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Aella 1

Everyone dispersed faster than I thought they would. The light atmosphere gone into thin air.

They were all nervous. I could tell, Brianne and Lily drew closer to where we stood, holding the twins.

They had kept them away earlier to avoid exposing them to disturbing sights.

As if sensing something, Ragnar locked his gaze on mine, a wry smile made its way to my lips, I picked him up from Brianne,

"Hey there little man" I played with him.

He stared straight into my eyes, like he always did whenever he was trying to pull an expression.

Elysia babbled excitedly, arms flailing in the air, I picked her in the other arm, rocking her too.

"Excuse us guys" I said to my friends. They nodded understandingly, both rushing to go set their own houses in order.

Elysia flared her arms towards Eros, wanting him to pick her up, I could feel his doubt. He didn't trust himself with her now, the conflict was written boldly in his eyes.

"Dada isn't going to carry his princess?" I teased.

A deep sigh escaped his lips, "Doll I don't —" he stopped unsure of what to say.

"Don't worry." I pushed her into his hands. She latched onto his neck, trying to climb higher.

"Easy there tigress" He cooed, arms wrapped around her, playing with her.

I turned focus to Ragnar, he looked at me with interest, as if trying to say 'I know something is wrong I just can't understand what yet'

So little yet so serious, he mirrored Eros in more ways than one, too sharp for his age. Sometimes I even struggled to believe that they were just three weeks old.

Nothing about them screamed, hey I'm less than a month old. But guess that's what I get for giving birth with a strong bloodline.

One look at Elysia and I knew, while they

were both natural born Alpha's, she may have inherited some of Lilith's powers which was quite the surprise.

Warmth pooled at my heart, watching her and Eros interact, the doubt and pain he felt earlier was visibly reduced if not gone. A welcome development.

"Come on, let's get you changed," I lifted Ragnar and began heading back to the room, Eros and Elysia followed behind us, they were still in their morning outfit with all the mischief they had caused. It was time for a nap too.

After settling them down, and luring them to sleep, Eros and I faced each other with the one question we had avoided for as long as we could.

"Guess there's no dodging it now?" A hollow laugh left my lips.

"Yeah." He nodded.

I bit my lips to prevent tears from falling, "they're still so little leaving them now will be so cruel"

"It can't be helped," he said, face contorting.

Sigh. "Come here" he opened his arms.

I dived right in letting the tears I held back fall without restraint. Eros held me wordlessly, patting my back in comfort

I felt better after a while, "Who will look after them while we're gone?" I wondered.

"Jessy and the elders can do it, They could take I and Kay's room. I'm sure they'll work out something." he replied.

"Will they want to?"

He chuckled, "they're as bored as it can get. They'll even thank you, besides they love kids."

" I know, but our little ones are quite mischievous. They're not exactly easy to handle." I said worriedly.

"Don't stress about it doll, they helped raise a bunch of boys. I believe they can handle two kids just fine." He smiled.

"Right. They raised you after your parents died?"

"Nahh. Even before they died. My dad was too busy to care, only happy he had an heir, Solis and Old Marko took it upon themselves to raise me properly, Kay and Xavier Joined the tray later. So we're practically their kids." He

explained patiently.

"That's good. Not like we have a lot of options." my shoulders slumped into him, we were both standing with my back pressed into Eros.

Eros jr was already twitching, grinding against my ass.

"They're all the options we need" he placed a lingering kiss at the croon of my neck, then he placed another right where his mark sat proudly on my neck.

He spun me around, my breast pressing into his chest, his breath fanning my face, "Are you scared?" He asked quietly.

I nodded, "I can't say I'm not, but knowing I have a family to protect only gives me the strength to continue." I said.

He captured my lips in a kiss, ravaging hungrily till I was out of breath, he let go with a pop, "We'll get through this together, if you're even scared just think about me. I'll be with you through every step of the way."

"Promise." My voice was tiny, I couldn't help it, the thought of finally facing Ursa was surreal, we're finally going to meet. And the

outcome of this battle will determine my fate and that of Goth.

"It's okay to be scared of love. Just know that you're not alone."

I nodded, "let's go kill some witches"

"But first let's get them settled" he gestured towards our little sleeping beauties.

We picked them up and headed straight for the Elders place.

"To what do we owe this visit?" Angela was the one who opened the door,

"Hi Angela," I greeted warmly.

"Ragnar, Elysia" she directly ignored us, taking the little ones from our arms.

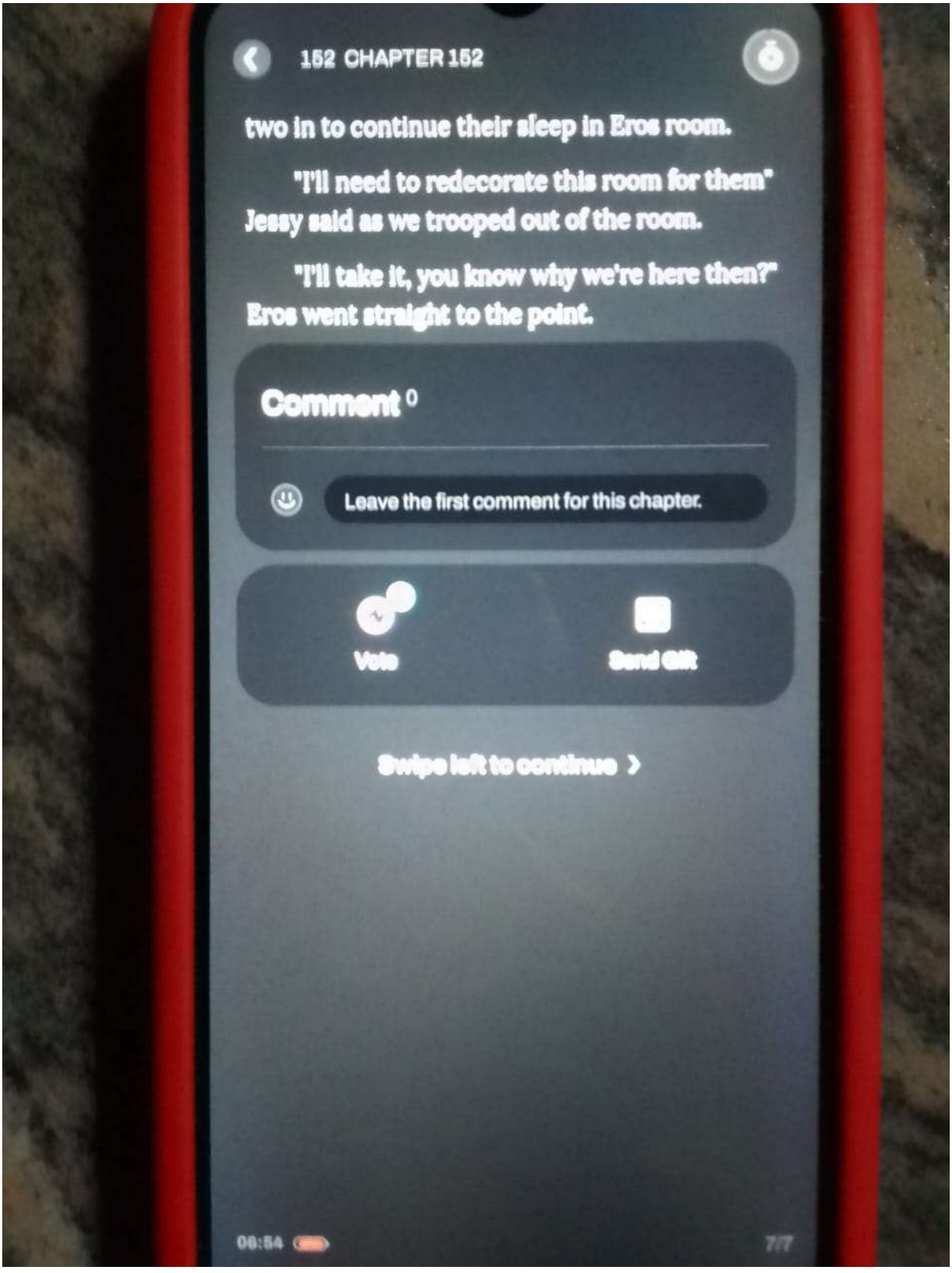
"They're sleeping." I said, already getting used to being ignored since their birth.

Eros was not having it, "Ignoring us now?"

She rolled her eyes, "stop sulking and let me see my grand babies."

As if hearing her voice, Old Marko, Solis, and Jessy all trooped out from inside, barely acknowledging us.

They quickly set up a cradle and put the


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two in to continue their sleep in Eros room.
"I'll need to redecorate this room for them" Jessy said as we trooped out of the room.
"I'll take it, you know why we're here then?" Eros went straight to the point.
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