Through My Eyes

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Chapter 3

I decided to go to the Cats Lair to contact Pumyra back on New Thundera. As I entered the Lair, I saw Tygra in the garage, looking over the equipment.

"Ho! Tygra!"

My fellow tiger Thundercat looked up and smiled at me.

"Ho! Bengali, what brings you here?"

"I wanted to use the communications here to contact New Thundera." I told him.

Tygra frowned, looking a bit confused. "Couldn't you have done that at the Tower? Is something wrong with the communication grids?"

I smiled to myself at his comment. Count on Tygra to get upset about a possible problem with any of the technology that he helped to create.

"No,"I said, "There's nothing wrong with our communications. I just wanted to talk to New Cats Lair without, uh, certain people overhearing."

I grinned, knowing that I was blushing and hoped that Tygra wouldn't notice. His knowing grin and nod let me know that he had.

"I understand. Go on up, I'm on watch right now so I don't think anyone is in the Control Room at the moment."

I thanked him and headed toward the hanger door, then something popped into my head and I turned back around.

"Hey Tygra, could you maybe keep quiet about this, I, uh, would rather no one knew what I was doing."Hopefully Tygra would think that I was doing something special for my woman and feel that he was in on the secret.

Tygra laughed. "My lips are sealed."

I nodded my thanks and continued to the Control Room. As Tygra had said, no one was there, so I felt a little bit better about confidentiality. It took a few minutes, but I got through to the New Thundera Cat's Lair. The gods of Fortune must have been smiling on me, because the person to answer my hail was the one person that I wanted to talk to.

"This is Pumyra at New Cats Lair. Hey Bengali, how is everything on Third Earth?"

"Pumyra, can you put this on a secure channel? I need to talk to you about Linda." I said, not wanting my wife's strange behavior to be common knowledge. Pumyra saw my concerned face and left the main view screen. Within a minute, she showed up on one of the smaller screens.

"What's the problem Bengali?" she asked, sounding worried.

I told her about everything; the old man and his warning, the visit to Mumm-Rana, and Linda's odd behavior lately and her reaction to the revelation. Pumyra nodded, seeming to understand instantly.

"Pumyra, could Linda be suffering from what she calls PMS?" I hated asking, but it could explain things.

Pumyra laughed. "I've seen her PMS fits, and although that would be my first guess, I don't think that is the problem. How old is Linda by now?"

It took me a minute to remember. Unlike my wife, I did not have an instant memory for things like this.

"Linda was 25 when she came to Third Earth and had been here for 14 years, so that would make her about 39, I guess." I said. When I looked back at the screen, I saw Pumyra shaking her head.

"You can't even remember how old your wife is? Please tell me that you at least remember her Birthday and your Mating day!"

I blushed and looked away from the screen and just stood there as I heard Pumyra just laughing it up. After a couple of minutes of listening to her continued hilarity, I got fed up.

"Are you done yet?" I asked her sarcasticly.

She finally calmed down, wiping a few tears that had escaped from the corners of her eyes. "I'm sorry Ben, normally that wouldn't have been so funny, but just last night, Kylynne and I and a few women who were visiting were discussing that very same thing. Would it make you happy to know that you are not the only man to do that? I even have to remind Oro of when his birthday is."

"Fascinating." I said drily.

"I'm sorry Ben, I'll be serious now. So she's 39." Pumyra rubbed her chin, thinking. "That's a bit young for human menopause, although I have read that it can happen. Is she still having her monthly cycles?"

"I think so, but I can't be too sure."

"Bengali, I need you to think clearly on this, when was the last time that you knew for certain that she had her cycle?"

I reached back in my memory, trying to remember the last time that Linda had been having her "Period" as she called it. I always knew when this was happening because she would have a day of pain followed by 3 to 4 days of "Ickiness". During those days, she never wanted to be touched, but now that I think about it, she hadn't felt "Icky" since before the new rotation, about 4 months ago.

I relayed this information to Pumyra and she immediately looked concern.

"Has she had any strange food craving's or tenderness of the breasts?'

"No craving's, but she said she was a bit tender the other day. What does that have to do with...." Wait, craving's? Tenderness? Major Mood swings?!

"Do you think she's pregnant?!" I yelled.

"I won't know until I examine her. I'll be on the next transport out. I should be there... Bengali, where are you going?"

"To talk to my wife!" I said over my shoulder and almost ran over Tygra, coming in the door. I heard him ask me what was wrong, but I was too upset to say anything. I was sure that Pumyra would fill him in.

The flight between the Tower of Omens and Cats Lair normally took me about 30 minutes, on this day however, I made it in ten. I located Linda in the Dining room laughing and having dinner with Jonalia and WilyKit. I didn't even try to hide my anger as I commanded her into the Control Room.

Once inside, I shut the door, locking it. Then I began to pace.

"Look, Bengali, if this is about the bread earlier..."

"This has nothing to do with the blasted bread!" I yelled, then I realized that it had started with that earlier event.

"Well," she said, looking confused, " If it's not about the bread, then why are you so mad?"

I stopped in mid stride and just blurted it out. "Are You Pregnant?!"

Linda stepped back away from me surprised and landed in an empty chair. Tears began to form as she turned away from me and nodded.

"How far along are you and how long have you know?!" I demanded.

She wiped away the tears with the back of her hand. "I found out a little over 2 months ago and the way I figure, I'm probably about 4 months along, maybe 5. My last period was kind of spotty."

I just gawked at her. "Five months?! By the Hells of Thundera, woman, are you INSANE?! The last time you were pregnant, you nearly died when you miscarried!" I paced even more, dumbfounded by the sudden turn of events.

In her chair, Linda was trying to look contrite, but I knew that she was trying to think of a way to get me to stop being mad at her. This time I wouldn't fall for it.

"Bengali, I know that I should have told you when I first found out and I know that you are upset..."

"Upset?! You think I am upset?! Oh no, I am WAY beyond that. To put it in a way that you will understand, I am Fucking PISSED!"

From the door, I heard a knock on the metal. I strode over and released the lock, opening the door.

"WHAT?!!!" I yelled, making Cheetara and Tygra jump.

"Uh, we came over to see if everything is okay." said Cheetara.

"No, it's not!" I said, shutting and locking the door again. In the back of my mind, I knew that I'd be hearing about that one, but right now, I didn't care. From across the room, I heard giggling. I looked at Linda to see here trying to hide a smile.

"What could you possibly find funny?" I asked her.

"I'm sorry," she said between her giggle, "It's just, Oh God, the looks on their faces when you shut the door on them was just...priceless." She looked me straight in the face and burst out laughing.

Despite my anger, I felt myself giving into her laughter and joined in with her. After a while, we calmed down and smiled at each other.

"I hate it when you do that to me." I said to her.

"What?" she asked innocently, although I could see that gleam in her eye that she gets when she thinks she's won.

"You know perfectly well what! You always find a way to side track me when things aren't going your way." I sighed and leaned against the door.

"Ok, round one to you," I said to her, "but tomorrow when Pumyra gets here, we are going to discuss what needs to happen."

I saw that she wanted to say something, but I held up my hand, indicating that I wanted her to stay quiet. Wisely, she said nothing.

"We'll finish this later. Right now I have to go out there and explain things to Tygra and Cheetara." And hope like hell they would be understanding.