King's Legacy

Chapter 2: Diminished Responsibility

By ashrhinos and ladyleatc

The gurney crashed through the doors of the infirmary, a very pale Lion-O lay limp and unconscious as he was hooked up to a heart monitor and drip. "BP ninety over thirty....." Pumyra said. "We need to act fast....." Tygra added. "Panthro.....take Leanna out of here....." Tygra added, somewhat unkindly.
"hey, paws off," the lioness snapped, "will he be okay"
"Too early to say....he received a life threatening wound.....Let's hope Schwenk's OK, huh?" he Tygra snapped back at the lioness.
Leanna narrowed her eyes at the tiger, "I did what I had to do, I got Lion-O back here"
"....and where is he?? The murderer? Is he sneaking into Claudus' nursery right now??" he shouted.
"Panthro.....get her out!!"
"touch me blue man and you'll be pulling back stubs, "Leanna warned and turned and walked out of the med bay
"What was she thinking?!" Tygra asked the panther, his hands deep in lion guts, trying to stop the bleeding.
"I have no idea, we'll find out more once Lion-O is well enough to answer questions"
"She will have to be reported to the Council of Elders.....you do know that, don't you?"
"yes, but it can wait until we can talk to Lion-O," Panthro nodded
"If we get that opportunity....." he said grimly. "In the meantime I'm ordering an immediate sweep of the city...order all Thunderguards on-duty....."
"I'll get right on it, "the panther nodded and left the med bay and went to the control room
Tygra operated for another four hours, after losing the Lord of the Thundercats twice he was eventually stabilised.
Leanna was in her room, she had been yelled at by nearly everyone she came in contact with, so, to get a break , she was held up in her room
There was a knock on the door.
"great, "she sighed, "who's come to yell at me now...come in"
Pumyra walked in quietly. "I've come to tell you that Lord Lion-O is now in a stable condition....."
"thank Jaga...thank you Pumyra...is he awake yet?"

"No....not yet, he is receiving more blood and is sedated....." she sat next to the lioness. "We just want to know why? You're our greatest warrior and hunter.....You're Lion-O's most trusted fighter....."

"why??. you mean why didn't I just waste the time by killing Schwenk as our king lay injured and dying?"

"Kill Schwenk then get help.....We're talking, what, ten seconds?"

"it wasn't as simple as that"

"I don't doubt that, Leanna.....not for a moment....But Lion-O is laid up, Claudus is under twenty-four hour double guard and trust me, Lady Leonis is best avoided right now, hun.....she thinks you've exposed her baby to even more danger now....."

"don't worry about Schwenk, he's badly wounded, I doubt he'll live to see the sunrise"

"But can you guarantee that?"

"you didn't see the state he was in, believe me, he's not going got live long"

"I ask you again.....can you guarantee he'll die?"

"yes, if I have to hunt him down and finish the job myself"

"...and it may come to that, but in the meantime every Thunderguard is pulling double shifts scoring every nook and cranny from the Ferric Escarpment to the city centre....."

"he'll find someplace close to hide"

"Then he'll be dragged back here....."

"may I ask you something as a medical person?"

"Of course....."

"is it possible for a human to access a thunderian mind, say send images to them"

"Not that I know of.....Human's are a simple creature, with no powers of telepathy or thought transference....."

"Then how in the hell did it do it, "she said totally perplexed

"Do what?" Pumyra asked and placed a hand on Leanna's hand.

"when I made skin contact, there was something there, a small thread of recognition, they he flashed images at me"

"What images?" his brow furrowed.

"Of things yet to happen"

"This is strange.....did you say he had some sort of device?"

"yeah a TAG device, it produce a portal"

"So.....he's from the future.....that would explain the images from the future....but how is an entirely different question...."

"tell you, it was very unnerving"

"It may not be enough to calm Lion-O and the others....."

"I know I have to face punishment for my actions,"

She nodded. "In the meantime.....you may want to consider being diplomatic....." she stood.

"in other words, keep my mouth shut, temper under control and prepare for a lot of arse kissing, "the lioness smirked

"Something like that.....Tygra intends a Council of Elders hearing....." she sighed

"what! are you kidding me, Lion-O is alive and well, is that really needed"

"In my opinion....no.....but Tygra is intent.....it depends on what Lion-O says....."

"I swear Tygra has had to out for since ever since I walk through those damn doors"

"I know, hun.....stay strong and do not rise to his bait. I can tell you this much, if they drag Schwenk through those doors you'd be last in queue to have a go.....Lady Leonis plans her revenge even now....."

"hmm, she's probably fit to be tied huh?"

"Schwenk will pray for death!"

"well one good thing, she hasn't yelled at me yet, I do not want to face that woman" Leanna said shaking her head

"Erm....we've kept her away....physically at times...."

"she should worry about her husband and son, not about me"

"I have a suggestion....."

"what?...hide up on here until it all blows over?"

"No.....not exactly. In the city there is a Thunderguard garrison.....as it happens a new Captain of the Guard is needed.....go there.....coordinate the search.....do you bit, but with some breathing space....I have the paperwork here....."

"great driven from my home and demoted, "she said holding out her hand for the papers

"No...not demoted.....you're filling in the position until a captain becomes available....."

"which judging by the others mood, won't be too soon" the lioness said

"Leanna. This is a good opportunity....for you. Go and capture Schwenk....." she smiled at her.

"i won't sleep until I do"

"Papers. Pen. You can be there in an hour...."

"do me on favour" Leanna said as she signed the papers, "just remind them that I love little Claudus like he was my own, and it was me who saved his life"

"Of course I will....." she hugged the lioness tightly

"thank you, I guess I'd better pack, "she said handing the papers back

"Yes.....I will arrange transport....."

"ok, I'll be in touch"

By midday Leanna had arrived at the garrison. She was surprised....no....horrified. Considering there was double shifts in place, most Thunderguards were smoking, drinking and playing cards, oblivious to the lioness standing there.

"bunch of slackers" Leanna growled

The sergeant-at-arms turned from his cards to look at the lioness. Unfortunately he'd never seen Leanna before and being the acting garrison commander decided to improve morale. "Well.....seems we get better strippers for our gold these days.....on the table, love....."

"oh.. you want me on that table,?" she asked setting down her duffle bag and walking over, "so is this the norm for the famous Thunderguards?" she asked putting her hands on her hips

He smiled and chewed his cigar. "You're kinda chatty for a stripper.....up you get.....we got good money to stick in places....." the whole garrison roared in laughter. Leanna's Thundercat uniform was covered by her long black coat.

"if you insist," she smirked and hopped up on the table, she turned her back to the crowd and unfastened her cloak and let it slowly slide off her shoulders then drop to the table

The effect was strange. The laughing and the cheering subsided, gradually. The sergeants cigar dropped from his mouth. There was three seconds of absolute silence before bedlam broke out. "In ranks men! Clear this shithole up, straighten your uniforms....NOW!!!!" he bellowed

"now, see that's the welcome you should be giving your new captain of the guard," Leanna said turning around, "I have half a mind to report each and everyone of your sorry arses to the king himself"

"I'm sorry.....so sorry....." the sergeant gibbered. Leanna glared at him. "My office. Now!" she growled.

The lioness jumped down off the table and headed to the small office, she waited until the sergeant was inside," ok, what the hell is going on here, we're under high alert and you're sitting around on your duffs doing shit all"

"Erm....well.....We have searched...." he pointed to the map. "Here, here.....oh, and here...." he pointed at three main roads.

"so why aren't you still out looking, you don't realize who were looking for is an extremely dangerous man"

"Word is he was dying anyway...." he shrugged. "Probably rat chow as we speak....."

"well keep looking until he is found...no one rests until he is"

"Yes sir....ma'am.....erm....."

"take your men and go, but leave two behind, to clean up this hell hole"

"Ma'am....." he left the office and Leanna smiled as she heard lots of orders being barked.

She cleaned off the chair and sat down, maybe it wouldn't be so bad after all, she thought as she pulled out a city map

The Thunderguards swept through their part of the city like they had a proverbial broom up their collective arses. That broom was Leanna. But despite their best efforts Schwenk remained unfound. A month went past and still no physical evidence of Schwenk was unearthed.

Frustrated, The lioness called a meeting with her sergeant

"Ma'am....you called for me....." he saluted.

saluted

"any news, "she said pacing in front of the city map that was tacked to the wall

"No ma'am.....permission to speak frankly ma'am..."

"granted"

"Feeling is, ma'am.....he's dead.....probably for a while. We've searched for over a month, we've redoubled our efforts, retraced out steps.....no mere human can elude us for days, let alone weeks....."

"oh believe me sergeant, this is one very sneaky human, no, he's out there somewhere, " she looking at the map, "if he's dead then I want his body found.....my head in on the line here"

"I understand ma'am....." he chewed his lip nervously.

"What?"

"Well.....ma'am...there's a winked rumour....vicious lies, in fact....."

"About?"

"They say you've been busted down here because you let this snake escape.....on purpose, ma'am....of course I threatened to bust any man who said that to a months worth of latrine duty....."

The lioness smirked, "please have a seat"

"Ma'am?" he wasn't used to sitting in the presence of his superior officer.

"sit" she ordered

He duly sat. "Ma'am?"

"ok, I will lay these rumours to rest, I will tell you exactly what happened and you can judge for yourself, "she said sitting at her desk, and told the sergeant everything, "so I didn't let him go on purpose, our king lay dying , I had to act fast, so I did what I thought was right, I chose to save my king".

"You acted properly ma'am. Sounds like he had mortal wounds.....he would've perished in the desert

through blood loss...." he nodded. "But he may not have...." Lion-O's deep voice said from the doorway.
Leanna instantly got to her feet followed by the sergeant," My, Lord, good to see you are well, "Leanna said bowing her head
"My Lord....." the sergeant saluted crisply. "Dismissed, sergeant.....". The sergeant nodded and left.
Leanna cringed, she knew this wasn't going to be pleasant, she hadn't seen the lion since he passed out on the rock
"Leanna....please sit....." he himself sat.
the lioness nodded and sat, "I'm glad you are doing well"
"I am informed there has been no progress....."
"none so far, I've had the men scour this city from top to bottom"
"He's out there and your continued failure to capture him is a dark mark against the Thundercats...." he said severely.
"we are doing everything we can, my lord" Leanna said lifting her chin a bit
"...and yet you have achieved nothing.....maybe a new commanding officer will have the desired effect...."
"I highly doubt that," Leanna snorted
"You have one week!! If Schwenk or his body is not found.....you are replaced and your status as Thundercats is at an end. Do I make myself clear??"
Leanna 's anger rose, she badly wanted to tell him where he could shove his Thundercats status, how ever, she bit her tongue, "Perfectly"
".and here's some advice....." he stood and walked to the door. "Instead of sitting at that desk, gathering dust, get your hands dirty!!" he left and slammed the door.
"Arrogant ass hole, "she growled and picked up a coffee mug that was on the desk and tossed it at the closed door
There came a meek knock at the door.
"what!, "the lioness bellowed
The sergeant put his head around the door. "Erm.....is everything...erm....OK?"
"I have one week to find the human or I'm out of a job" she said picking up the broken pieces of the mug and tossing them in the trash bin
"I'm sorry to hear that....." he pulled the map out and lay it on the desk.
"ok, where haven't we looked? "she asked leaning over the desk
The whole of their sector was now covered in red. Well, apart from a small white square.

"ok, why wasn't this area searched"

He shrugged. "It's impossible to get to....an old run down building, no way in or out.....We've checked. Even if we could et in....there's no way for a human!"

"that's it, "Leanna said straightening up, "that's where he is, "she said grabbing her weapon, "have your men stand by, I'm going to check it out myself"

"Ma'am.....he won't be there.....a dying man, one hand, torn throat....he's not a bird or feline....."

"no, but he's a very smart monkey"

He looked confused. "May I make a suggestion?"

"of course"

"I'll send men....stake out the building, from a distance.....see if there's any evidence to suggest life inside....."

"suggestion noted, but have your men outside, I'll be trying to find a way in, if he's there I'll call if I need you"

"Ma'am.....we should use our evidence gathering method first.....know what we're looking at....if he is inside he'll be dangerous. Please ma'am.....two days tops.....at least if he's not there you'll have five days to write a resume....." he tried not to smile.

"Don't worry, I'm a big girl, I know what I'm doing" She winked and clipped her weapon to her hip

He sighed. "You'll be the death of me, ma'am....."

"well let's hope not, you're a good man, and a good sergeant is hard to come by"

"Ma'am....permission to speak freely....."

"yes"

"If he's not there.....if you are made to leave.....I shall leave too. You're a good leader and I can't stand by whilst you are made the scapegoat....ma'am..."

"no, I can't let you do that....you're place is here, I got myself into this mess, I'll get myself out, if it would make you feel better, you may come along and keep an eye out while I go inside"

"Of course ma'am…Also....if he is there....when you kill him it's customary in these cases to....well....urinate on the unworthy opponent....Well...it's not ladylike maybe.....Well....I'll have a nice long drink before we go.....if you get my meaning?"

Leanna looked at her sergeant and chuckled, "what is it with men and peeing on things, "she said shaking her head, "ok, go get us tow packs, we'll do as you suggested, and stake the place our for the night, to see if there is any movement, it's going to be dark soon, so we'll have to wait until first light"

"It's be better if we stake out in the day.....then...if necessary.....strike at night...."

"yes, but who can we se movement during the day, he's no the dumb to come out during daylight hours"

"There will be signs....he will be active during the day.....he has no night vision, remember...."

"and as I said, he's not that stupid"

"If he's alive he'll have the fools arrogance.....he still has a mission.....and if he's alive he'll need pain relief. Ma'am....we should attack at night.....He'll expect any attack to be at day.....don't forget, our patrols are greatly reduced at night...." he explained.

"fair point," Leanna conceded

"Then we should stake out now, maybe....."

"agreed"

"I'll brief the best men....."

"Make it quick, we'll need to move out soon"

"Ten minutes....." he smiled, saluted crisply and left, leaving Leanna with the map.

Leanna picked up a pin and stuck in the blank spot, "I know you're there monkey, "she said to her self, "just a matter of time before we meet up"