was hoping that going to Mage city would help change everything. But we didn't even get the chance to before the attack."

Jasmine sighed and was silent for a while.

"You know what you did was dangerous. Going off on your own even though you had absolutely no idea where you were. I'm not siding Xaden but he does have a point." Erik said.

She sighed heavily.

Usually he was on her side but she had made such a mistake that he didn't even support her this time.

"I know. And I'm sorry." She said. "Princess Anna is safe and sound. That is what matters."

"How was Anna like growing up?" Erik asked her. "You both stayed in the pack together. What was she like? Xaden has this belief that she suffered."

Jasmine gave a light shrug. "Jessica who is now

Anna, Was difficult. She never had a hard life. Not for once. She never faced what I had to face. Any of it. And I was her personal servant."

Jasmine gave a weak smile. "It's crazy don't you think? That even though I was a bastard child, someone who wasn't even their child was raised better than I was. She was given the life that I was supposed to have. And now with everything falling apart. Even with all the secrets out in the open, somehow, Anna still gets away with it. And somehow I am the villain. She is now Xaden's sister. His long lost sister and see how much he cares for her." 1

Jasmine bit her bottom lip. "I don't think anyone would ever understand how I feel."

"Your entire life you lived under a shadow and been forced to be who you weren't and the moment you finally become who you are, it makes no difference. It is still the same and perhaps even worst and the one person who doesn't deserve it, gets everything while you are stuck with nothing." Erik said andbtht shut her up. 1

He had said exactly how she felt.

"Maybe I don't know how you feel." Erik told her. "But I understand how yu feel."

She said nothing to that and looked on to the road.

"I don't like Anna or Jessica or wherever she can be whenever she wants to be." Jasmine sisd for the first time with all honesty. "She is a physical reminder of what my father and entire pack did to me. And to be honest she doesn't hesitate to remind me whenever she gets the slightest opportunity to."

Jasmine looked at Erik.

"Why the questions about Anna? Something happen?" She asked him.

Erik said nothing and looked away signaling that their conversation was over .

They resumed the journey and Anna's carriage stopped.

Xaden went to her window and spoke to her for a while and then Anna came out.

She came down from the carriage and walked to a horse that was waiting for her.

Xaden helped hoist her up on the horse and she smiled down at him.

Jasmine just glared at her.

Anger and rage burning in her.

Levels of jealousy she never knew she could reach. 1

All because she watched someone once take her own life and now take it again without ever paying.

Was life truly fair?

Anna was all smiles until she turned around and saw Jasmine and Erik side by side.

Her face fell.

She gave Erik a sweet smile and then Jasmine a very dangerous glare together with a sick and twisted smile, then she went on riding beside her brother. 1

They went on the journey in silence without making stops.

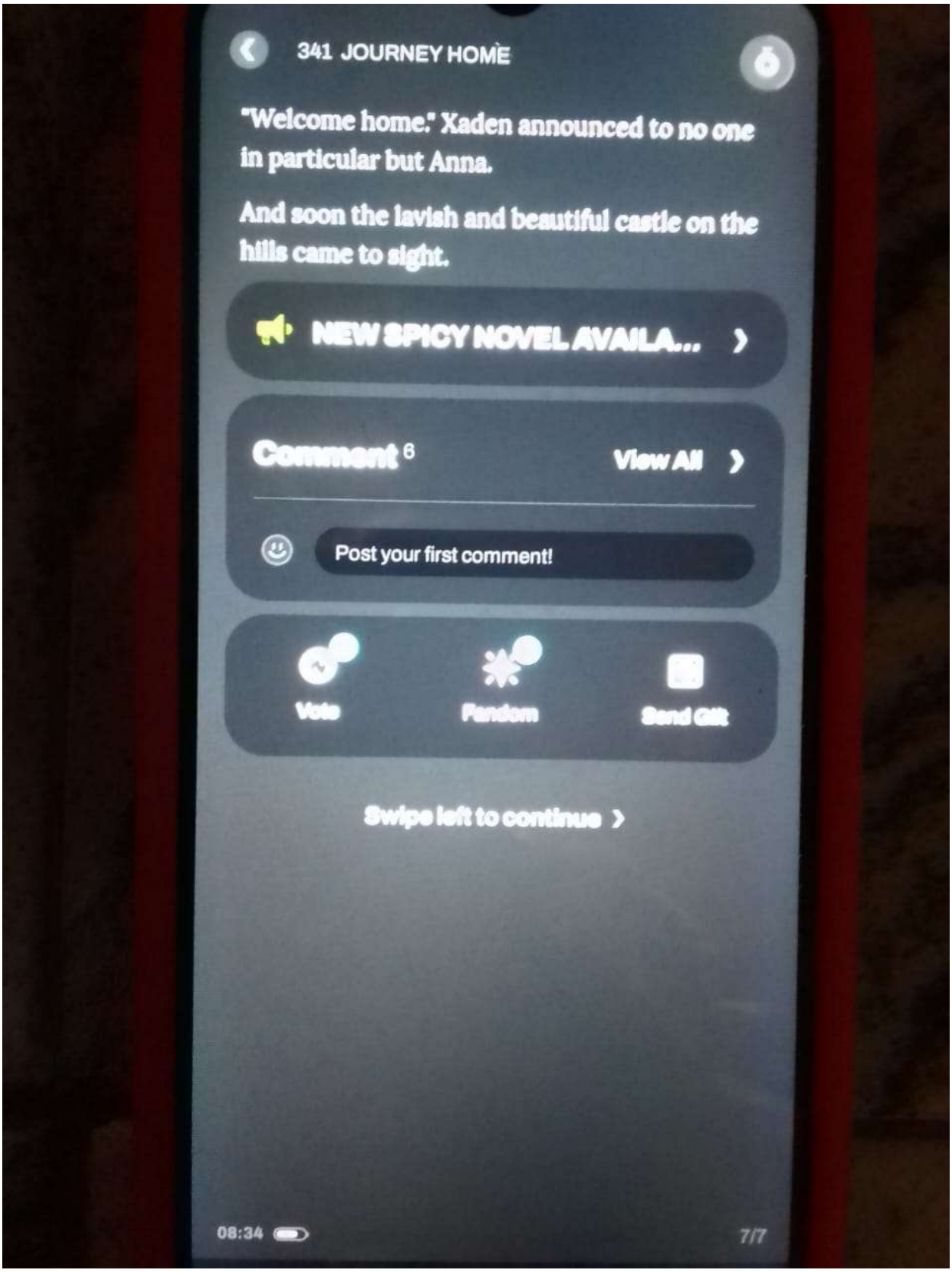
After a long while Jasmine started to feel a familiar sense of environment and she knew that she was already drawing close to the pack.

She began to feel anxious.

She had no idea how she was resuming to her life here.

Was she going to resume being a slave here or become a servant.

She had no idea.


341 JOURNEY HOME
"Welcome home." Xaden announced to no one in particular but Anna.
And soon the lavish and beautiful castle on the hills came to sight.
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