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Rose dropped her head down in defeat and weakness. 1

She felt dazed and her mind began to spin as she saw the blood of Bernice in her hands.

She had JUST been about to tell her who had ordered her to poison.

Now she would never know.

Then she heard guards come into the room and she could feel her husband's presence arrive.

"Rose are you okay?" Cherry asked worried.

"What the hell did you do?" Rose asked racing to Cherry and grabbing her arms in anger.

Her husband pulled her away and separated her from her sister .

"Rose calm down." Her husband said .

"Why are you attacking me?" Cherry asked. "I just saved your life."

"Saved my life?" Jasmine demanded in anger. "You ruined everything! I didn't need your help! She didn't do anything and you killed her!" 1

Cherry gawked in shock at her outburst.

"W...wh.. what is wrong with you?" Cherry asked lost for words. "She was going to kill you."

"She wasn't going to kill you. What gave you the idea! I was standing right in her front and she was not going to do anything!" Rose stomped her feet.

"You need to calm down." Her husband said as he gently touched her shoulders. "You know I never back anything that Cherry does but she was only trying to help." 1

Rose jerked free from his grasp.

"Whose side are you on?!"

"I'm on yours of course." He said. "But you have to understand that we were all worried for you and Bernice could have killed you."

"Killed me?" Rose said spiraling. "She was a harmless servant until now."

Then she frowned. "Why are you here?"

And she looked at the number of Royal guards that were in the room. "Why and how are all of you here."

"We heard the screams and we came as soon as we could." Her husband informed. "How did you even know she could kill me?" Rose asked irritated.

"Cherry claimed that there had been some investigations and suspicions into Bernice stay in the castle. It had been low-key, until tonight." He informed her.

"And you didn't tell me?!" Rose yelled at Cherry.

"I was only trying for protect you." Cherry said sounding hurt. 1

At this point Rose was furious and distraught.

She wanted to slab and scream all over the place.

She was burning in rage.

"Protect me? I am the fucking Queen. I don't need fucking protection!" Rose said. 7

"Rose what actually happened?" He asked looking confused at her reaction.

Rose beamed in anger and rage.

"She is dead." The castle healer said. "Nothing can be done."

Rose wanted to lose my mind.

Her only way of discovering who had been trying to kill her, was gone.

"I didn't mean to tell you." Cherry said. "But

Bernice has been in co-horts with some bad people. There are a lot of bad people in this place. Ever since I returned all I have done is try to fish them out. We can't have traitors in our midst. I didn't want to tell you because it could have jeopardized everything."

Rose shook her head unable to believe what the hell she was hearing.

And then she looked at her husband the first time that night.

He looks disheveled.

He was shirtless and his hair was a mess.

He also smelled funny. His scent was mixed with something else.

As if he had been with a group of other wolves or someone.

She crossed her brows.

"Where were you?" She asked curiously. "Where are you coming from? You smell different?" 1

"Oh." He said and for reason or the other he was unable to reply.

"I found him down at the gardens training with some of the guards." Cherry said. "I sensed

something was wrong with you so I went to look for you. Didn't find you in your study and either of you in the bedroom, I was headed past the balconies and found him at the gardens training."

Jasmine looked at Cherry. 3

She looked equally disheveled.

Her hair was a mess and she seemed to have hurriedly worn something to race out of where she was.

"He can answer for himself." Rose said looking from Cherry and majoring eye contact with her husband.

"I was just training." He said. "You could ask the guards."

"I will." Rose said.

"But are you fine? Did she hurt you?" Her husband asked.

"I have been to uncountable wars." She said. "I can handle myself."

And then turned back to look down at Bernice.

Bernice who had wept for her children and family.

Whoever this person was, she was going to find

out.

If it was the last thing she did.

She turned back to Cherry. "I want to know everything that you investigated and discovered about Bernice."

"Of course." Cherry said with a smile.

Bernice's dead body was taken out of the room and Rose stepped aside to let them pass.

And then Rose walked out of the kitchen.

Cherry followed her out.

"Rose." She called out.

Rose stopped and turned to face her sister.

"I just wanted to know if you are fine." Cherry said. "I'm sorry that you had to deal with that."

"Thank you." Jasmine smiled sweetly. 2

"I wanted to ask what did she tell you?" Cherry asked.

"Who said she told me anything?" Rose questioned. 1

Cherry shrugged with a laugh that tried to change the air of tension. "Maybe because she was about to kill you before I came in."

"I told you that I had it handled." Rose said angry.

She had been treated like a child since she had gradually fallen ill.

Now she was fed up.

"I know." Cherry said. "Why are you even angry with me? I'm just trying to protect you. Why pour all you anger on me?"

"Because I DON'T NEED PROTECTING!" Rose barked.

Cherry was taken aback.

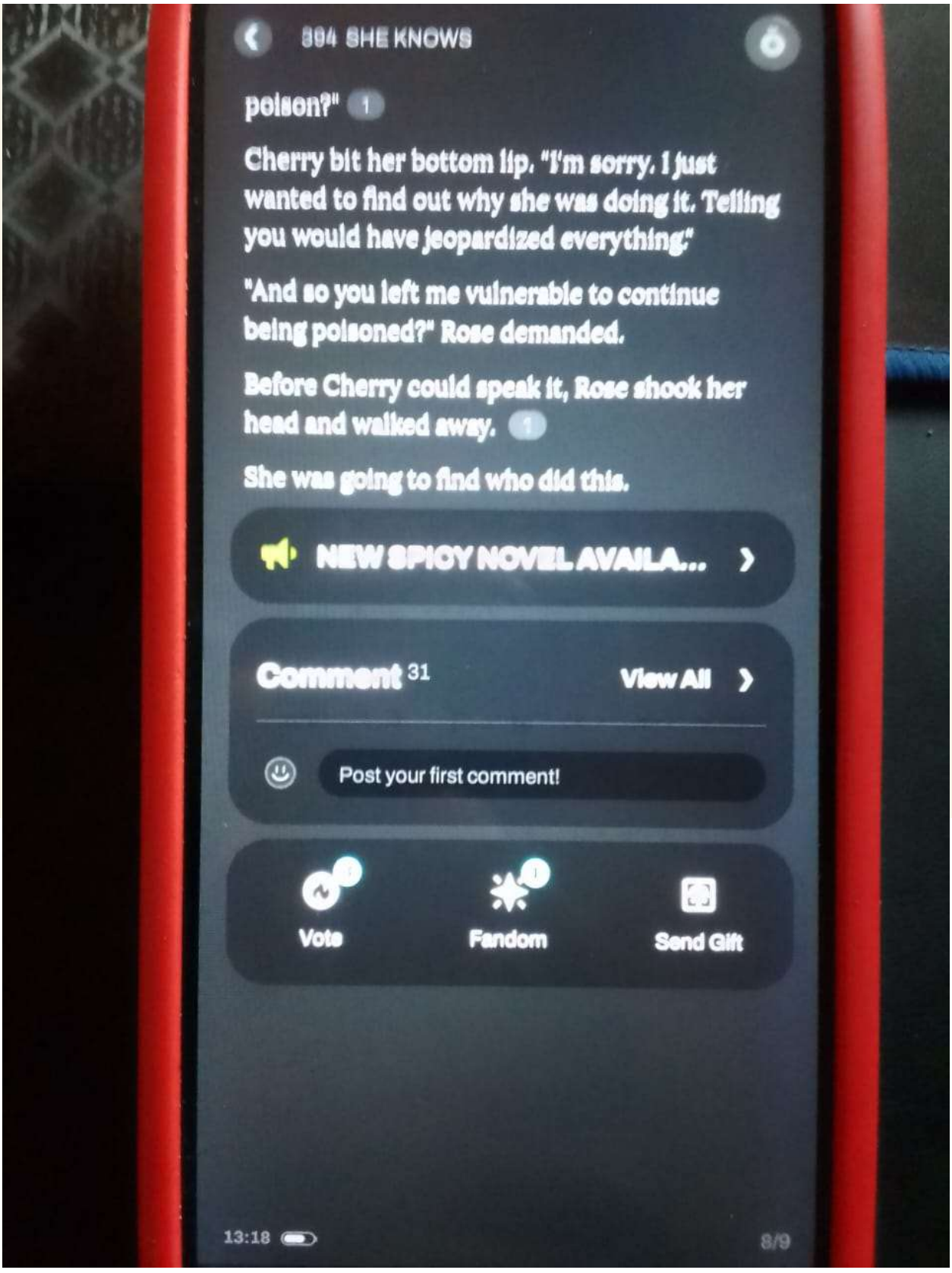
Rose sighed and rubbed her forehead. "I'm sorry. I didn't mean it like that. I've just had a very difficult evening. I'm tired and I want to go and rest."

"Of course I understand." Cherry said.

"Bernice didn't tell me anything." Rose said. "She was about to when you killed her."

"I really didn't mean to." Cherry said. "I only wanted to protect you."

"Yes you said so." Rose said and then it hit her. "If you found out that she had been poisoning me, why didn't you tell me ? Why didn't you stop me? You let me continue taking the


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poison?" 1
Cherry bit her bottom lip. "I'm sorry. I just wanted to find out why she was doing it. Telling you would have jeopardized everything."
"And so you left me vulnerable to continue being poisoned?" Rose demanded.
Before Cherry could speak it, Rose shook her head and walked away. 1
She was going to find who did this.
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