388 The Queen's invitation

THE ROYAL PALACE 1

Queen Rose was in her study going through the new set or rules and orders .

She had specifically requested for all the laws that had been passed since she was out of power.

Now that she had returned she was going through them and pin pointing what she was comfortable with and what she wasn't.

She massaged her brows as the fire burned hard over her papers.

"Rose."

She looked up and saw Hildegard, her best friend and personal hand maiden.

Hildegard did not refer to her by her title.

They had gotten so close and used to each other that they saw each other as equal women.

The last time she had called her by her title since they were children was when Rose had decided that her sister Cherry come and Join them in the castle.

Hildegard had been so vehemently against it, but Rose was certain that she would come around.

And she did, but they both a maintained distance. 1

"It's late." Hildegard complained. "You should be resting."

"I haven't been through the work of the kingdom for over twenty years now." Rose replied as she leaned back in her chair. "I have rested more than enough."

"You can't finish it all up this night." Hildegard remarked. "Come to bed."

"Cherry would want to do them and she has done more than enough ever since she returned." Rose said.

Hildegard's facial expression changed and you could tell that she was displeased.

"I know that you don't like Cherry but she has doing a lot of work since she returned. Give her that credit." Rose said with a smile.

There was something else, Rose had noticed that something was amiss with Cherry.

She didn't want to give Hildegard the hint yet

because she wasn't so sure and she knew that Hildegard would capitalize on it.

Once she was certain about it, she would let in on it.

There had been I consistencies with the things she had begun looking into.

For instance Cherry seemed to have some dealing with a distant group of wolves that Rose had personally sent on exile.

She didn't want to believe it to be true.

Cherry was her only sibling since her parents and younger brother had died in the ship wreck.

But she had been forced to be a Queen and set her feelings aside and sent a discreet Gamma that was good at sourcing out informations.

For now she waited to hear what he had to say.

Hildegard sighed. "If you say so."

Then she handed the letter she held under her arm.

"This came this evening." Hildegard informed.

"What is it?" Rose asked as she looked down at the seal.

It was the crest from the Xaden's pack.

"It's from Xaden's pack." Hildegard said.

Rose opened and read through it.

"He has accepted the invite and he would be here with his sister, mate and Jasmine." Rose said with a smile.

She was delighted to know that Jasmine would come.

The last time she had seen her, she had been in chains.

She was such a sweet girl and she looked just like how she had expected Scarlet to be when she was around her age.

She was as kind and as gentle as Scarlet and she gave her so much joy.

"It still amazes me." Hildegard said. "That after everything Bale still stole Xaden's sister. How evil could he be?"

"I wish we did something more about it." Rose said sadly. "We could have prevented it. I just hope that him killing Bale would be retribution for everything. He has sister now and even a mate. I'm bringing him here to personally apologize for everything that happened. It can't

change anything, but I really hope it brings a better ending." 3

"You're a good queen." Hildegard said.

At that moment the door was opened and Cherry came in.

"Hi baby sister." Cherry greeted alf excited.

Hildegard's face fell.

"I would be on my way." Hildegard said and left the room immediately.

"Why is she so rude and snotty?" Cherry asked Rose.

"You just don't understand her." Rose remarked.

"Hmm." And then Cherry picked up the envelope. "What's this?"

She opened it without permission.

"It's an acceptance from Alpha Xaden. He would be coming here." Rose said as Cherry read through the contents.

"I see." Cherry mumbled.

Rose wasn't so sure.

Cherry seemed too okay with it for her liking.

She dismissed her thoughts and said. "Yes. And

you along with I and the rest of the royal family would issue an apology to him."

Cherry's brows crossed. "He killed Bale. What does he want an apology for?"

"Cherry he lost his family." Rose said irritated at her sister's selfishness. "And if I can recall it was due to your careless that we never got word about Bale's attack on his family. We could have saved them."

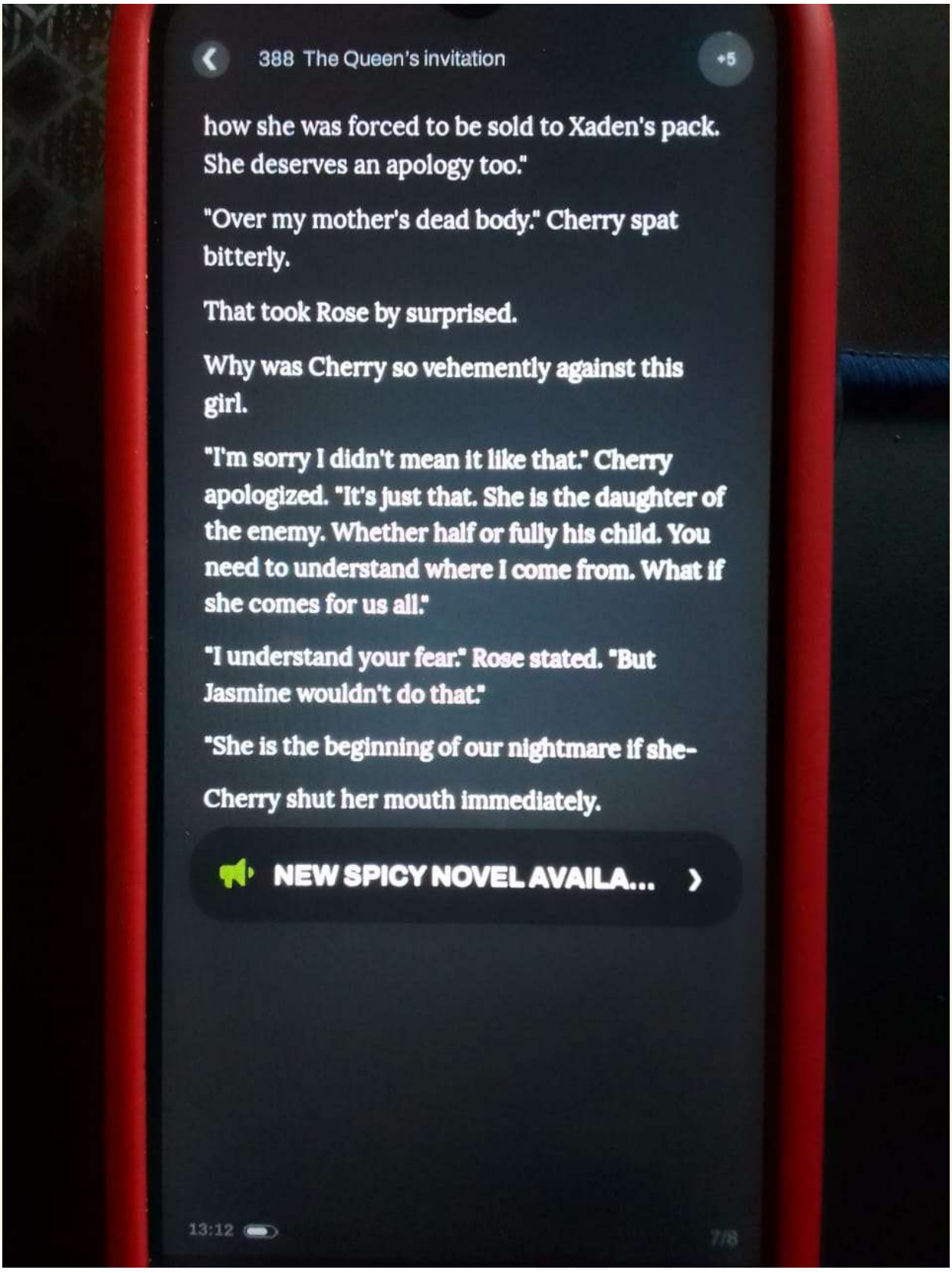
"Are you blaming me now?" Cherry asked visibly annoyed. "I explained what happened and you still blame me."

Rose sighed. "I'm not blaming you. It's been a long day. He has been through a lot and a vocal apology won't take anything from us. That's the least we can do for him and that is what we would do."

Rose looked back down at her scrolls and was oblivious to her sister's gritted teeth in anger.

"And Jasmine." Cherry said. "Why is she coming along? She isn't important. Shouldn't he get rid of her?"

"The girl has suffered more than enough Cherry." Rose said. "I read it in the Royal report. It's all been so cruel what happened to her and


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how she was forced to be sold to Xaden's pack. She deserves an apology too."
"Over my mother's dead body." Cherry spat bitterly.
That took Rose by surprised.
Why was Cherry so vehemently against this girl.
"I'm sorry I didn't mean it like that." Cherry apologized. "It's just that. She is the daughter of the enemy. Whether half or fully his child. You need to understand where I come from. What if she comes for us all."
"I understand your fear." Rose stated. "But Jasmine wouldn't do that."
"She is the beginning of our nightmare if she-
Cherry shut her mouth immediately.
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