359 A LONELY FATHER

Erik slowly walked out of Anna's room. Managing his feet as he felt the weight of his emotions on his physical body. 1

He was trapped and there was no way in or out.

He considered meeting Xaden and speaking to him about it all, but decided against it.

In as much as Xaden was his best friend, Anna was his sister.

His only real family for all he knew and the one he had assumed dead.

Of course he would take her side and he didn't want to break Xaden's heart by letting him know how much of a monster his perfect sister.

He also didn't want to ruin Jasmine's life.

Her staying in the pack was just mere grace.

She was hanging by a thread and if they were not careful she would be sent out. 1

Jasmine's father still had enemies.

He could not let them do that to her.

Exposing her to live a life alone for the first time and unprotected, she would definitely be taken captive or worse wind up dead.

He could not do that to her.

There was no way out of this.

He went uo the stairs and headed down the faimilar hall way until he was at his daughter's door.

He gently opened it to prevent her from waking up.

She was sound asleep in her princes bed and tucked in with her favorite toy.

He walked to her side and sat down and gently put his fingers through her mass of kinky curly hair.

She looked like an angel.

Just like her mother.

Jade was in every way, physically, mentally, like her mother.

Although her mother had said times without number that she had taken his attitude and was extremely stubborn.

As he gently touched her hair, Jade gently opened her eyes.

"Daddy?" She asked and then she sat up and threw her arms around him. "I missed you daddy."

He breathed into her sweet babyish scent and for a split moment he was at peace.

"I missed you too monkey." He said and then he reluctantly let go.

He pushed back her curls to look at her beautiful brown skin. "How have you been?"

"I have been okay." She said.

"Have you been a good girl?" He asked. "Hope you haven't been giving nanny Alice any trouble."

She shook her head. "I have been very good daddy. You can ask her. I don't fight anymore."

"That's my girl." He said as he kissed her forehead. "You are always waking up monkey. You should be sound asleep."

She smiled and showed off her missing front teeth. "I had been waiting for you to come. I wanted to see you when you returned, but nanny Alice said I had to stay put because you were busy."

He nodded. "And you did good by listening to her."

"Whoa." He said. "Did we lose another teeth?"

She nodded. "Uh-huh. Very soon I am going to have my ferocious wolf fangs and I would be the most feared wolf in the entire realm."

"I thought you wanted to be a princess living in a castle the last time I was here?" He asked her.

She shook her head. "Times change daddy. Princesses are losers. I want to terrorize the enemies." 2

Erik could not help holding back him laughter.

He threw his head back and laughed uncontrollably.

She folded her arms and rolled her eyes, annoyed.

"You are laughing at me." She whined. "But you terrorize the enemies too. They are scared of you."

"Yes they do. But sometimes respect is better than fear. When you command respect, they are loyal to you. But when they fear you, given the slightest opportunity to betray you, they would take it."

She was quiet for a few seconds and then said. "I want them to respect me!"

"Thats my girl." He said and kissed her forehead once again. "You should be going back to bed. Your nanny would be cross with you if you wake up late. I would see you tomorrow."

He started to leave her bed when she held his hand.

"Can you please spend the night with me?" She asked him.

Her big bright eyes pleaded and his heart softened.

Could he ever say no to his daughter?

He went back down on the bed.

"Of course monkey."

And then he took off his shoes and opened the bed covers and held her as she nestled comfortably beside him.

"Sometimes I miss mummy." She said. "Sometimes the other pups have their mothers with them and I remember that I don't have her anymore. And I feel lonely."

Erik felt a tense pain in his chest.

Jade had never really gotten to know her mother.

She had been only two when she died.

But being a wolf the memories from when they were one year old remained with them up till they were old.

Hence why she could remember her mother.

"I miss mummy too." Erik said in all honesty.

He missed his wife so much that it burned him.

He was still grieving and he knew how hard it had been for the both of them when she had been killed.

He had hoped for some sort of relief seeing Bale dead.

But he still felt empty.

It had not brought back his mate and it hurt him.

He wondered what sort of mother Anna would be to Jade if he agreed to mate with her for life.

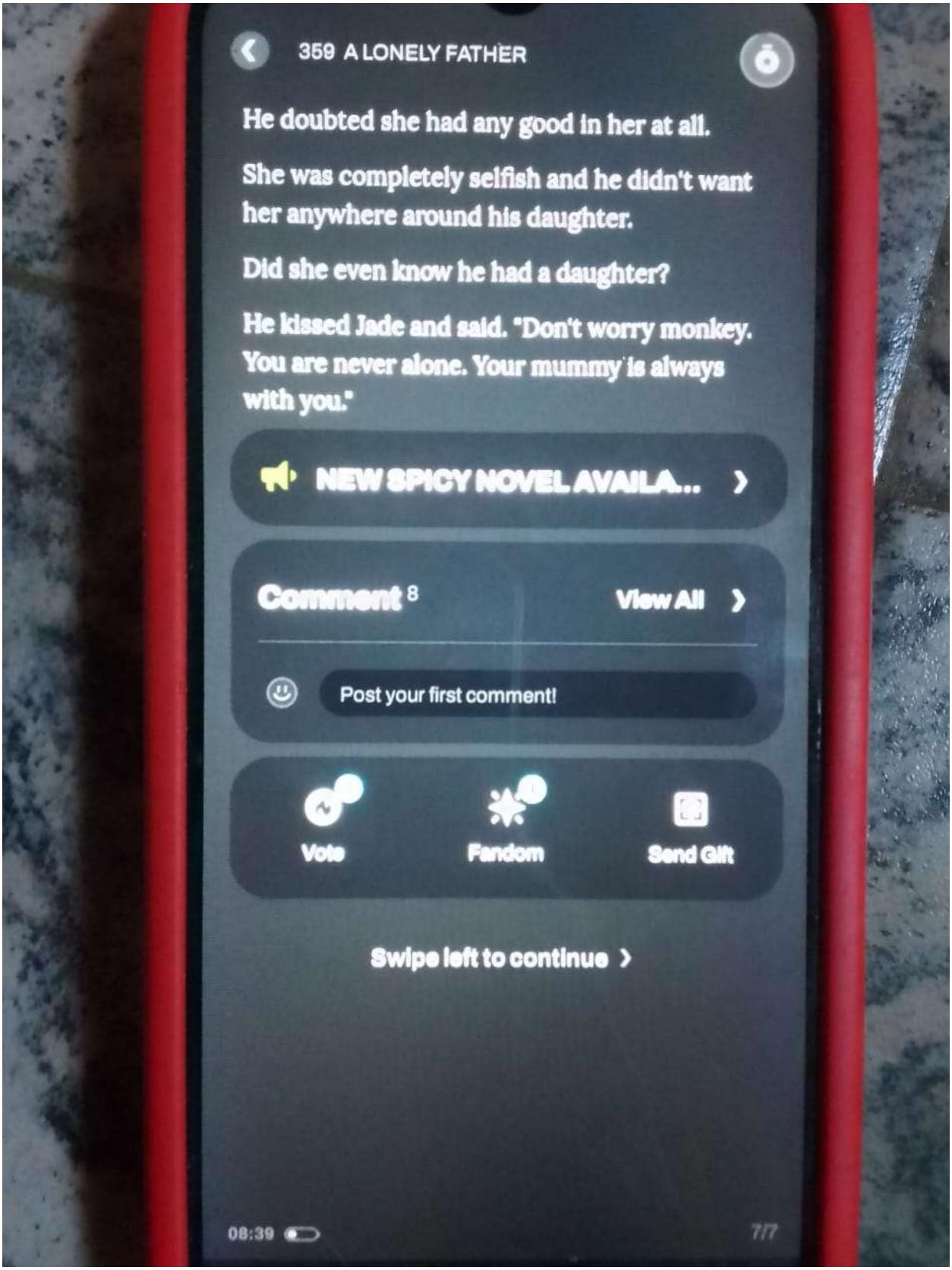
He doubted that she would be an ideal mother for Jade.

Especially with all the traits she was exhibiting.

Why had the goddess chosen Anna of all people to be his mate?

Why was he being punished in such a way.

Even if anyone why had it not been Fiona?


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He doubted she had any good in her at all.
She was completely selfish and he didn't want her anywhere around his daughter.
Did she even know he had a daughter?
He kissed Jade and said. "Don't worry monkey. You are never alone. Your mummy is always with you."
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