First and Forever Love

Chapter 4

By Aria Moonsinger

The treatment took all day; they managed to get rid of the thundrainum in her system, but the fever had remained. "This is odd, there isn't a trace of thundrainum in her blood, but she's still feverish." said Tygra. "So let's treat the fever now." suggested Pumyra. "We may have to, Pumyra." said the tiger. Lion-O didn't like the sound of that. For the next several days, her fever ran high. One day as Lion-O was sitting with her; she sat up and was screaming in a language he didn't understand. (words with '*' are in elfish) *FATHER HELP ME; THE PAIN, why won't anyone help me* Lion-O gently laid her back down and took a cloth and bathed her head with cool water. Jolene looked up and saw only Lion-O's red hair but saw someone else. *Mother; the pain, she changed me....*

"Shh Blue eyes, you're safe." Lion-O soothed. Jolene heard his voice and said "Red...uh." then she went back to sleep. A few days later; Pumyra and Lion-O were changing her sheets while Tygra was holding her. She opened her eyes; Lion-O looked up at her to see her looking around. "Tygra, her eyes are open." he said. Jolene looked over at him; her fever was high enough that she thought she was hallucinating and in that strange language she said, *Stop tormenting me with visions* then went back to sleep. "Is that the language you told us about, Lion-O?" asked Tygra. "Yes, have you heard it before?" Lion-O asked. "No I haven't." answered Tygra. Pumyra just looked at the two men then at Jolene; she had heard it before, she just couldn't remember where. When the bedding was changed, she was gently laid down again and covered with a thin blanket. After two exhausting weeks; her fever finally broke, when Lion-O, Tygra, and Pumyra entered the council chamber. Lion-O announced, "Her fever finally went down and she's resting comfortably." he sat down heavily not having rested well himself for the last two weeks.

"Lion-O go get some rest, we'll wake you when she does." said Tygra. "No my room is on the other side of the palace; I want another bed put next to hers, if she wakes up I want to be there." Lion-O answered. So another bed was placed next to hers. The first two days after her fever broke Lion-O found it difficult to fall asleep; every time she would move or make a sound, he would be wide awake and at her side. On the third day after her fever broke; exhaustion finally caught up with him and he fell asleep. In the

afternoon on the fifth day after her fever broke, Jolene opened her eyes slightly; expecting to see the gloom of Mumm-Ra's tomb; instead she saw she was in a soft bed and covered with clean sheets and a thin blanket.

She sat up; her head feeling fuzzy like after sleeping too long. She heard movement next to her and looked over at the other bed and saw Lion-O fast asleep. 'I'm not dreaming; I'm really here and so is he. How did I get here and out of Mumm-Ra's tomb? I'm tempted to wake him and find out, but he looks like he's exhausted.' Just then a strange creature came in pushing a cart loaded with all sorts of delicious smelling food on it. "Oh you're awake; Lion-O..." said the creature. "Oh don't wake him, he looks exhausted." Jolene said. "We promised we would wake him when you woke up." explained the creature, "Lion-O she's awake."

Lion-O opened his eyes, then rubbed them. "Thanks Snarf." Lion-O said as he sat up in the bed he was in. He looked over at Jolene and with a smile said, "You gave us all quite a scare. I thought your fever would never break." "Fever? I don't understand." Jolene said. "The chains you were bound with were made out of thundrainum. Somehow they poisoned your system. We were able to treat and remove the poison, but the fever remained." "How did you know where I was?" Jolene looked between the two beds and saw on a chair the sword and claw shield, then asked, "The sword?" Lion-O nodded.

Jolene didn't know how to feel or what to say, so she said the only thing that came to mind. "Oh...thank you for getting me out of that place." "You're welcome." Lion-O replied and saw the confused look on her face and asked, "What's wrong?" Jolene remembered what Mumm-Ra had said about her family and her eyes misted with tears; then placing her hands over her face started to cry. Lion-O leaped from his bed to her side then sat down next to her and placed his right arm around her shoulders. "Poor thing; she's been through a lot...." said Snarf. "I'm sure it's more than that Snarf." Lion-O said then in a gentle tone asked, "Jolene what's wrong, you can tell me."

Jolene calmed herself as much as she could and said, "I was in an accident on Earth with my family. I must have hit my head. When I came to, I was in Mumm-Ra's pyramid. He said that my husband and children were killed in the accident." Lion-O was taken by surprise that she said 'husband and children' but didn't let it show. He thought, 'So you didn't wait for me all these years. I don't know why I expected you to; I've been with Cheetara and Pumyra, all the while really wanting you.' then he said, "We can find

out if what he said is true or not. Snarf have Cheetara come here please."

Moments later; Cheetara entered the room with Snarf, Jolene looked at the she-cat and thought, 'You gave up her for me? She's not just beautiful; she's gorgeous, Red what were you thinking?' "Cheetara, can you use your gift to find out if Jolene's family perished in their accident?" Lion-O asked. Cheetara looked at Jolene and thought, 'No wonder you wanted her, she's beautiful. Those blue eyes alone would capture the heart of any man.' "I can; may I have their names?" She replied. "My husband's name was Darren, my children's names were Janae and Bruce." Jolene answered.

Cheetara nodded then put herself in a trance..."I see...I see the vehicle, it crashes in a deep ravine...I see you unconscious, your husband is injured your children also unconscious ...Mumm-Ra is there and takes you out of the vehicle...some minutes pass after he leaves with you....rescue workers arrive and get your children out, by this time they are conscious and crying for you...but your husband is unresponsive; dead from the impact...I see no more." Cheetara finished then sat down on Lion-O's bed. Jolene was crying tears of joy that her children were still alive; but her tears were of guilt as well, because the last thing she told her husband was that she wanted a divorce.

“Thank you Cheetara," Jolene said, "you've given me peace of mind." "I am sorry about your husband; at least your children are safe." Cheetara said trying to comfort her. Jolene smiled through her tears and nodded 'yes' in agreement. "Prrr you need to eat something, I'm sure you're hungry." said Snarf. Jolene's stomach rumbled as she looked at the food cart. She wasn't sure which of the dishes she should try first. Snarf saw the look of uncertainty on her face and recommended a piece of sliced berbil fruit. She took the smallest piece and then took a bite of it. It tasted like honey soaked bread with an apple texture to it. She put the rest of the piece in her mouth and finished chewing it.