409 HIS DEPARTURE

Early the next morning, Jasmine woke up in her bedroom. 1

She stretched as she gently got up and memories of the previous night came flooding in.

She smiled to herself.

He had been very gentle with her and had even indulged her in his love for astronomy.

It was a side of him she hadn't expected or even seen coming.

Then she remembered how the baby had kicked at her stomach.

She rubbed her tummy and spoke to it. "You helped your father get close to us." Jasmine said. "Thank you."

There was no response kick.

"So it's only your father's voice you like to hear and not mine." Jasmine queried.

It was at this moment that she felt the kick.

Jasmine smiled.

Her child was very intelligent and already a

mischievous little daddy's girl.

There was a knock at her door.

"Come in." Jasmine ushered.

The nanny and Marie came in together.

"Good morning ma'am." The nanny greeted as soon as she stepped into the room.

Jasmine smiled back at her. "Good morning ma."

"Out of my way." Marie said as she pushed the nanny out of her way.

She sat down on the bed and held Jasmine's hands.

"What are you doing here?" Jasmine asked confused. "You were here only a few days ago."

"Xaden sent me to you." Marie said a she mused over her hands and then she went down on Jasmine stomach.

She put both hands on it.

Jasmine flinched in reflex.

"I'm sorry." Jasmine apologized. "I'm not really comfortable with people touching my baby."

"That's alright." Marie said ignoring her and still touching her stomach.

When Jasmine tried to put her hands again, Marie pushed it away.

She put her ear to the stomach and listened.

"Most new mother's do things like that." Marie said. "Being overly protective of their babies. It's normal."

"But why are you here?" Jasmine asked.

"You have such a sharp mouth." Marie rose a brow. "When I first met you, you were a scared little slave trying so hard to not walk in her father's footsteps and please her master."

Jasmine blushed and went red.

"Now you have become the lady of the pack and you can do whatever you want to. Even talking back at me." Marie said. "For your information I am here because Xaden sent me to come see you. Apparently your baby is already kicking."

"Yes." Jasmine admitted, forgetting her hostility towards Marie. "Is anything wrong? Is she okay?"

Marie withdrew. "Your baby is fine. Just that it is growing rapidly fast. I'll out you on a new dosage. Just to be sure we don't have any future problems."

"Of course." Jasmine mumbled to herself.

Marie rose up to her feet and started handing out new medicine.

"You are to take these religiously." Marie said.

The nanny looked horrified. "What in the name of the goddess is that concoction?"

"It's my spit and bath water and so what?" Marie replied nastily.

"I am here as her nanny and it is my job to take care of her." Nanny said. "I will not allow such a thing. The baby and the mother are supposed to be well take care of."

"That's your business." Marie replied her hands on her waist. "I came here because Xaden asked me. So I don't answer to you."

"And I am here because he employed me and saw me fit to be her nanny." Nanny said.

"That's too bad." Marie said. "I like to eat Nanny's for dinner."

Nanny scowled.

"There would be no need to be eating anyone." Jasmine intervened between both women. "I can take the medicine and you can be here nanny to take care of me."

Nanny humped and rolled her eyes but

mumbled a. "Fine."

Marie folded her arms and mumbled a "fine." Too

Jasmine sighed in relief.

"Where is Xaden" Jasmine asked.

She hoped that she didn't sound too curious.

"He is gathering his horses to leave." Marie said absent mindedly.

"To leave?!" Jasmine gasped. "To where?"

"And I thought you two were the perfect lovers?" Marie rose a mischievous brow.

"He didn't tell me anything about traveling." Jasmine expressed.

"Since when he did start telling him anything about himself?" Marie snorted as she dropped a disgusting looking green liquid on the table.

Jasmine went to her window and saw that indeed horses were being gathered.

She started to fear.

He has made her feel safe, comfortable and at home and now he was leaving without even telling her?

"Did he say where?" Jasmine asked worried.

"That was none of my business so of course not." Marie stated.

"You should have your breakfast." The nanny said as she opened the door for

Two maids bringing in full players of food.

"I'll be back." Jasmine said as she hurried past the maids.

She didn't know where the courage or confidence was coming from, but she wanted to see him before he left.

She ignored her nanny and Marie calling out to her.

"Pregnant women shouldn't run like that!" The nanny shouted after her.

But Jasmine ignored.

She almost bumped into the kitchen staff and the girls cleaning.

"Sorry." She apologized. "I am so sorry."

And then she went past them.

Finally she made it to the ground floors of the castle.

At that very moment Xaden was about to climb his horse.

"Xaden!" She didn't know when she called out his name.

He stopped and saw her coming down the

Stairs.

It was only when she was standing in front of him she had realized what she had just done.

She missed a step and would have fallen straight to the ground if he hadn't caught her in that exact moment.

"Careful." He said.

He caught her arms and very gently pier to a standing position.

Jasmine blushed and tucked her hair behind her ear.

"Thank you."

He looked all over her confused and seemingly worried.

"You look like you ran miles." He said with a frown as he waved a strand of loose red curls from her face.

She was unable to say a word and her face felt red.

"What are you even doing here?" He asked.

"And without help?"

She looked back up at the top of the pack castle.

Her bedroom was on the fifth floor.

Had she really just run all that way to him?

If he found out he would have been furious.

"I was just taking a stroll." Jasmine lied .

He looked at her suspiciously and sighed. "Your nanny shouldn't leave you alone. What if I wasn't here to catch you.

That's what she is being paid for."

"It's not her fault." Jasmine added quickly.

She was the one who had fled.

She didn't want to get anyone into trouble

For her terrible decisions.

And nanny had been making so much effort.

If Xaden fired her, she would never stop feeling guilty.

"She tried to stop me." Jasmine lied. Well taht wasn't technically a lie. "I just needed to take some fresh hair on my own."

He sighed. "You shouldn't walk off on your

own."

Then the baby who had done nothing but show preferential treatment to its father did the same thing again and kicked her tummy again.

"Ooof." Jasmine mumbled.

"What's wrong?" Xaden asked as he held her waist.

Jasmine was aware of the stares from his men and she blushed shyly.

"Is it the baby." Xaden asked curiously.

She nodded. "He kicked." 2

And then he smiled.

A very genuine and honest smile. "So the baby does know me."

He held her tummy very gently as he spoke.

He wasn't really talking to her but the baby.

The men were all looking at them.

She went red with embarrassment.

Her baby had saved her from the first embarrassment of her lie, to the second.

Then he finally looked up at her.

"Where are you going to?" She managed to ask.

From the corner of her eyes she saw Marie and the nanny stand at the pack doors.

They were going to both strangle her if they had the chance.

"I didn't want to disturb you." He said. "I would have told you before I left."

He gently touched her cheeks.

She closed her eyes and felt his warmth hand.

"Im going to see some rival packs." He said. "We have been having some troubles and I needed to face it myself."

She swallowed. "Is it dangerous?"

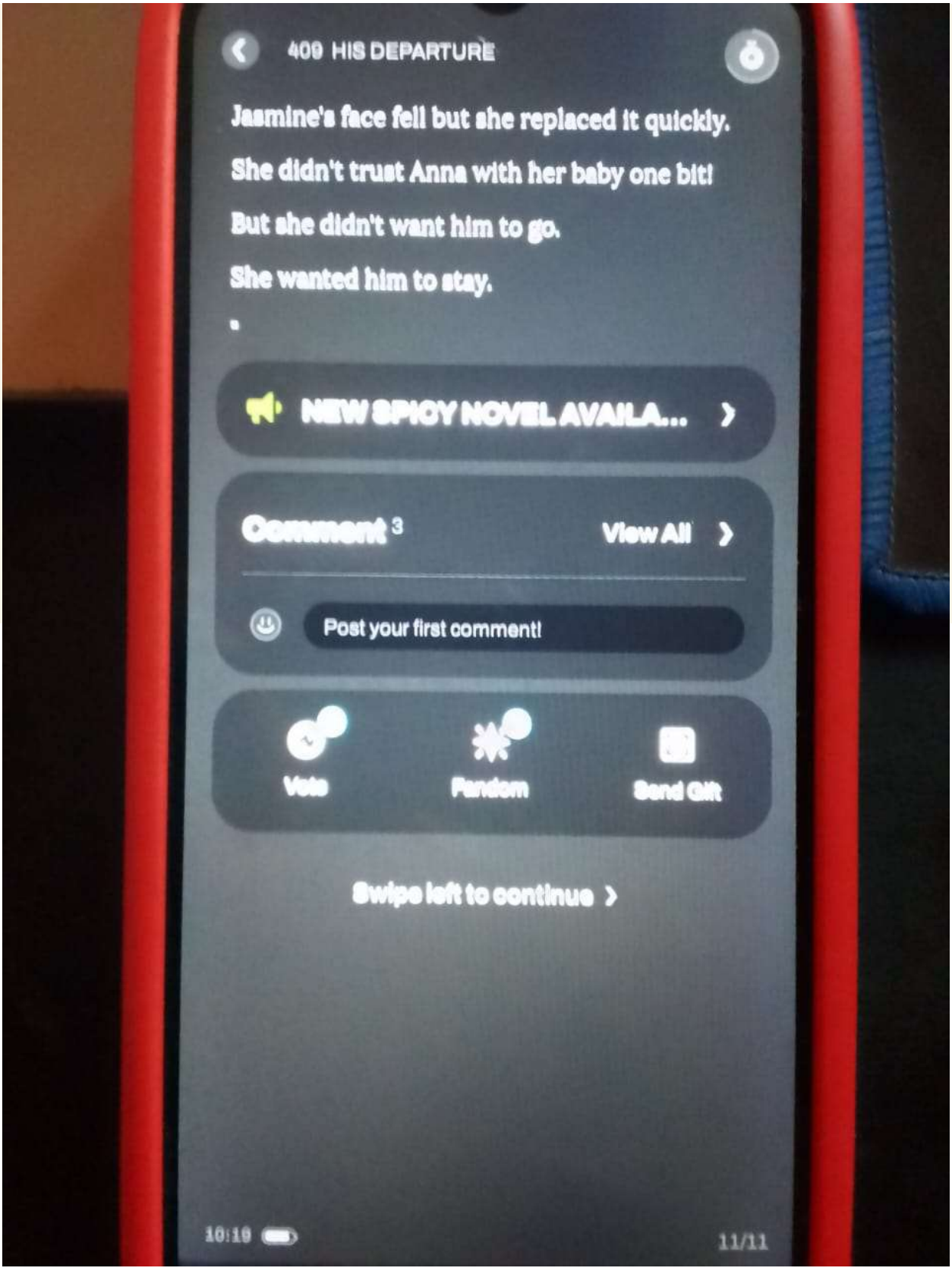
"They a few always dangerous." He said. "But don't worry I'll Be back."

"For how long do you think you would be gone?" She asked him.

He gave a sling shrug. "A week or two perhaps. But I would be back in time for us to see the Queen."

Jasmine had completely forgotten about that.

"I will be back." He said. "Take care of yourself. Erik and the others would be here for you. If you need anything then you can go to him. My sister too."


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Jasmine's face fell but she replaced it quickly.
She didn't trust Anna with her baby one bit!
But she didn't want him to go.
She wanted him to stay.
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