First and Forever Love

Chapter 3

By Aria Moonsinger

For the past eleven years with the father of her children; there had been three different times the two had been apart, this last time being the longest. Jolene had had enough of his empty promises about saving money enough for a place for the four of them; so she decided to ask for a divorce, she had him come to where she was under the pretense for a visit to ask him in person. When he arrived; Jolene had him sit down and she said, " For the past three years Darren; you've been promising and promising that you would save up enough money to get a place for the four of us, you haven't done anything in the way of saving money for a place. I'm not happy and I'm tired of being separated, you either find a place for all of us or this marriage is over." "I'm trying babe, but it's hard to save money when..." he started to say but she cut him off by holding up her hand.

It was the same old excuses that she's heard before and didn't want to hear again. "Look I don't want to argue, lets take the kids to the park where they can play and we can talk about this." Darren said. Jolene agreed, it wouldn't be good for the kids to see their parents argue. So they got in the car and took off for the nearby park; but on the way there, Darren had to swerve to avoid hitting a speeding car. This caused them to go off the road and into a deep ditch. Both children were knocked unconscious from their heads colliding with each other, Darren was severely injured in the crash while Jolene was knocked unconscious from hitting her head on the dash board. A short distance away from the accident; a pair of ancient eyes looked on.

When Jolene awoke she was bound to the base of a statue of an Egyptian god with chains that seemed heavier than they should have been. Jolene moved to try and wriggle free, but she felt too weak to move and didn't understand why. She looked around and saw three other statues of Egyptian gods, four obelisks and a pool with a strange purplish liquid in the center. From the pool was a raised walkway that lead to a horrific skull type structure with a sarcophagus in the mouth. "I've seen this place before, but as a cartoon. I must be dreaming, this can't really be happening." Jolene said. "Oh but it is my dear...." said a voice then suddenly she heard stone scraping on stone; looking at the sarcophagus as it opened, she saw a figure of medium height emerge from it.

It was in a red tattered cape and she could see wrappings like that of a mummy. Looking at this visage; she was terrified and nearly screamed when it spoke. "I see that you are awake now, my dear...hehehehehe. It would seem it takes more than a mere bump on the head to defeat you, eh? ehehehehehe." "You can't be...." Jolene started to say, he finished by saying "Mumm-Ra? Yes; you and Lion-O once discussed me. You thought I brought you two together...hehehehe." Jolene shook her head in disbelief, even though it hurt like hell to do so. "You can't be real, it was all a dream. This is all a dream brought on by the accident." Jolene said then remembered "Accident!? The children..."

"Wondering about your family? The crash killed them, I am sorry." Mumm-Ra said. "Yeah right, I bet you're real broken up about it." Jolene responded as tears silently slid down her face. The mummy just laughed maliciously as he moved toward her until he stood on her left side. "We mustn't cry and make those lovely blue eyes red now." Mumm-Ra said as he took his right index finger and caressed her left cheek; this caused Jolene to cringe and made the mummy chuckle. "I have watched you over the years; dear Jolene, waiting for the right moment to bring you to me, but in doing so, I have exhausted my energy for the moment. When I awaken; you and I shall get better acquainted." He said as he lifted her head by the chin and moved in to kiss her, Jolene quickly turned her head away and made a grunt of discuss. This just caused Mumm-Ra to laugh as he turned to return to his sarcophagus. "Red, please find me." Jolene quietly said to herself.

Elsewhere on Thundera: All the thundercats were assembled in the council room of the royal palace when the Sword of Omens gave a warning growl. "Lion-O what's wrong with the sword?" asked Panthro. "I'm not sure Panthro, all the thundercats are present and accounted for." answered Lion-O, but he held the sword in front of him and said, "Sword of Omens give me sight beyond sight." Then the sword showed him Mumm-Ra's pyramid, then inside it and then showed him Jolene chained at the base of one of the statues. "No oh no no NO! He has her." said Lion-O. "Has who Lion-O?" asked Panthro. "We have to get her out of there." commanded Lion-O as he hurried out of the room. "Who out of where?" asked Lynx-O. "We need to get Jolene out of Mumm-Ra's pyramid." he answered as he left everyone in dazed confusion.

In the thunder tank; "Do any of you remember me talking about a young woman named Jolene, that somehow I would visit from time to time?" asked Lion-O. "Yes, but we all thought that you were just

having realistic dreams of your idea of the perfect woman." answered Cheetara. "I remember you always seemed distracted." said Panthro. "Lion-O are you certain that this is the woman you would see all those years ago?" asked Tygra. "I agree with Tygra, Lion-O; are you sure that it's really her, maybe Mumm-Ra is trying to trick you." said Cheetara. "No Cheetara, Tygra, I know it's really her. He has her bound with chains to one of those statues in his tomb chamber." replied Lion-O.

When they finally arrived at the pyramid; Lion-O led the other three thundercats into the pyramid and then into the main chamber which was Mumm-Ra's tomb. There at the base of the statue closest to his sarcophagus on the left side of the chamber, they saw a young woman chained. She was on her knees; drained and seemed unconscious. Lion-O looked to see if the sarcophagus was closed; when he saw that it was, he made his way to Jolene. Lion-O could feel his strength draining and knew she was bound with thundrainum chains; not wanting to get into a fight between himself and Mumm-Ra and run the risk of Jolene getting hurt, Lion-O swung the sword through the air and broke through the chains. With nothing holding her up; Jolene started to pitch forward. Lion-O caught her before she went face first into the ground.

Jolene slightly opened her eyes and saw red, wavy hair. "Red..." she whispered then completely passed out. Lion-O scooped her up into his arms and carried her out of the tomb with Tygra, Cheetara and Panthro right behind him. When they got to the tank; Lion-O noticed that Jolene felt feverish then asked Tygra, "What affect does thundrainum have on humans, Tygra?" "It's not really known Lion-O, why do you ask?" replied the tiger. "Because he had her bound with thundrainum chains and now she's feverish." replied Lion-O. "That is strange, it must have given her thundrainum poisoning." replied Panthro. "We need to get her back to the palace, Lion-O" Cheetara said. "We're on our way Cheetara." said Panthro as he started up the tank.

Soon they were speeding their way to the royal palace. Lion-O called ahead to the palace to have a bed ready in the infirmary for Jolene. Once they had reached the palace; Lion-O had Tygra hold Jolene while he exited the tank. "Okay Tygra, hand her to me." Lion-O said with his arms outstretched. Tygra gave Jolene back to Lion-O. Before anyone could say anything; Lion-O was already through the palace gates and inside, headed for the infirmary. "I've never seen him so protective of a female before." observed Panthro. "If that really is the woman he would see twenty-five years ago, he won't be leaving her side any time soon." noted Cheetara.

Inside; Lion-O met Snarf on the way to the infirmary. "Is everything ready Snarf? She may have thundrainum poisoning...." inquired Lion-O. "Don't you worry Lion-O, ole Snarf knows what to do. She's in good hands." "Thank you Snarf, you don't know how much she means to me." said Lion-O. As they walked to the infirmary, Snarf asked, "Is she really the one that you used to visit Lion-O?" Lion-O looked down at the woman in his arms and without thinking, kissed her forehead then answered, "Yes Snarf; this is my beautiful Jolene, I'd know her anywhere."

They walked in silence the rest of the way to the infirmary. When they entered the infirmary, Lynx-O and Pumyra had a bed turned down. "Here Lion-O, she'll need to be put into this care gown." said Pumyra as she held up a pale blue gown that tied in the back. "Pumyra and I can get the young lady in it, Lion-O. Why don't you and Snarf go and see what is keeping Tygra." suggested Lynx-O. "I don't want to leave her side." said Lion-O. "Trust us my friend, she is in good hands." said the old thudercat. "Very well, please..." Lion-O started to say but Pumyra interrupted him. "Lion-O we'll be gentle with her." Lion-O laid her down on the bed, then he and Snarf left to find Tygra. When the young lord and Snarf left, the two thundercats carefully undressed Jolene, then with Pumyra's guidance Lynx-O gently laid her back down and covered her up.

Lion-O and Snarf found Tygra in his study, looking over some old notes about thundrainum poisoning. "Tygra, they need you in the infirmary." said Lion-O. "I know, I'm trying to find something that may help us in treating her. The only thing I have close to this situation is when Pumyra was poisoned by overexposure to thundrainum when the Berserkers had it covering their armor." Tygra replied. "I guess it will have to do." Tygra picked up his notes then the two men and Snarf went back to the infirmary. Tygra looked at his notes and him and Pumyra started the treatment; because she was human, they tried a small dose and found that it was working. Lion-O was close by in case they needed him to run and get whatever they needed for her.