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Lilith's Pov

My eyes fluttered open, I came face to face with a red eyed Aella, with eye bags, hair disheveled staring unblinkingly at me.

"Ummmmm.... Is there something in my face?" I wondered.

Her unmoving eyes suddenly widened, "oh my gosh, Lilith. You're awake" her arms wrapped around me before I could blink, squeezing tightly.

Pain flared through every inch of my body, spreading like wild fire, "Ahhh" I barely managed to let out weakly.

My throat felt heavy, not just parched, I could barely let out a whisper.

My hands were numb, weighed down by something, looking down I spotted it, my hands wrapped in bandages that made it look like a tiny puff ball.

What the hell?

Aella finally released me, I let out a breath I didn't realize I was holding. Inhaling greedily, I

glared at her.

"Sorry" she scratched the back of her head, smiling sheepishly, "I was so worried" she mumbled.

I didn't blame her, of course she was just worried, her unsightly appearance said a lot. Hopefully she didn't neglect my little nephew or niece,

"W..... w... wat.. water" I finally managed to let out with little difficulty

"Right. How could I forget" she quickly poured in a water into the porcelain cup on the table, "I've already mind linked Eros, he's on his way with Sage"

I downed the water in one go, finally feeling some moisture return to my throat and the bile stuck there pushed down.

"Sage?" I eyed her.

"Yeah." She replied absent mindedly, "He treated you"

"Doesn't mean I want to see him" I mumbled, suddenly feeling self conscious, Damn, I didn't want him to see me this way.

I looked up to see tears rolling down Aella's cheeks, "Seriously?" I scoffed, "still a crybaby"

"I'm not." She wiped her tears with the back of her hands, "I just missed you" she grumbled.

A smile tugged at my lips, "Alright, alright, stop crying, you look like a stuffed doll with your eyes all puffy" I teased.

"Hey" she hit my arm pouting,

"Oww" I groaned.

"My gosh, did I hurt you. I'm so sorry" she fussed.

"Cute" I chuckled.

"You..." she pointed at me face red, "Bully" she frowned, sitting with a loud humph, a fresh wave of tears pooling at her eyes.

"Alright. Alright. I'll stop teasing" I quickly said remembering how highly sensitive and emotional she has become since her pregnancy.

"Promise" she peered at me with puppy eyes, her face soft like a baby,

"Yes." I nodded, my heart warming.

"I'm sorry I couldn't heal you myself" she said quietly,

"It's fine, pookie." I said, her pregnancy was

taking a heavy toll on her.

Guilt swirled in her eyes, she was blaming herself, "Hey," I tried to stand, but it seemed like my body was held down by something.

Sigh, guess I'll be stuck in my current position for a while.

"Don't blame yourself Aellie, I wouldn't have forgiven myself if you had put my niece or nephew in danger by attempting to use your powers for my sake"

The tears that had gone back suddenly came with full force, she was bawling now.

"Is that why you cast a protective spell around me without even telling me?" she cried.

Isn't that supposed to be a sweet thing? I wondered, how did it turn into something that would make her bawl her eyes out.

I suddenly felt at a loss, tongue tied by my heavily pregnant emotionally unstable sister,

"I'm so sorry, please don't cry" I said in a rushed voice, not sure how to comfort her. Where the fuck is her mate.

The door suddenly burst open, and there Eros stood like an answered prayer, one look at

my pleading eyes, his eyes shone with understanding.

He quickly pulled his mate into his arms, mumbling words into her ears and comforting her.

Yikes, I shuddered, I couldn't imagine myself like that.

"Welcome back princess" Sage spoke right into my ears.

I rolled my eyes, now getting used to his nonsense, "Thank you Sage" I said dryly, "Was all these necessary?" I gestured to the way I was wrapped like an Egyptian mummy.

"Just to prevent my Cinderella from running away once more" he shrugged casually.

"Remove the bandages Sage."

"You can remove the ones on your body later, unless you need my help" he winked, his face then turned serious "but the ones on your hands remain there. You won't be using them til I say otherwise"

"You don't control me Sage," I gritted.

"Want to test that theory princess?" he whispered back, the air thickening with tension

between us. I could feel the electric spark in the air around us.

"Who hurt you?" Aella asked, finally better from her minor episode just now.

My jaw tightened, "Andrea" I mumbled,

"Andrea?" They chorused.

"Yes." I answered, not feeling too proud of my stupidness, especially after Mer warned me.

Right.

"Mer"

"Lena" I reached out to my wolf and oracle simultaneously.

I was met with silence, but I could feel their presence.

They were asleep?

How?

"Your wolf fell asleep after healing you. You were at death's door princess, they barely brought you back but it drained them." Sage answered my unasked question.

"How—"

"I can see the question in your eyes, now be a good girl and answer us. What happened

to you?" He asked lightly, but the look in his eyes had me recoiling instinctively.

I regained my composure, "I'm so sorry guys," I said remorsefully, both to my friends and wolf. If only I had listened to Mer.

If they were asleep, it'd explain why I was wrapped like a Christmas tree. And needed sage here to heal me.

"Lily, we're still waiting" Aella's hand snapped before my eyes.

"Right. Andrea cornered me" I let out, looking anywhere but at them. I didn't need to look at them to know the questions they had in mind.

The room fell into silence, except my voice narrating my full ordeal to them, and Aella's rapid breathing no other sound could be heard.

Finally I finished, "I'm so sorry. I shouldn't have gone." I bit my lips to prevent the tears from falling.

They were all silent, letting my story sink in, a warm hand connected with mine, "It's fine. I understand, we don't blame you."

"Don't say that Aels, I practically just handed over one of the essential ingredients

Ursa needs to reassurrect her sister for free" I said, my heart aching at my own stupidity.

And despite all that she did I still couldn't stop myself from hoping Azrathul would leave Andrea with a complete corpse when he devours her, cause he would. He reveled in destruction and death, hers was only a matter of time.

"Hey," her warm palm caressed my cheeks, "stop blaming yourself. Besides if she didn't get it now, she would have found some other way to get to you. It's good, at least now we know they are coming for me next." She said like it was nothing.

"Little fool" I mumbled, always thinking about others and not herself, didn't she understand what it meant.

"Aella is right Lilith" Eros finally spoke up, "We don't blame you" he shook his head.

I looked at him, surprised. It was no secret that he still held a grudge against me for bullying his mate. A petty Alpha he was, he avoided me as much as possible, preferring to not speak to me.

Hearing him speak now was quite a surprise.

"But with them holding your blood, we would have to attack as soon as possible. Speed things up, don't give them the chance to group up and prepare properly. It'd be better if we had the upper hand" he continued

Well he was a smart one I'll give him that, no wonder he was Alpha.

The only question now was, what next?

They'll be coming for Aella and I, no, we have to be ready.

Suddenly my body felt hot, it started small but increased with each passing second before something inside me snapped and my body followed.

My muscles locked before jerking violently out of rhythm, a brutal force ripping through me as though drawing out my life force.

My eyes rolled to the back, I spasmed uncontrollably, I could feel it, something — no, Vega, absorbing my blood, drawing from my life force alongside it.

Pain surged through my body, my lips moved uncontrollably, I could hear distinct panicked screams — Aella. A lone tear slipped from me.

I felt my body lift, a familiar scent wafted through my nose, calming my muscles temporarily that I was finally able to make sense of what was being said around me.

"Let me handle this Luna" I heard Sage's voice, followed by a whoosh before I could hear what Aella said.

I could feel it, Vega's essence, her power, it was gathering and I was now a part of it.

This is retribution for going against my instinct and better judgement after all.

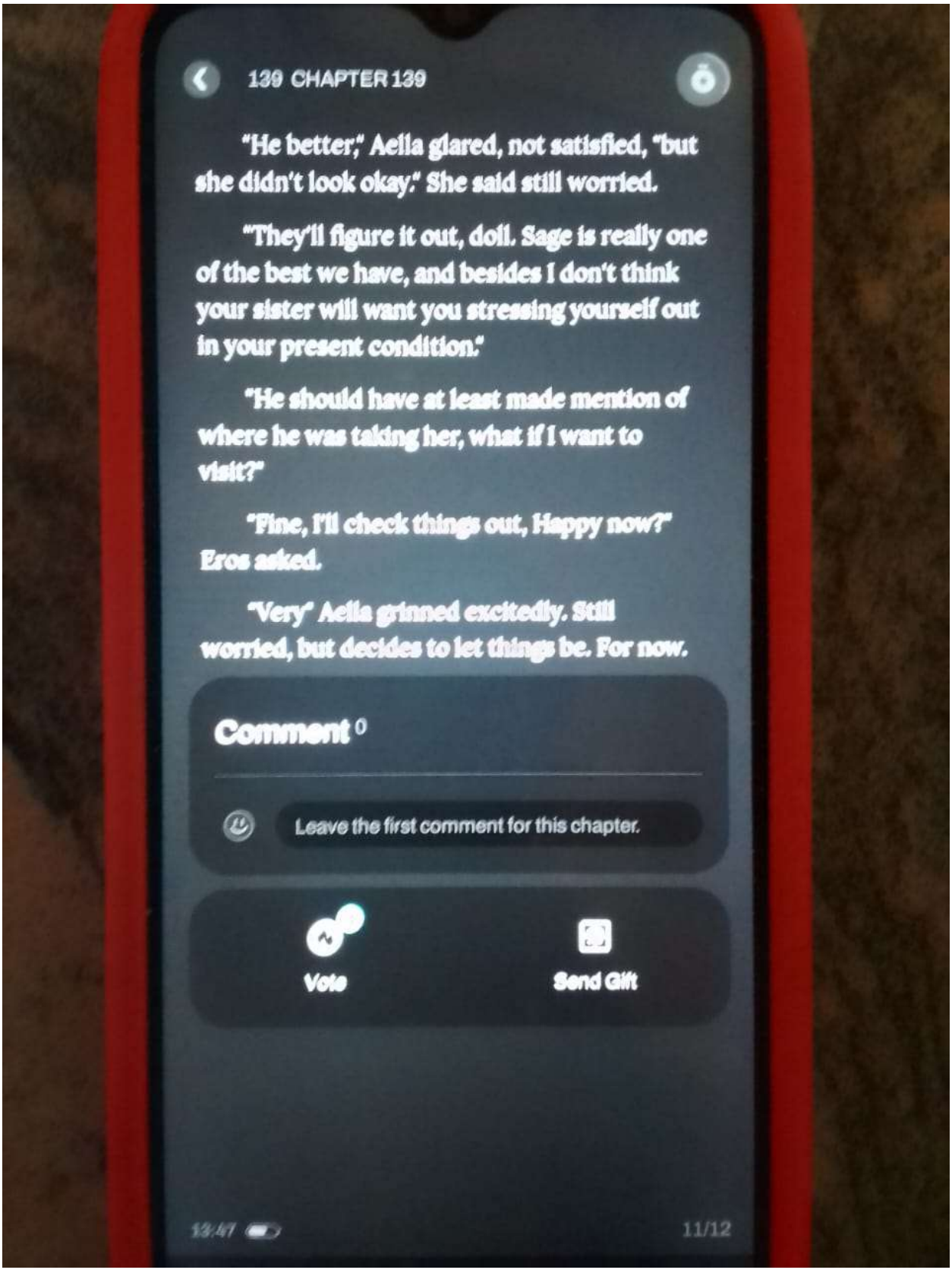
Without leaving me a choice, the darkness claimed me.

****** Back at Lilith's Ward After she Left *******

"Your healer just took away my sister without an explanation whatsoever" Aella grumbled, annoyed that she couldn't follow.

A soft rumble left Eros's lips, he had a good guess about what could be going between those two. Well it was not his place to interfere, he would let them figure things out.

"Don't worry baby girl. Trust sage, okay? He'll return her in one piece or even better" he smirked.


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"He better," Aella glared, not satisfied, "but she didn't look okay." She said still worried.
"They'll figure it out, doll. Sage is really one of the best we have, and besides I don't think your sister will want you stressing yourself out in your present condition."
"He should have at least made mention of where he was taking her, what if I want to visit?"
"Fine, I'll check things out, Happy now?" Eros asked.
"Very" Aella grinned excitedly. Still worried, but decides to let things be. For now.
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