370 THE DECISION IS YOURS TO MAKE

She felt a sudden chill in her chest at the mention of the word never. 1

"You are never going to not be a problem in my life. As long as you are alive you would always be here." He stated.

She swallowed.

"In as much as it's your baby." She told him. "It's mine too. And I want to keep it."

And then she gripped his tunic.

"You would never ever hear from me again. I promise you. I would leave this place far far away. We would never cross paths. I will never come back for revenge, and you would never have to deal with a child. Please."

He was silence and then she knew what his decision meant.

Then he became very cold and his entire demeanor changed.

"You know what?" He asked. "You are right. I don't care about you and I don't care whether you live or die. Neither do I care whether about

that.... That...."

He couldn't even sa the words.

"That THING! Inside you. If you are wise then you would take this offer and move on with life." He announced.

"Thing?" She mumbled to herself stunned but not surprised by his words.

To even think that this same man had once been a child too was beyond her.

And then something strange occurred to her.

Xaden always did and got away with what he wanted.

If he wanted something done he did it or found a way to go around it, but for whatever reason now, he was asking for her opinion.

Giving her the option to choose?

Why?

Why couldn't he just kill her and get it over with? Why didn't he even kill the child when she was unconscious.

And it occurred to her.

"You can't decide for me." Jasmine said finally putting two and two together. "If you could,

then it won't even be an open option for me to consider."

His face went grim and she turned to look at the dread loc woman.

"Smart girl." She said with a coy smile. "I underestimated you. Yes, he can not do it himself because I told him you had to consent.

"So without his consent, I can still keep my baby?" Jasmine asked hopefully.

"Yes you can." Marie nodded. "It is solely up to you. It is when you want to take away the child that I would carry it out."

Jasmine was quiet. "Taking out my baby, would I even survive?"

"To be honest with you? You might not." The woman said. "You could die too the same you could die in childbirth. But whatever way it is. You are at risk."

Jasmine glared at Xaden and put her hands over her belly protectively. "It's a risk I am willing to take."

"And if I don't welcome you back to the pack?" He asked her threateningly.

She stuck her chin up in the air and with an air

of stubbornness, said. "I will figure out myself. I don't need you to survive and I don't think my baby would too." 11

Xaden raked his hands through his hair as he swore and then stormed out of the room.

Jasmine as left standing and holding her tummy protectively.

And then she began to worry about him wandering off.

She started to follow him when the woman stopped her.

"Don't worry about him he would come around." The woman said.

"Where do you think he went to?" Jasmine asked her voice filled with worry.

"Just to burn off some steam and take air. He wound be back." The woman said and then offered. "Here, take a seat

Still filled with skepticism, she eventually accepted and was doing sitting by the fire.

"Are you sure you want to keep this baby?" The woman asked. "You could go back home and think well over it and still come back next week."

Jasmine shook her head. "There is nothing to think about. I know what I want and I want this baby to live."

She smiled down at her belly still in shock and disbelief at the fact that she had life inside her.

"This baby proves to me that I could have something good in my life." Jasmine said with a weak smile. "That I'm not just here living an empty life, but I have something worth living for. I have meaning to my life."

And then she chuckled to herself.

She was still not sure whether to laugh or cry.

"Can you really survive the outside world without Xaden's protection?" The woman asked. 1

Jasmine didn't want to admit that she didn't tnink so, but said. "It might be difficult, but I'll make something out of it. Start afresh and do things differently."

The woman nodded.

"Do you know what gender hit might can be?" Jasmine asked as she smiled down at her tummy once again. 1

She simply could not stop herself from delighting in the thought of this child .

"No not now, but eventually we would." The woman said and then went through her cupboards looking for somethings.

And then after a few minutes of fishing through her cupboard, she returned with some bottles.

She instructed jasmine on how to take it to prevent her dizzy spells from emerging again.

"You are to make sure you strict yo these instructions. If you don't then I can't tell you what will happen." The woman said. "Even if it make the decision to no longer have the child I would still be here waiting."

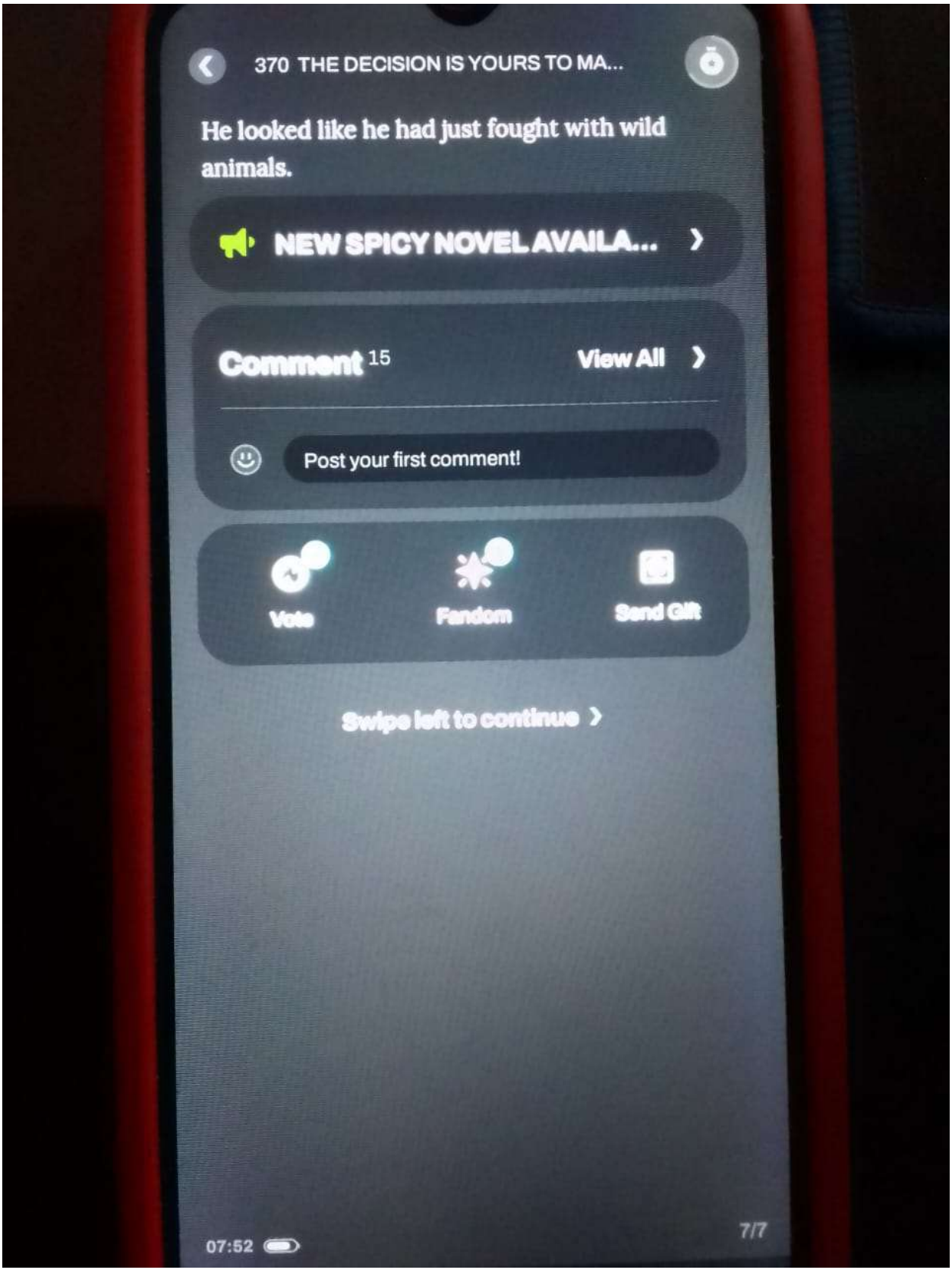
Jasmine was quite certain that she would not be changing her mind.

"Thank you." Jasmine said in all earnest. "For helping me. For everything and for giving me the chance to choose my baby."

The woman gave a light shrug and gently patted Jasmine's knee.

"Of course. It's a woman's world thanks to the goddess and not a man's. They just refused to admit it." She said sand Jasmine smiled.

At that very moment, the door was swung opened and Xaden came in. 1


370 THE DECISION IS YOURS TO MA...
He looked like he had just fought with wild animals.
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