405 AN IGNORANT KING

Roland was leading his men as they rode towards Rose. 1

He saw his wife seated on a rock in front of an almost dead cottage and he came down.

She looked shocked to see him. "What are you doing here? How did you know I was here?"

"Because I sent for him." Hildegard said.

Rose looked at her, a face of betrayal written all over.

"Why would you?" Rose asked unhappily.

"Well I believed that he would handle things better." Hildegard admitted. "So I told Logan to send a messenger owl to inform him." 1

"You don't think I'm capable of handling matters?" Rose asked.

"There are dead bodies in that house." Hildegard stated matter of fact. "This shouldn't be something that just three of us could handle on our own. We needed help. And you husband has been in power more recently. He would know what to do."

"Don't get angry at her." He said. "I am the one

who is supposed to be angry with you."

Rose narrowed her eyes at him. "What?! You're supposed to be angry with me?"

"Yes. Goddamn it Rose." He swore. "How could you come here all on your own without telling me?"

"You don't police me." She said. "If you remember I am Queen. You are King Consort. You are the last person to give me orders."

He rubbed the back of his head and groaned. "This has nothing to do with who is king consort or not. This has to do with the fact that you put your life in danger."

"You are part of the reason why these people are dead!" Rose said.

He sighed and turned behind to some of his men.

"Come with me."

And then he walked into the cottage.

He saw the dead body of the man on the chair.

And then he went to the other door in the house.

There he found the dead bodies of the children.

He had seen a lot things in his years. But this was something else.

"Good goddess." Markus, one of his top Lycans said. "Who could have done such a thing?"

Roland himself was equally confused. This was a whole different matter entirely.

How stupid could rose have been?

What if she had been caught in the mix of all this and would have died?

"What does it look like?" He asked his hands on his waist.

"I've never seen anything like this." Devon, his chief investigator said. "Not in my thirty years of investigating murders. There isn't any foreign scent in the house. Except the Queen's, her hand maiden and her body guard. If it was a wolf he or she would have used magic to hide their scent. Or it could just be someone doing magic. There aren't claw marks to indicate a wolf. And their death happened very fast and very painfully."

Roland rubbed his face and then went back out to find his wife.

He looked up at Hildegard and Logan.

Hildegard took the hint and went away.

Logan remained standing behind her.

"I want to speak to my wife you can leave." He said.

But Logan remained standing.

She waved her hand off at him.

"It's fine. Go." She said.

It was only then Logan turned away.

Xaden shook his head. 3

He had never really liked Logan because Logan tended to only obey Rose.

Not anyone else, not even him.

"Why did you come here?" He asked once Logan was out of sight.

Rose sighed heavily.

"I came to find more about Bernice." She said knowing that she couldn't lie anymore.

"So this was what you wanted to do this morning?" He asked in disbelief. "This was really what you wanted to do? And you couldn't tell me."

"I don't need to tell you everything." She said annoyed. "I'm the Queen I can handle things myself."

He put his hands on his waist and looked at her. "No one is disputing that. No one has ever said you weren't. But you have been away from the seat for a long time. This is what happens when you choose to do things on your own. What did you think was going to happen."

"Someone put Bernice up to kill me." Rose said. "I wanted to find out."

"And you chose to do it all on your own?" He aske don uther disbelief.

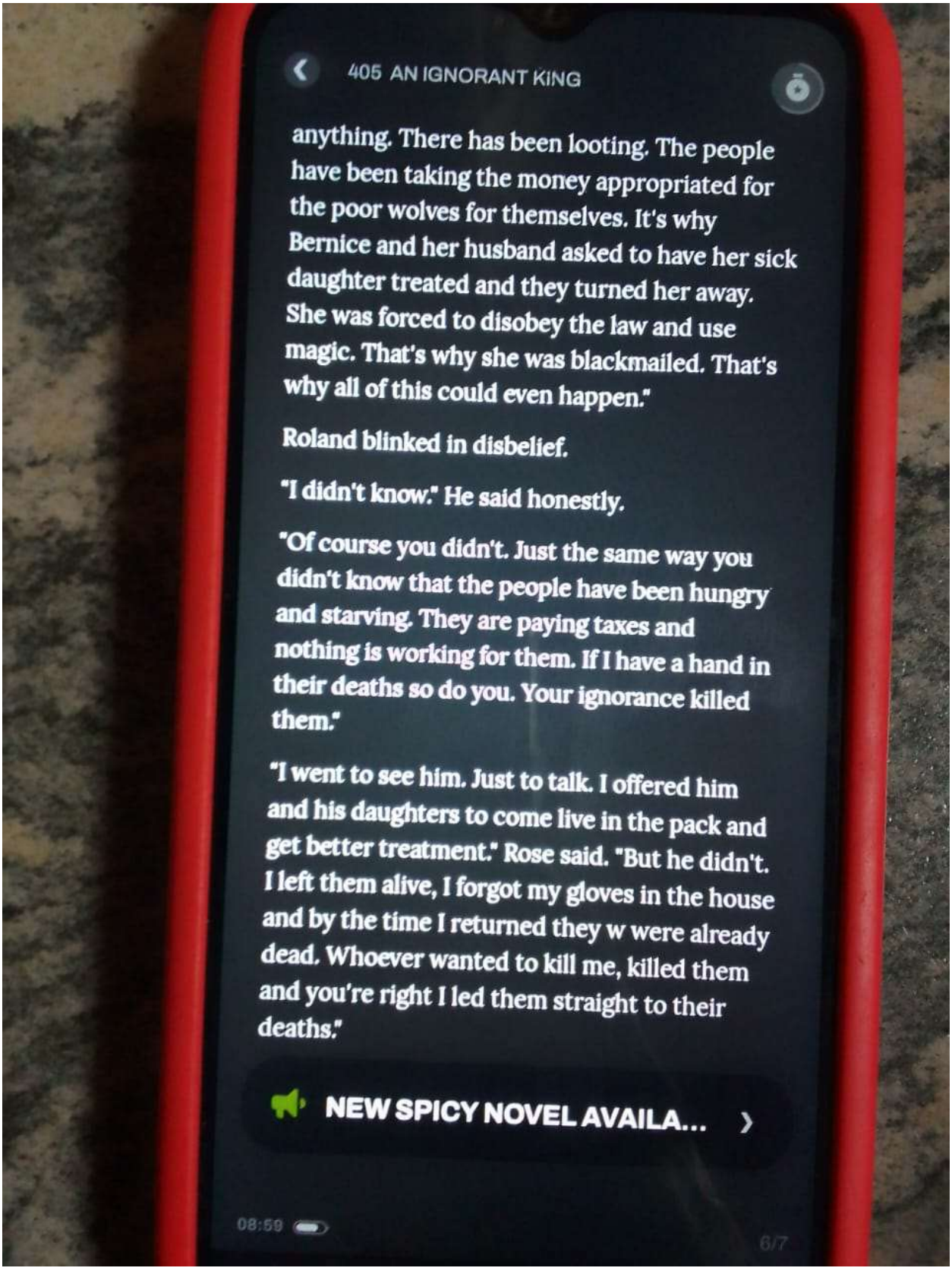
"I have been poisoned for decades now. Did you know? Until I found out?" She stood up to her feet in anger. "Someone who hates me, had blackmailed Bernice to poison this entire time. I came here to ask her husband about it and he confessed. But he didn't know who it had been."

"Do you realize that you cause their deaths?" He asked. "You didn't mean to, directly but you did." 3

"Do you think I don't already don't know?!" She snapped at him. "You're one to talk. What is going on amongst the royal physicians."

He frowned. "Nothing is going on amongst the Royal physicians."

"You see why I say you don't even know


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anything. There has been looting. The people have been taking the money appropriated for the poor wolves for themselves. It's why Bernice and her husband asked to have her sick daughter treated and they turned her away. She was forced to disobey the law and use magic. That's why she was blackmailed. That's why all of this could even happen."
Roland blinked in disbelief.
"I didn't know." He said honestly.
"Of course you didn't. Just the same way you didn't know that the people have been hungry and starving. They are paying taxes and nothing is working for them. If I have a hand in their deaths so do you. Your ignorance killed them."
"I went to see him. Just to talk. I offered him and his daughters to come live in the pack and get better treatment." Rose said. "But he didn't. I left them alive, I forgot my gloves in the house and by the time I returned they w were already dead. Whoever wanted to kill me, killed them and you're right I led them straight to their deaths."
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