The Reception

By Aria Moonsinger

After Jagara had finished the ceremony and presented the couple to those that were gathered; Lion-O and Jolene led the wedding party down the aisle and down the hill to the waiting boats to take them to the other side of the lake. Snarf announced, “Ladies and gentlemen; the wedding reception will be held in the Great Hall at the palace.”

On the boat with Lion-O and Jolene; “I thought Mumm-Ra was going to have me that time.” Jolene said. “We would've gotten you back; but I am glad that we didn't have to go to the pyramid to get you.” Lion-O replied. “Me too. There is one thing that he might discover later.” Jolene said. “Oh what's that?” asked Lion-O. “I kinda threw up on him.” she confessed. Lion-O's eyes widened and then he started laughing. “He won't be happy about that.” Jolene giggled and said, “Yeah; when he wakes up, he's going to smell even worse than he does now.” Both of them hugged and laughed.

Later at the palace; when everyone that had been at the ceremony arrived, the wedding party received the guests. When Bengali came up to the royal couple; Lion-O pulled the young tiger into an embrace and said, “Ben you were an unexpected miracle.” “Yes you were; thank you again for saving me.” Jolene said as she placed her left hand on his right arm. “Glad I was there to help.” Bengali said. Lion-O released Bengali and placed an arm around his bride's shoulders and asked, “So what do you think of my bride? Isn't she the most beautiful woman you've ever seen?” This caused Jolene to blush and she said, “Red, cut it out.” Bengali looked at her and said, “When you used to talk about her; you're discription of her didn't and doesn't do her justice.” This caused Jolene to blush a deeper shade of red; making her face markings near her cheeks seem darker. “Thank you.” she shyly replied.

“You'll have to forgive her Ben; she just thinks she's cute, but I intend to spend the rest of our lives convincing her that she's beautiful.” Lion-O said as he pulled her closer to himself. Jolene looked up at him and smiled. “Knowing you beloved; I'm sure you will, someday.” she replied. Lion-O smiled then kissed her on the lips.

Bengali smiled at the couple; then made his way to Tygra and the others. Panthro saw him and like Lion-O; grabbed him and hugged the young tiger. “You are a sight for sore eyes; we thought you were killed

by the mutants.” Panthro said. “No; thankfully, but another of my clan wasn't as fortunate as I was.” Bengali replied. “So where have you been all this time?” asked Cheetara.

“The mine I was surveying collasped; or so I thought, I now know that the mutants caused the cave-in. I was trapped for several days; I got my first facial scar that day, a sharp rock caught my face as it fell. I was lucky not to have lost my left eye. Later I found a way out; Char picked me up and told me about the attack on the Lair, we had touched down just outside the settlement perimeter when I witnessed one of the mutants take Panthro's nunchucks and strangle another white tiger. I wanted to go and help my fellow countryman; but Char and I heard the mutant call him by my name, Char and I both thought it was best to let everyone think I was dead. I stayed with Char over the years; with him being a fellow smithy, we had much in common. When we headed back here; it was during the Dogs of War invasion, Char was killed. I kept my thundercat status hidden after I was captured by a dog patrol; once the Dogs were defeated, I managed to come back here. I had over heard Mumm-Ra talking to Jolene's daughter; trying to get her to help him stop the wedding, but she ran away from him. When Lion-O asked for volunteers for Jolene's body guards; I made sure I was among them.” Bengali replied. “That is quite a tale; little brother and one I'm sure Lion-O and Jolene would like to hear, but later now is a time to celebrate.” Tygra said as he placed an arm around the younger tigers shoulders.

Pumyra was off to the side talking to Lion-O and Jolene. “You must be very happy to know that Bengali is alive?” asked Lion-O. “I am; but I must admit, I was just as shocked to see him as you and Tygra were.” Pumyra replied. “I'm sure he is eager to speak with you, Pumyra.” Jolene said. “I'm sure he is too; Jolene, but I can't right now. I'm too angry with him.” Pumyra replied. “I don't understand why....” Jolene tried to say, but Pumyra interupted her. “You have to understand something Jolene; when Lion-O was trapped in the Book of Omens, the rest of us had to try and keep the peace in his absence. Bengali was on a survey mission for another thundrillum mine when he disappeared; then the mutants attacked, with the worry about where he had gone and the attack we found ourselves at their and Mumm-Ra's mercy.” Pumyra explained. “I'm sure he can explain where he has been and why he was missing for so long. You just need to give him a chance.” Jolene said.

“Why should I? All this time and not a word until now.” Pumyra fumed. “Because you love him, Pumyra.” Jolene said “The way he went about it; having to save the day, just like when we were cubs.” Pumyra vented. Jolene looked at Lion-O and smiled then said, “It seems he acted like a certain lion I

know.” Pumyra looked at Jolene with a surprised expression; then chuckled, “Yes; he did didn't he?” Pumyra said. Lion-O looked at his bride and gave her a look that said 'very funny'. Jolene just giggled and winked at her husband; then looked at her friend and said, “Go to him Pumyra; you'll never forgive yourself if you leave so much unsaid between the two of you.”

Pumyra looked at her new queen; then nodded and walked over to where Bengali had taken a seat at a table. From where the royal couple was standing; they saw Bengali's face light up at seeing her, then fall in disappointment. When Pumyra touched his shoulder; he looked up at her and then wrapped his arms around her, holding her close. “I don't know about you Red; but I think we'll have another wedding in the near future.” Jolene said. “I think you're right my love.” Lion-O replied and kissed her cheek.

After everyone was seated and the wedding party sat at the head table; the wedding feast was served, the topic at every table was how the queen was saved and spectulations as to what Mumm-Ra had really wanted her for. During the third course; Panthro, who was Lion-O's best man made a toast. “Well Lion-O; you finally got married, all of us thought that you would be a bachelor forever..” everyone laughed. “He almost was.” Tygra chimed in; which caused more laughter. “Then this little lady arrived; whom we all thought was nothing more than a dream.” Panthro continued. “I want a dream like her.” Wilykat yelled, this caused Jolene to blush and Lion-O to smile. “When the sword showed Lion-O that Mumm-Ra had you; he took off to rescue you, we never did have that meeting we had gathered for.” more laughs with Lion-O saying, “I forgot what it was supposed to be about.” “We thought he had lost his mind too.” Tygra said, this caused more laughter. “Exactly; but once you were here and became apart of our lives, we all have come to love you and your children. To Lion-O and Jolene.” Panthro finished and lifted his glass of candy fruit wine; everyone chimed in, “To Lion-O and Jolene!”

Once the feast was over; tables were cleared from the main floor and thunderian musicans played a thunderian waltz for the royal couple to have the first dance. Jolene had practiced with Lynx-O during the month Lion-O and her had been apart. She followed Lion-O's lead, “You practiced didn't you?” Lion-O asked. “With Lynx-O; he was very patient with me, I kept stepping on his foot at first.” Jolene replied. “Don't be surprised if every man here would want to dance with you.” Lion-O informed her. Jolene blushed, “I know I'm the bride and all; but....” she started to say, but Lion-O interupted her “Jolene it's not just because you're the bride; you are also my queen and it is tradition that you dance with anyone that asks.” “With anyone? Does that mean male or female?” Jolene asked. “Only if Cheetara and Pumyra

want to get a laugh.” he answered. “Well if they do; I'll try and dip them for good measure.” Jolene said with a smile. Lion-O chuckled knowing that she would too.

The next dance; Jolene was claimed by Tygra, “I understand that Lynx-O taught you how to waltz.” he said. “Like I told Lion-O; he was very patient with me.” she replied. “I'm sorry I couldn't have been the one to teach you.” Tygra responded. “You, Panthro and Lion-O were rebuilding the Cat's Lair. You would've worn yourself out going back and forth; just to teach me to dance.” Jolene reasoned.“Plus; I would've peppered you with questions about how Lion-O was.” “I suppose so; and there was to be 'no contact' too.” Tygra said. “Right; I also wanted to thank you for walking me down the aisle...” Jolene started to say, but she choked on a sob. “No tears of sadness today; only of joy Jolene.” Tygra said. Jolene nodded. “Both my parents missed both of my weddings. My mother died a week before I married Darren. I just wish they could have seen me today.” she said. “I'm sure they were here in spirit; as were Lion-O's.” Tygra replied. “That's a nice thought Tygra; I hope they were.” Jolene said.

When that dance ended; it was WilyKit and WilyKat that claimed her next, they had asked Lion-O if the musicians could take a break. Wilykit and her brother wanted to surprise Jolene with some music from Earth. It was a fast beat song; when Jolene heard the first chords of it, she wagged her figure at the twins and smiled. Bruce and Janae joined in.
Lion-O watched his bride's face light up with a smile as she danced with the twins and her children. When the song ended; Jolene embraced the two youths and said, “I couldn't have gotten a better gift today. Thank you.” “Your welcome.” both of them said and took off to find out when the cake was being brought out. Panthro came up and asked for the next dance.

“Don't worry; it's a slow song.” he said. Jolene smiled and had him lead her to the dance floor. “I noticed Lion-O isn't dancing at all; why, is he alright?” Jolene asked. “After the cake is brought out; that's when you get to sit out and watch him dance with all the ladies.” Panthro said. “Lion-O told me that I had to dance with anyone who asked; whether they were male or female, does that go for him too?” she asked. “Yes it does.” Panthro answered. Panthro got a smile on his face and asked, “You're up to something; what is it?” “I noticed Lion-O talking to Cheetara and Pumyra; I have a feeling he's telling them to ask me to dance with them. If one of them does; or even both of them, do you think Tygra and you could do the same to him?” Jolene asked. Panthro chuckled, “You got it.” he said.

The next dance; Cheetara approached her, “May I have this dance?” she asked. “Lion-O put you up to this, didn't he?” Jolene asked. “Yep, Pumyra wouldn't. Lion-O said he wanted to see you dip me.” Cheetara said. Jolene shook her head and said, “I am so getting him back for this.” and both women laughed. At the end of the song; Jolene dipped Cheetara, causing laughter from the onlookers.

After a few more dances; the cake was brought out. It was a seven layered cake with the Thundercat symbol on the middle layer and wax figures that looked like Lion-O and Jolene at the top. “Wow; Snarf really outdid himself.” Jolene said. “Reow I wish I could take the credit; but this was done by the humans at the bakery.” Snarf replied. Tygra whispered in her ear; “He tried; but your two and my two knocked it over days ago.” “Oh...that's why we had to wait a few days.” she replied. Tygra nodded then said, “By the way; I'm in.” Jolene smiled and giggled. “Now you two just have to decide whose going to dip him.” she said. Tygra chuckled.

Lion-O and Jolene held the cake cutter together and made the first slice of cake; they each took a piece of the slice and fed each other, then Lion-O took some frosting and put it on Jolene's nose. She did the same to him; but it was a lot more than he placed on hers.
Now it was the grooms turn to dance with anyone; Jolene danced with him first. “You must think you're pretty sneeky having Cheetara dance with me.” Jolene stated. “Not just sneeky; but clever too.” Lion-O replied. “You think so huh?” she asked, “Yes I do.” Lion-O said with a smile. Jolene just nodded and grinned and said, “We'll see.”

“If I didn't know you better; my love, I would have to say that you're up to something.” Lion-O questioned. Jolene looked innocent and said, “Who me; whatever makes you think that, beloved.” Lion-O chuckled and wondered which one she got to ask him to dance; Tygra or Panthro. When their dance ended; Cheetara asked Lion-O to dance, then it was Pumyra, after her it was Wilykit. The three women had him so dizzy from dancing that when Panthro came up to him and said, “May I have this dance?” The look of shock on Lion-O's face was enough to make Jolene fall on the floor in a fit of laughter. “Oh so you're the one she got to ask me.” Lion-O said after recovering. Panthro just smiled and asked “Do you want to lead, or should I?” “Oh very funny. I'll lead.” Lion-O replied as the two men started dancing.

After a few minutes; Panthro was tapped on the shoulder and asked, “May I cut in?” “Most certainly.” the panther said as he bowed to the new partner. “She got both of you?” Lion-O asked as Tygra took

Panthro's place. “Yes she did and she wanted me to tell you that 'Pay backs are a bitch'.” Tygra said with a sly smile. “Such language from my lovely wife; I should talk to her about that.” Lion-O said as he looked over at Jolene; who curtsied to him from where she was standing and watching. Lion-O smiled and shook his head. When the dance ended; Tygra dipped Lion-O, causing him to laugh along with everyone else. After several more hours; the guests started to leave, when only a few remained Lion-O picked Jolene up and made his way to the stairs and to the upper levels of the palace...