Trials

Chapter 1

By Aria Moonsinger

Since her first encounter against Mumm-Ra and fighting along side the Thundercats; Jolene had been trying to use her empathic ability during other training sessions with Panthro, Lion-O; as well as, with Lynx-O. There were many other battles against Mumm-Ra; some with all the Thundercats, others with just her and Lion-O.

One day during her training with Lion-O; he asked, “Have you given any more thought towards being annointed a thundercat?” Jolene relaxed her stance and asked, “Are you trying to throw me off?” Lion-O relaxed his stance and answered, “No, I was just wondering.” Jolene dropped her guard completely and said, “There still isn't any pressure, right?” “Of course not, like I said I was only wondering.” replied Lion-O. “Red....” Jolene slightly growled. “Hey, come on....” Lion-O said as he dropped his guard too. Jolene sighed and said,

“I'm sorry; it's just that the others all this week have been asking me the same question. It just seems like...” “Like we're pressuring you to make a decision.” Lion-O finished. “Yeah.” Jolene replied. “You'll have to forgive all of us; we just want to know if we'll have a new member, or just a new ally.” Lion-O explained. “I do forgive all of you; truthfuly I haven't made up my mind yet. Please be patient with me.” Jolene asked. “Okay; let's get back to training.” said Lion-O.

The next day Jolene took off from training to spend time with Bruce and Janae; while in the Council Chamber, Lion-O had the Thundercats assembled. “I know we're all getting anxious for Jolene to decide whether or not to become a thundercat. I told her and promised her that there would be no pressure.” Lion-O stated. “But she's proven she can defend herself countless times. What more does she thinks she needs to prove to us?” asked Cheetara. “It's not us she feels she needs to prove herself to Cheetara; it's herself she has to prove anything to.” replied Lion-O. “The way she explained herself the other day was; she's proven herself an ally, but not as a thundercat.” said Tygra. “Humans are so hard on themselves; it's a wonder they get anything accomplished.” interjected Pumyra. “What it really comes down to Thundercats; is she's worried about measuring up to her ancestor.” said Lion-O. “It seems she is still

plauged by doubt. Perhaps there is a way to quiet those fears once and for all.” suggested Lynx-O.

“What do you propose Lynx-O?” asked Lion-O. “When she decides to become a thundercat and marries you Lion-O; she will also hold the title of Lady of the Thundercats. Perhaps she feels she must prove herself worthy of such an honor.” answered Lynx-O. “She's talked about this a lot with you, hasn't she?” asked Lion-O. “Yes, she said she wanted to get an older persons opinion.” answered the elder thundercat. “You went through your annointment trials to become the offical Lord of the Thundercats, what if we did the same for her?” Lion-O thought about it, 'It would put to rest any doubts she has about being a thundercat.' “She would have to best all of us that she is training with; including you Lion-O.” said Panthro. “I know Panthro; but the trial with me would be her last one...” said Lion-O.
Later that day; Lion-O and Snarf went to Jolene's quarters. Lion-O knocked on the door and Bruce answered. “Hi Lion-O, hi Snarf. Mommy its Lion-O and Snarf. Come on in.” said Bruce. As they entered; Jolene looked away from the pile of clothes she was folding and smiled. “Hi.” she greeted. “Hi Jolene; can we talk?” asked Lion-O “Sure.” Jolene said as she moved a folded pile of clothes off the sofa.

“Come on kids; ole Snarf will show you two how to play snarfball in the gardens.” said Snarf and led Bruce and Janae out of the room. When Lion-O was seated she asked, “What's up?” “Something I wish you could have talked to me about.” Lion-O said. Jolene got a guilty look on her face and asked, “Lynx-O told you huh?” “In council, yes.” Lion-O answered. “I'm sorry I didn't talk to you, but...” Jolene started to say but Lion-O finished, “He said you wanted an older person's opinion, and I'll admit I have a lot more to gain if or when you say 'yes'.” “So you understand why I went to Lynx-O instead of you?” she asked. “I do; you wanted someone's opinion that could be objective. I know this may seem like a silly question, but I need to know. Do you have any doubts about being my wife like you do being a thundercat?” Lion-O asked. Jolene took his right hand into both of hers and said, “No, I have no doubts about being your wife. That I know I want and can do to the best of my ability; but being a thundercat means not just fighting Mumm-Ra or any other evil that may come our way, the people of Thundera look to you and the others to set an example to uphold the Code. I want to make sure I'm worthy and ready for such a responsibilty.”