

Kirra,

If you're reading this, it probably means that...well...that you figured out the super, very secret code I used to encrypt it. A secret code so secret that I know only you, *Lunayi*, my little moon, would be clever enough to know.

The Ethereal Realm—the place where the adults have all gone off to fight the ones who are trying to hurt the careful balance of the Force that brings joy and wonder to you and everyone we hold dear—is both very scary and very curious, all at the same time.

You would likely find it amusing, and probably be able to tell me all about the different spirits we've met. You'd probably not even be bothered by the sudden changes in the way this realm works, up becoming down, down becoming right...

I sometimes wonder if I'm being given a glimpse into how you see the world. If that is indeed the case, all it does is increase the pride I have in having you as a daughter, that you can bear the burden of all this knowing and still shine brighter than any other sun or star in the whole galaxy.

I'm not worried or scared for what we might face. Your mother and I have been facing challenges like this out entire lives, and bullies like these Children of Mortis folks always materialize in some shape or form. That's why we are always running off.

I hope that one day, you'll forgive us. I'd love nothing more than to spend every second of everyday by your side, but it's important to me that I do everything in my power to protect everyone—not just you and your brother and Uncle Wyn and Auntie Socks. And so we go. And so we fight. And sometimes, we might not come home right away, or as fast as we want to.

I just want you to know, that this is not a goodbye letter. This is merely to hold you over until we see you and your brother again. Be strong. Take care and protect him. And if you think for one second, even just *one second* that any force in the galaxy is going to stop your mother and I from coming home to you....

Well, I'd like to see anyone *try*.

I will see and hold you soon,

—Papa