

# EXCERPTS FROM CHILDREN OF THE DEAD

*By Katie Enos*

“The children have been born.” Meriab Coralm, the healer, spoke at a whisper to the Oracle.

The Oracle nodded.

“So the prophecy is true!” Duke Marquin shook his head as he entered the antechamber of the royal birthing room. He picked up the boy and looked into his eyes, “They must be separated for the sake of the kingdom. They cannot be allowed to know that more than one child was born to the queen today.”

Meriab frowned uneasily, “This is treason, Duke. Be cautious. It may be safer for them to stay together. The king will never allow you to separate his children.” The Oracle nodded in agreement.

Duke Marquin shook his head, “The king does not have to know. It is best for the kingdom and children if they are separated.” The Oracle was about to speak but was cut off by the duke.

“It must be done. This is all I will hear on the matter, they will not stay together!”

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