FOURTEEN

"Why don't you kill me too?"

"Believe me, I plan to."

"So..."

"What?"

"Who's gonna ask her?" Kingo muttered and I sent him a glare.

"Vena, where's Phastos?" Ikaris asked. I grabbed a pen and paper and wrote the coordinates before shoving the paper in his face. "And you know this how?"

"He vacationed in my house in Athens last year and told me. Any more smartass questions?" I asked serving myself another glass of Gilgamesh's mead.

"A few, actually."

"Hmm... Maybe I'll answer them on my deathbed." I shrugged grabbing a knife and an apple.

"Ikaris, cut it out. She's running on no sleep and lost her dad not even 24 hours ago." Sersi butted and Ikaris scoffed.

"Have something to say, Ikaris? Well, go on then. God knows that my emotions haven't stopped you before." I urged making gestures with the knife.

"Gil's not her Dad, Sersi. We're all-"

I pressed the knife by his throat and pinned him against the wall of the jet until Sprite and Druig pulled me back.

"He's not my dad, but he took care of me after a fight. Gil's not our dad, but he always patched up Druig before Ajak did. Gil's not our dad, but he cooked us our favorite meals whenever we felt down... Gilgamesh may not be our father, but he sure as hell was the closest thing I ever had to one. Not even Ajak cared for me, Druig and Makkari the way Gil did." I sneered and Druig dragged me to the back of the jet. "I'll kill him for speaking about Gil that way! I swear to fucking Arishem that I'll fling him to the sun myself!"

"We're about 35000 feet in the air and Ikaris shoots lasers and is the only one that can fly. You stab him and we're doomed." Druig sighed prying the knife from my hand.

"Then I'll make him combust!" I smirked with glowing eyes and Ikaris' nose started dripping blood. "A few more degrees should do it."

"Vena..." Druig warned and I groaned releasing my hold on Ikaris. "Can we focus on getting Phastos and Karri before you kill him?"

"No."

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"You should eat something."

"You should hop off my dick, Sprite." I grumbled downing yet another shot of mead. "Why can't I get drunk!?"

"Vena, you took a shower because Kingo dumped a bucket on your head." Sprite pointed out.

"And almost ruined my favorite cargo pants." I shrugged and glanced at my outfit which consisted of one of Druig's hoodies and shorts. "Besides, I'm not hungry."

"Sprite, let her be. It's been a rough 24 hours and she's been through like four different time zones in three days." Druig sighed rubbing his eyes and took Sprite's seat on the bar. "I just managed to put Thena to sleep for a few hours. Want me to try the same to you?"

"No." I spat and looked down at my ring. "Remember when Dad gave me this?"

"He carved the diamonds himself. You and Karri have the same one and mine is-"

"A spade, just like Thena's. His was a diamond." I finished and sighed rubbing my hands through my hair before pulling it into a messy bun. "When the hell did everything go wrong, Druig?"

"7000 years ago." He shrugged grabbing a shot glass and I filled it with mead. "Could be more, but I don't remember."

"When you tried to enter my mind... What did you see?"

"Bits and pieces. Saw a Celestial, a beach and Ikaris tied down... I think. After that it was black. Why?"

"No reason." I lied and Druig gave me a look.

"Lying to a mind-reader. That's a new one." He teased and I rolled my eyes. "It's probably the lack of sleep, my starlight. You can't keep running on adrenaline, coffee and alcohol. You're gonna need your strengths if we're gonna face a Celestial."

"I'm scared to fall asleep." I admitted and held Druig's hand. "Every time I close my eyes, I see you dying. I can't keep living like that. I already lost Dad, I don't want to lose you too."

"Do you know why I proposed? I didn't have to considering we live forever." Druig chuckled and pressed a kiss to my wedding band. "I proposed because I was terrified of losing you. That day when Ajak almost erased your memories, it was the worst thing I've ever witnessed... And I was scared that she would've done it and you wouldn't remember me. I knew I wanted to spend the rest of my eternity by your side, so I swallowed my pride and did it... And I don't regret it one bit, Vena. And I never will."

"It's you and me forever... right?" I asked holding out my pinky and Druig chuckled holding out his own.

"You and me forever, Vena. Nobody's taking me away from you, I promise."

...

~Druig's POV~

"Where's the bastard and the sunshine!?"

"Phastos, I just managed to get her to sleep. Shut up." I hissed gesturing to a sleeping Vena on my lap. "It's good to see you too, but hush!"

"Sorry." Phastos whispered and looked around. "Where's Thena?"

"Still asleep. I told her I'd wake her once we locate the Domo." I sighed and felt Vena shift closer. "Sersi told you?"

"Yeah... I'm sorry, Druig." He whispered and sat down across from me. "Domo's in Iraq, we'll be there tomorrow morning hopefully."

"I don't know how we're gonna tell Makkari. Her and Dad were the closest."

"How'd Vena take the news?"

"If you look to the bar, you'll see empty bottles of mead, a bloody knife, a half eaten apple, a few broken glasses and a first aid kit." I said pointing to the bar and Phastos widened his eyes. "That's Ikaris' blood, by the way. Before we landed, she almost stabbed him because he looked at her wrong."

"Okay, so she took it the worst."

"She found the body, I spent ten minutes cutting vines just to get to her. I don't think I've ever seen Vena's powers like that. It was-"

"Alright, let's get this show on the road!" Kingo exclaimed and Vena jolted awake.

"Fantastic job, Kingo. The forty five minutes I spent trying to get her to sleep and the migraine I have mean shit now." I sighed and glanced at Vena who's eyes were glowing. "Fuck, not again! Sersi, hide the knife. Kingo, hide the mead. Phastos, keep Thena at bay just in case she wakes up. And Sprite... hide Ikaris."

"He betrayed us... He's gonna kill us." Vena mumbled holding a ball of fire and I noticed Ikaris tense ever so slightly.

"It's Mahd Wy'ry. It has to be." Ikaris blurted out and stepped away when Vena threw a knife. "Sersi!"

"That's a new one." She said and pried it from Vena's grasp.

"It's his fault... Ikaris' fault."

"Vena, darling? Listen to me." I stepped in front of Ikaris with glowing eyes and held her shoulders. She flinched away and held a flame in both of her hands. "It's okay, we're okay. He's not going to hurt us, Vena. It's okay."

"His fault. We're all gonna die." Vena spat out and I sighed holding her face in my hands and placed my forehead on hers. "You're gonna die... I have... I have to-"

"Nobody's taking me from you, Aphrodite. Our story's not over yet." I saw the gold in her eyes lose intensity making me sigh in relief. "You're so loved, Vena. Let go, it's okay. I'll be right here when you wake up."

Vena's body fell limp and Kingo grabbed her before she fell and placed her on the empty seat.

"New rule, knives away from the bar. In fact, throw them out! We'll eat like cavemen." Kingo sighed grabbing a blanket and wrapped it around Vena. "What the hell was that?"

"It's Mahd Wy'ry. It has to be." Sprite said and I shook my head.

"She wasn't attacking us. I like to think she was warning us."

"From me? That's bullshit." Ikaris scoffed.

"Well you haven't been exactly a ball of sunshine, now have you?" Phastos snickered and high-fived me. "Sorry, wrong joke?"

"Oh, this trip is gonna be a lot of fun. Karun, get the camera. I think Aphrodite will want to see this when she wakes up." I smirked sitting next to Vena and held her hand.

"On it, sir!"

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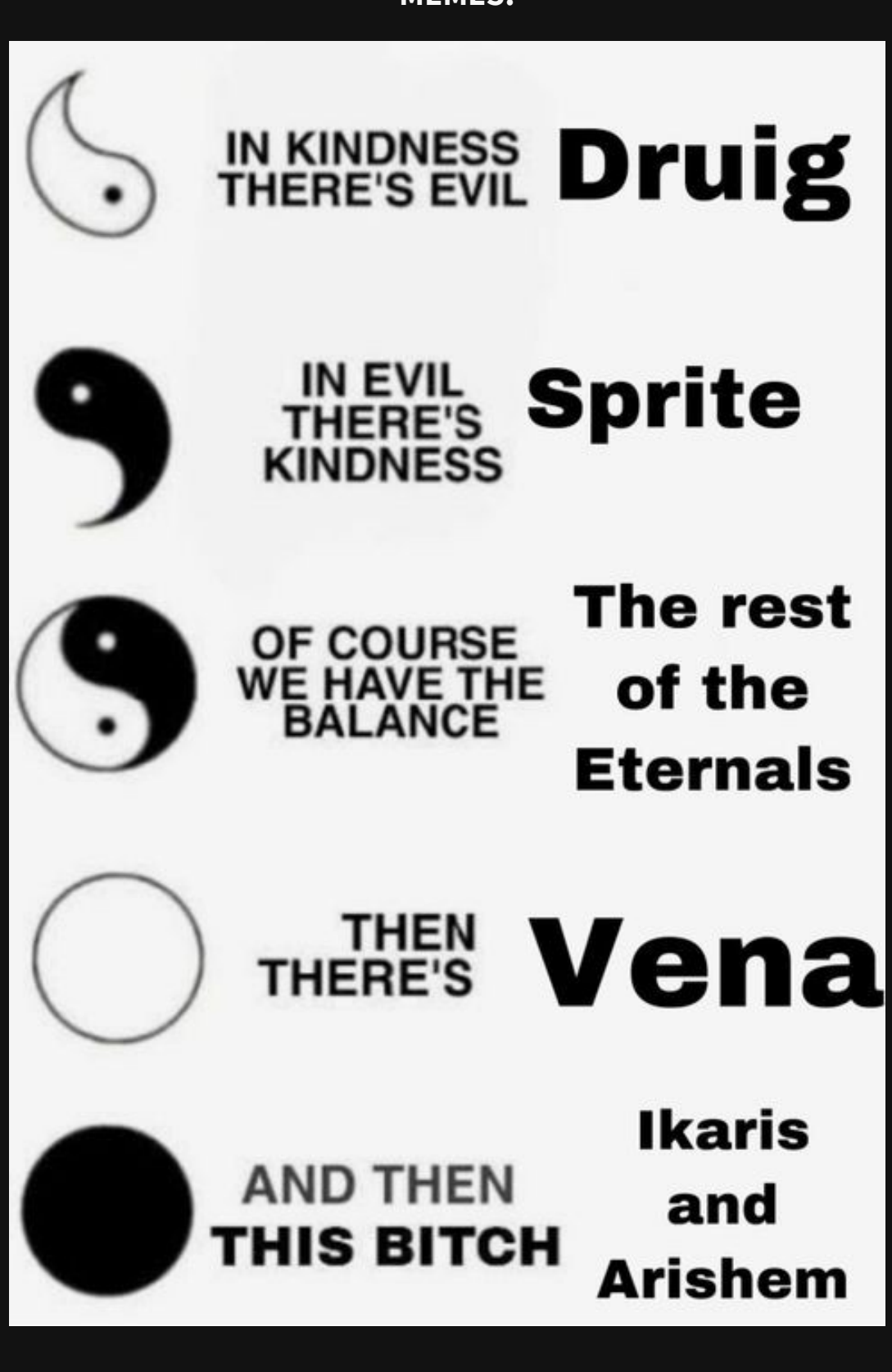

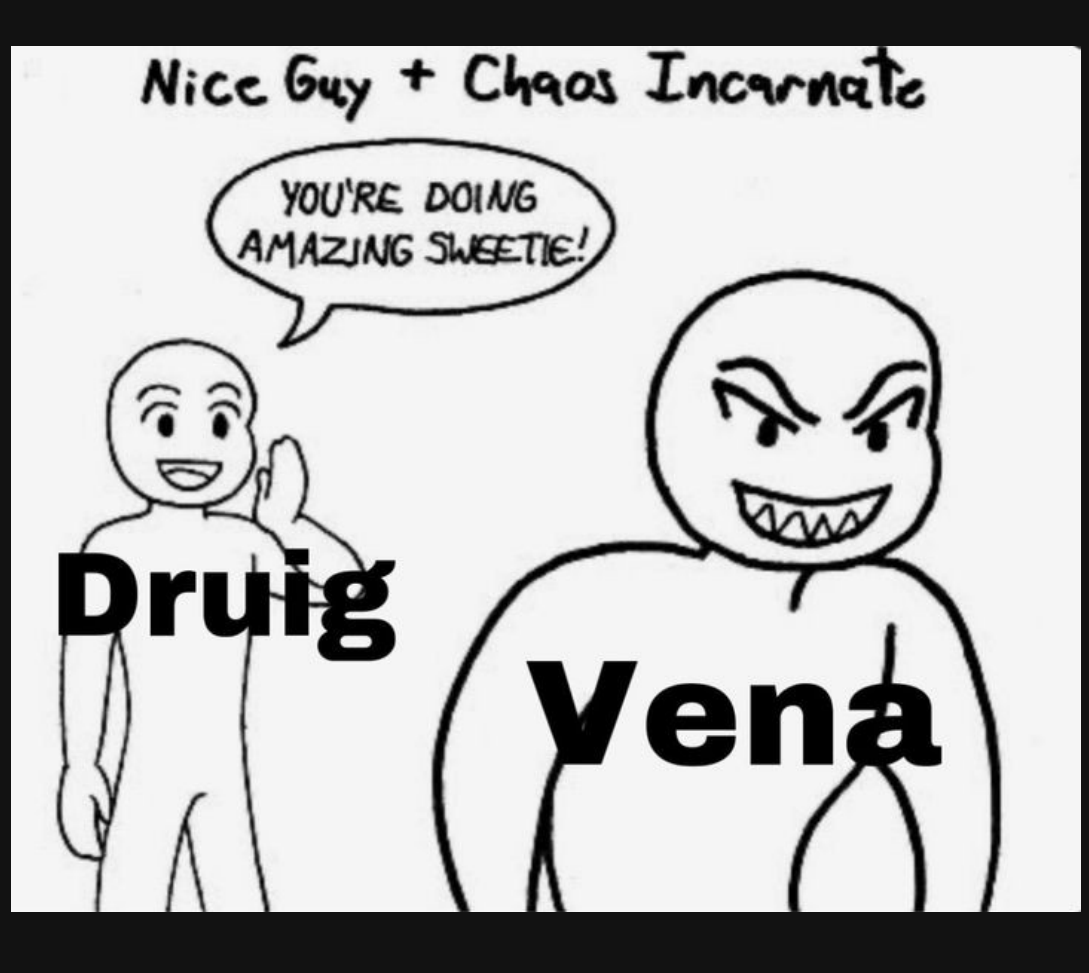

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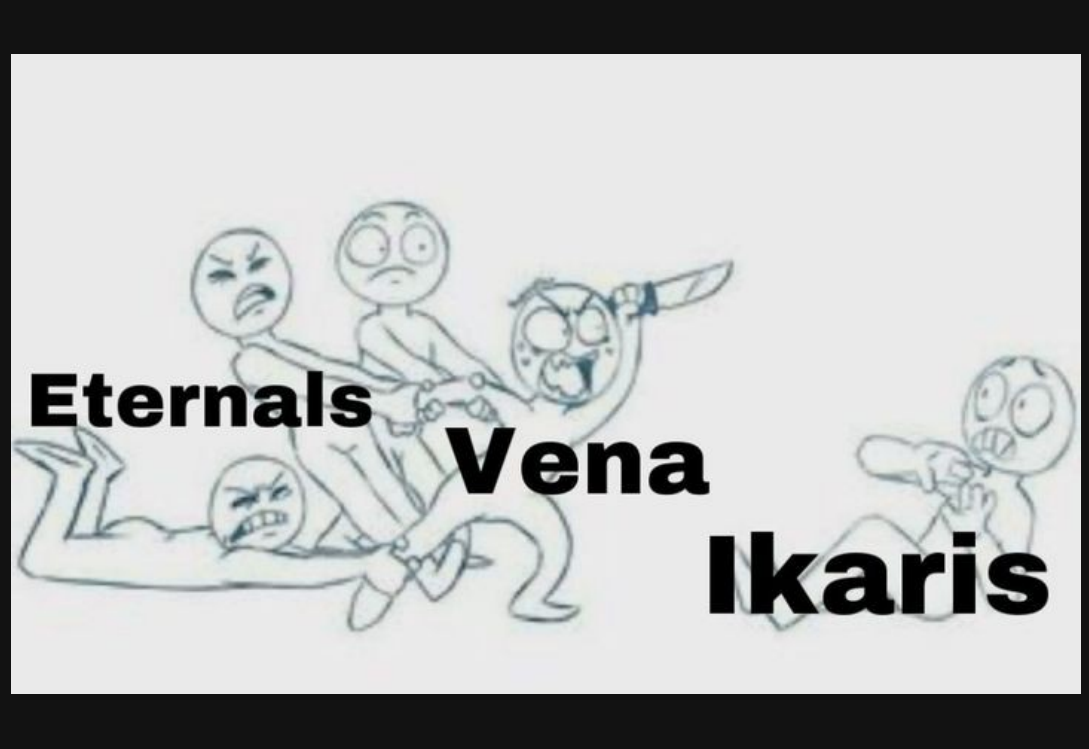
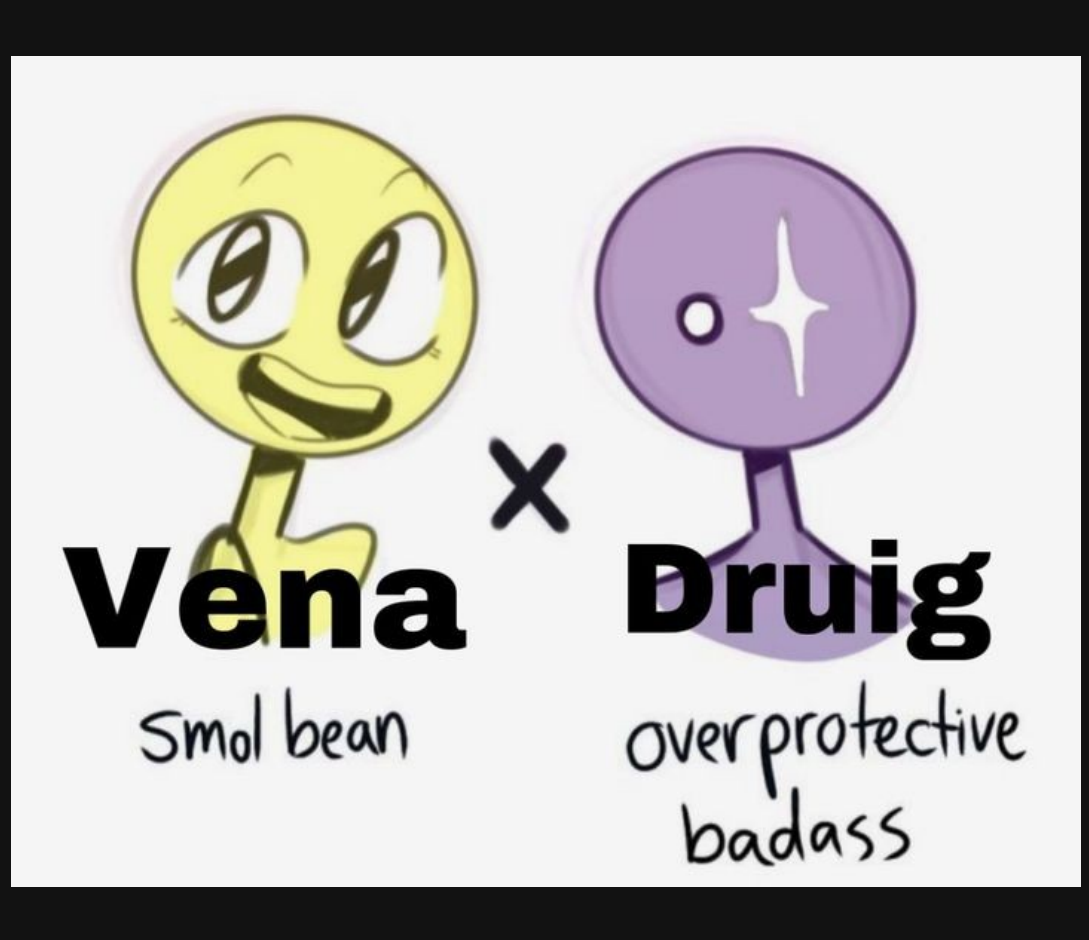
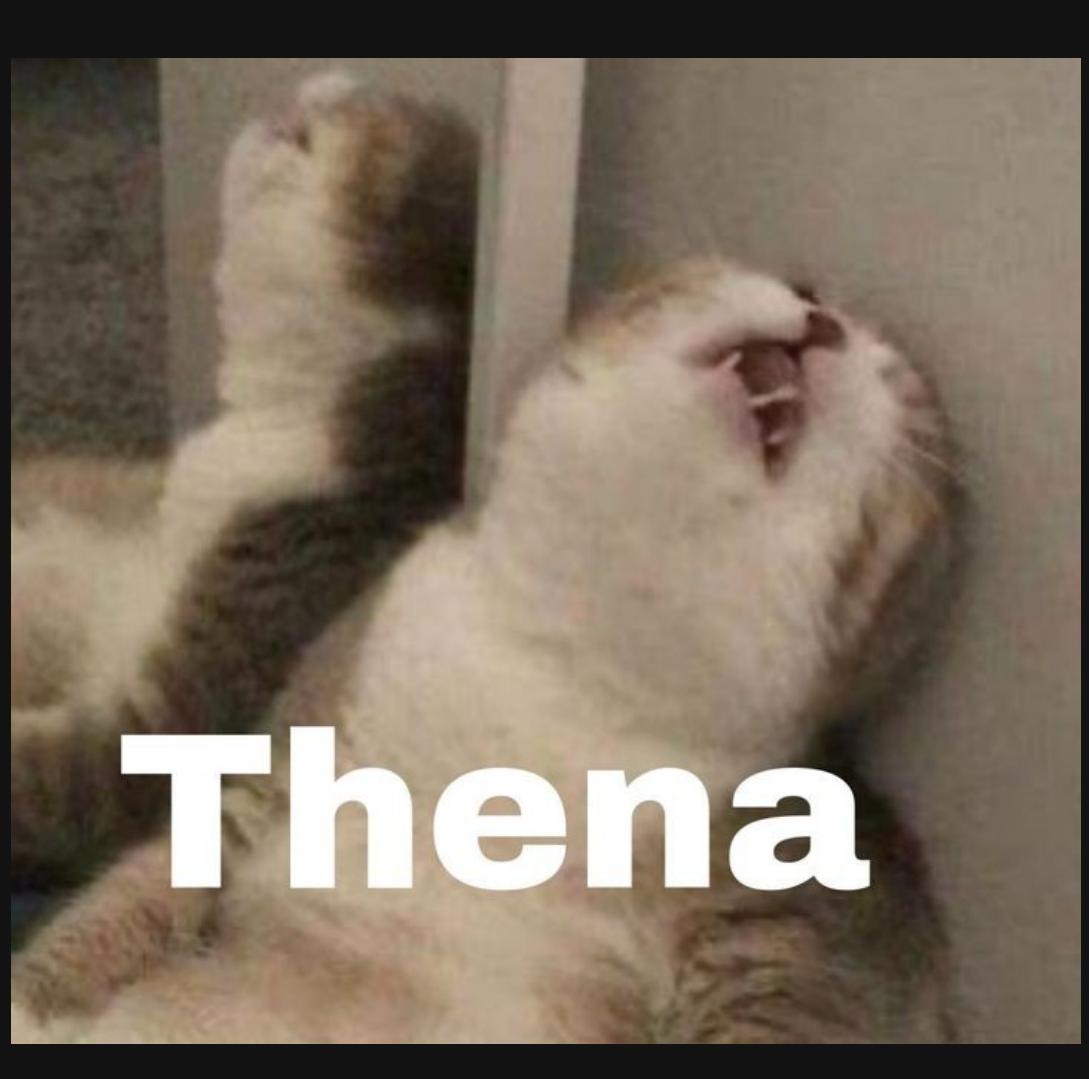
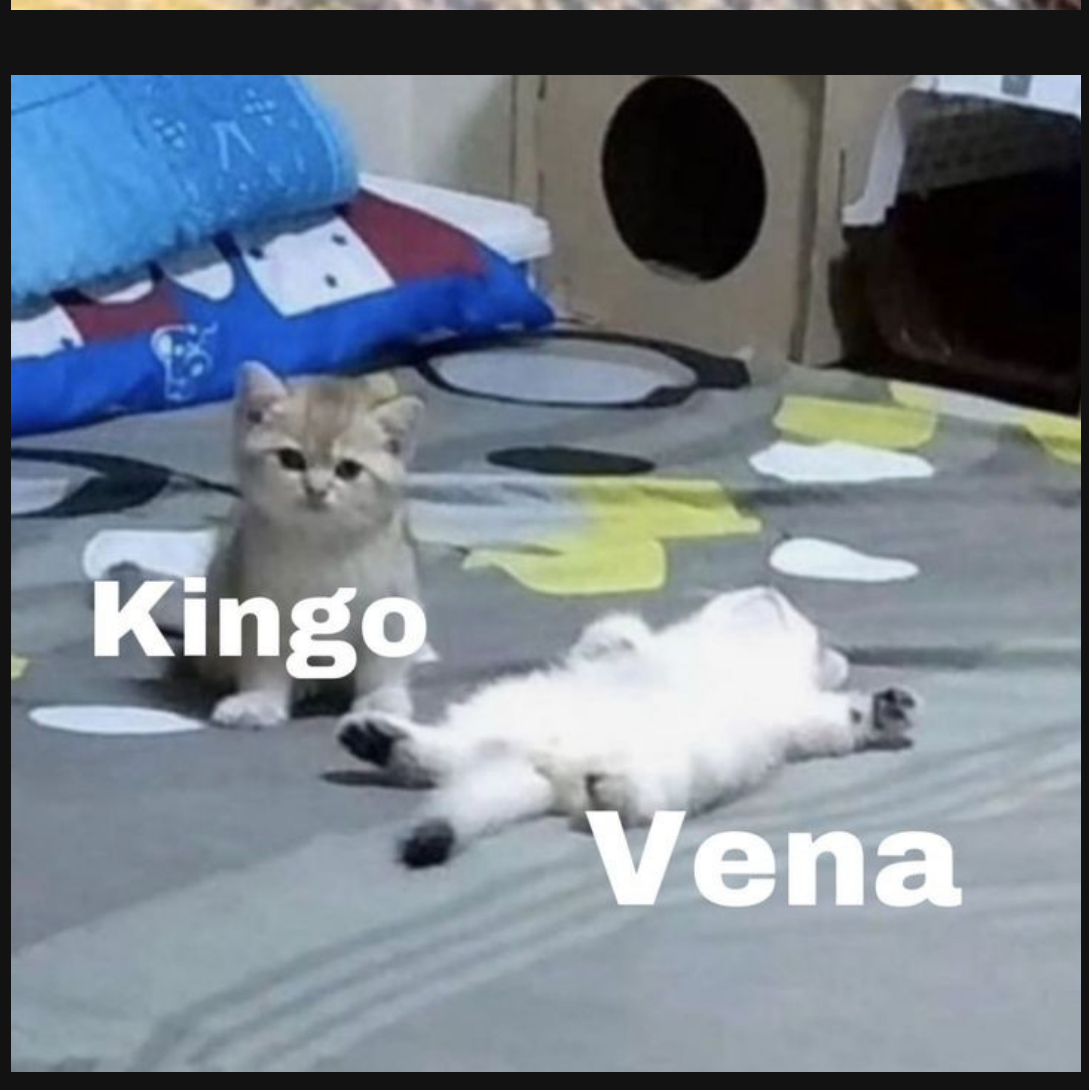






Phastos
Druig

How everyone sees Vena



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