



## Beyond the Seen

THE HEIR & THE SORCERESS

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Elara lies in her dimly lit bedroom, the blue light of her phone illuminating her face at 2:17 AM. She waits for a response to a message she sent, but the screen only shows a cold silence as the minutes tick by.



A close-up of the chat interface shows the word `Seen` beneath her last message. Her expression is a mix of quiet sadness and weary acceptance as she realizes no reply is coming tonight.



She drifts into a memory of a video call where the boy was smiling warmly, telling her how much he liked talking to her. In the flashback, Elara blushes and smiles back, feeling a deep connection that now feels worlds away.



Back in the present, she stares at the blinking cursor, typing a follow-up message before hesitating and deleting it all. She decides she will no longer be the one to chase a ghost that isn't reaching back.



Elsewhere, the boy is out with friends under city lights, laughing and completely distracted. His phone buzzes with a notification, but he barely glances at it before putting it away, dismissing her with a fleeting thought of later.



Elara scrolls through their old messages, pausing on a text where he once called her special. A single tear falls onto the screen as she wonders if those words were ever truly sincere or just easy to say.



Rain streaks the window as she hugs a pillow tightly, feeling the weight of her own overthinking. She comes to the painful realization that while she might have cared too much, he simply cared too little to make an effort.



With a sudden spark of resolve, Elara sits up and types a final, polite message saying take care before turning off her phone. She sets the device face down on the nightstand, choosing to reclaim her peace and end the cycle of waiting.



The next morning, golden sunlight fills her room, and a new message finally arrives from him with a casual apology. She looks at the screen with calm, clear eyes, realizing his breadcrumbs are no longer enough to satisfy her heart.



Elara walks through a sun-drenched park, her face glowing with a newfound confidence and serenity. She understands that some endings are just beautiful beginnings, and she chooses to walk forward into her own bright future.