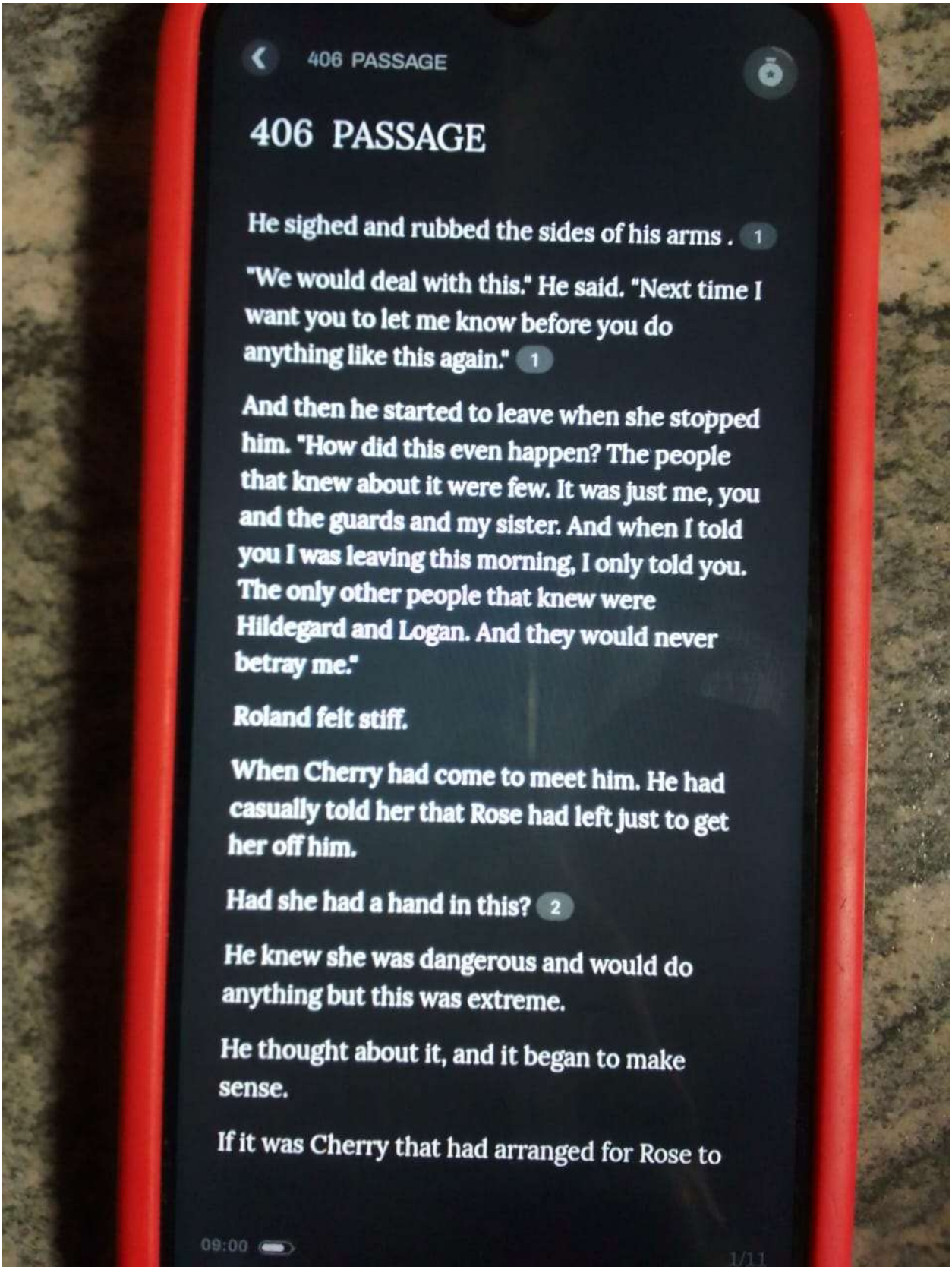

406 PASSAGE
406 PASSAGE
He sighed and rubbed the sides of his arms . 1
"We would deal with this." He said. "Next time I want you to let me know before you do anything like this again." 1
And then he started to leave when she stopped him. "How did this even happen? The people that knew about it were few. It was just me, you and the guards and my sister. And when I told you I was leaving this morning, I only told you. The only other people that knew were Hildegard and Logan. And they would never betray me."
Roland felt stiff.
When Cherry had come to meet him. He had casually told her that Rose had left just to get her off him.
Had she had a hand in this? 2
He knew she was dangerous and would do anything but this was extreme.
He thought about it, and it began to make sense.
If it was Cherry that had arranged for Rose to
09:00
1/11

be poisoned, she would have ordered for Bernice's family to be killed to cover her tracks.

He was going to have to confront her head on.

"Roland did you have any thing to do with this?" She asked him.

That took him aback.

"Gods no." He said. "Why would you even think that?"

"Because you are the only one that I told when I was leaving this morning and somehow they wind up dead. Somehow you are already here at the murder." She said. 1

He felt insulted that she would even think him capable of doing such a thing to her.

"How can you say such a thing? Didn't it occur to you that it's possible from the moment she died, whoever sent her could have known? I came here to fix this mess you made. I'm your husband for crying out loud!" He said annoyed. 1

"Lately all you have done is antagonize me. I have tried my best. Since you came back to the throne, you have seen me as weak along with everything that I have done for the past twenty decades you were away from the crown." 1

"You have a line of corrupt people stealing from the poor. All these happened because you didn't care. It would have never happened under me." She said.

"You think I wanted this in the first place?" He asked angrily. "Then fine! Handle it! I'm done!"

And he started to storm off.

"Don't walk out on me I am your Queen!" She said going after him.

"You were my wife first before you became my Queen." He said. "I look at you and I wonder what happened? I wonder if losing Scarlett made you lose everything."

"Stop." She said.

"You make it seem like she was only your child?" He asked angrily. "You make it seem like only you cared. I am an Alpha. A male wolf. I am expected to ignore my feelings. I was never allowed to grieve my own child because the rest of the pack would see me as weak. Do you know how that made me feel? Because my daughter died and worse when my own wife won't accept it so much she abandoned not just me or her surviving daughter, but the entire wolf Kingdom?"

"Scarlett isn't dead." She said before she could close her mouth.

"Not this again." He said rubbing his eyes in frustration.

She went quiet for a few seconds and then he looked at her.

"Go on say what you started." He said. You promised! You promised to let this end! You promised to let this die! And this is what you are back on?!"

He shook his head. "I should have know that this was what you were up to. I should have known that you were never going to change."

She took in a deep breath.

"Look Roland." She started. "She isn't alive."

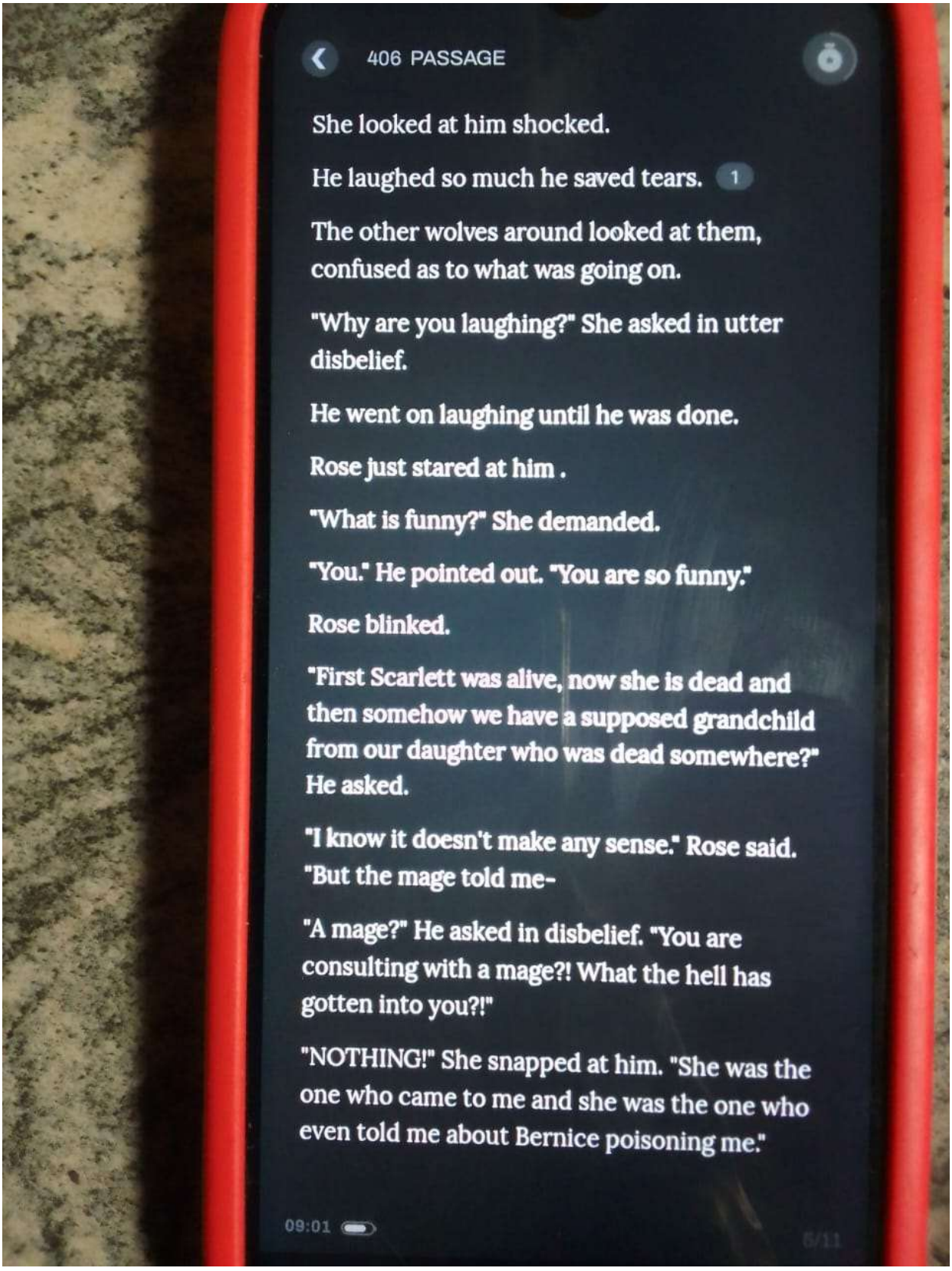
"Oh now she isn't alive?" He rose his brow. "You just said she is alive."

She shook her head and began to stutter. "No that's not what I meant."

He looked at her, waiting for her response.

"Scarlett is dead." She said. "But... she had a child. And that child is somewhere alive." 1

Roland looked at his wife and he bust out into uncontrollable laughter.


406 PASSAGE
She looked at him shocked.
He laughed so much he saved tears. 1
The other wolves around looked at them, confused as to what was going on.
"Why are you laughing?" She asked in utter disbelief.
He went on laughing until he was done.
Rose just stared at him .
"What is funny?" She demanded.
"You." He pointed out. "You are so funny."
Rose blinked.
"First Scarlett was alive, now she is dead and then somehow we have a supposed grandchild from our daughter who was dead somewhere?" He asked.
"I know it doesn't make any sense." Rose said. "But the mage told me-
"A mage?" He asked in disbelief. "You are consulting with a mage?! What the hell has gotten into you?!"
"NOTHING!" She snapped at him. "She was the one who came to me and she was the one who even told me about Bernice poisoning me."
09:01

Roland looked disgusted. "A mage? Came to you. To discuss about our grandchild we never even knew existed."

"Yes." Rose said. "I know it sounds crazy. But that's what happened. You have to believe me!"

"Has it occurred to you, that it's possible this very mage who told you such lies, is the person who might have been poisoning you and might also be the one who killed this family? Because how did everything go downhill till you met this supposed mage?" 1

"She had nothing to do with it. She was just trying to protect me." Rose said as she followed him.

Roland walked away.

She tried to hold his arm but he jerked free.

"I am going to find my grandchild. I won't make the mistake I made with Scarlett." Rose said adamantly.

"I should have know that you would never change." He said and with that he walked away. 2

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Unknown to them, a Royal Beta under Cherry's payroll was listening to their entire
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conversation and would report everything he had heard back to her. 1

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Jasmine woke up in a break of sweat.

She protectively held her slight bulge on her stomach and looked around.

She was in her new bedroom and it had just been a bad dream.

She had dreamt that she had given birth to her baby girl and before they even let her hold it, Anna and the Queen's sister, Princess Cherry had come and snatched the baby. 1

She had cried and begged for her baby.

Xaden had just stood there refusing to do anything rather than just watch. 1

Eventually her tears and rapid heart beat had woken her up from the dreadful nightmare.

She touched her neck and throat as she cleaned off the beads of sweat.

She took in a very deep breath and looked at the beautiful open windows.

It was night and the moonlight stricken into her bedroom.
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It was a full moon.

If she was a wolf, her wolf would have been calling to the moon but unfortunately she didn't.

If her baby was an unshifted wolf like her, she would protect her from all the terrible things she had suffered from her fate.

How she wished that she would be able to see the moon much better.

She gently told up from the bed and paced the room.

She had had her dinner in her bedroom refusing to have dinner in the main dining hall.

She still didn't know how Lily or Anna would perceive her.

So she intended to maintain her distance for as long as she could .

She rubbed her tummy and hummed a melody that Urma had sung for her as a child.

She went back to bed and tried to sleep, but she couldn't.

Eventually she went over to the large bookshelf to pick up a book to read. 2

406 PASSAGE

She was picking through them one after the other when she noticed something unusual.

From behind the bookshelf there seemed to be a streak of light coming in.

She thought it was her imagination at first and so she casually waved her hand at it and then it flicked on and off.

She was taken aback.

She looked through the hole that it came from and couldn't see anything in particular.

She took a step back and then she saw that even down from the massive bookshelf a small pin point of line emitted.

It was as if something was behind the shelf.

She walked to the side and measured it closely.

Could she try pushing it?

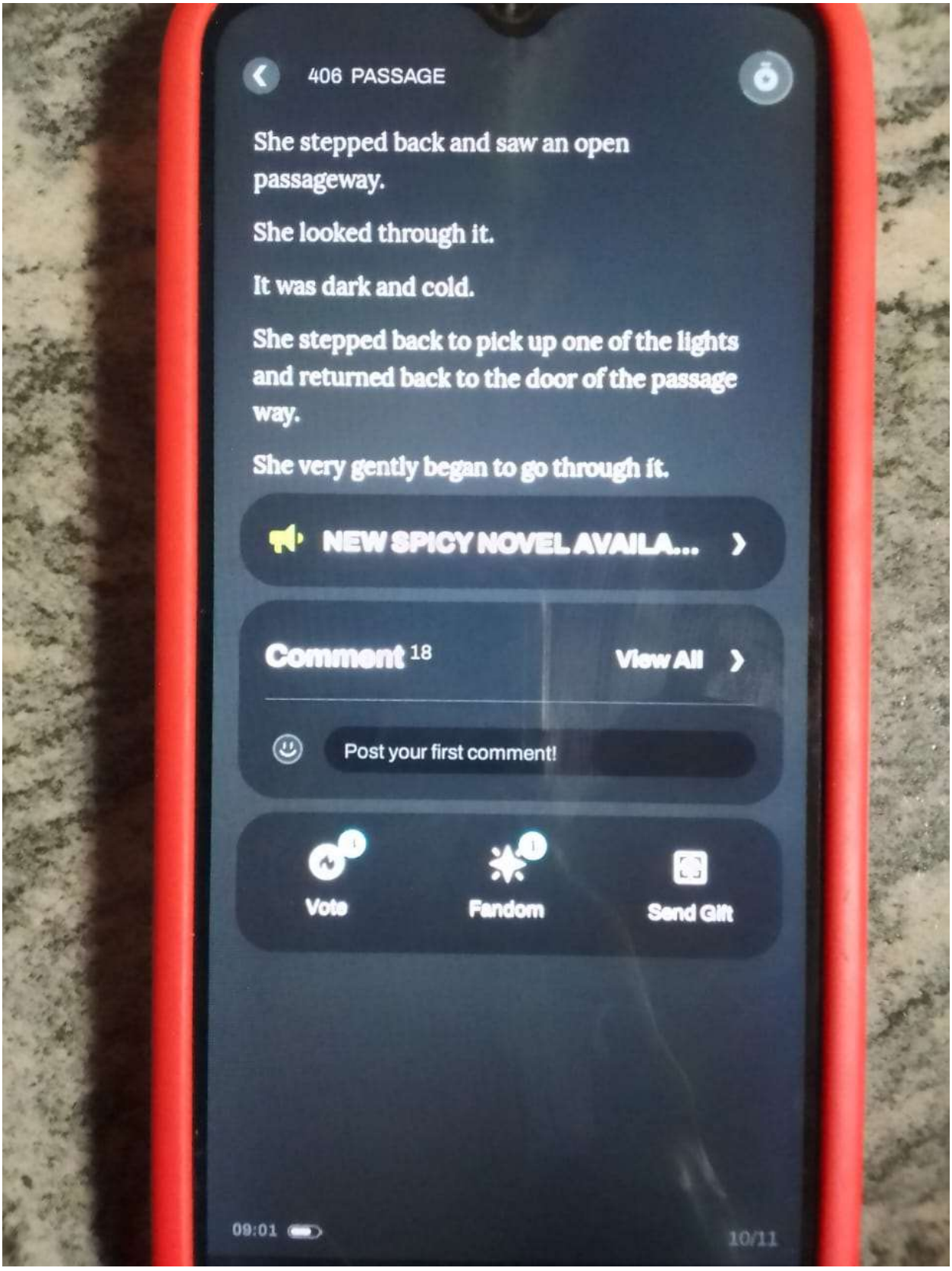
She hesitated and then pushed it.

It didn't budge.

She tried again, this time a little harder and to her amazement, she felt it begin to move back.

She tried it once again using all her might.

The shelf began to move and then finally it was completely gone.


406 PASSAGE
She stepped back and saw an open passageway.
She looked through it.
It was dark and cold.
She stepped back to pick up one of the lights and returned back to the door of the passage way.
She very gently began to go through it.
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