Through My Eyes

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Chapter 4

The next afternoon, the Feliner landed here at the Tower instead of the Cats Lair as was normal, which is odd to say the least. Standard procedure was that any ships from New Thundera or one of the Thundarian colonies had to stop at Cats Lair to check in. I was wondering if Pumyra felt that the detour was necessary because of Linda's condition.

"Feliner to Tower of Omens, request permission to land."

I was on duty at the time of their arrival so I took the hail.

"This is the Tower of Omens. Oro, are you forgetting Standard Procedure?"

"We have special permission from Lion-o to land here first and drop off the medical team, then I'll be flying to the Lair for check in."

"Understood Feliner, permission to land granted."

I cut the transmission and walked down stairs to meet the "Medical Team". Along the way, I caught my daughter peeking outside to see who had come. Now I knew for a fact that she was supposed to be in the Library doing her school work, so I decided to have a little fun with her to remind her of her priorities. Ever so slowly, I crept up behind her, never making a sound. She was so interested by what was going on that she never even heard me.

"What are you doing?" I said, making her jump up and scream.

"DADDY! Don't do that. I could have died of fright!" she said laughing.

"Well, that will teach you not to spy on people." I said, laughing myself. "Now, are you done with your studies?"

She looked at the ground as she answered me "Well, no. I was about to finish the last of my math when I heard something outside. I just had to see what was going on."

I smiled at her, understanding her curiosity. "I think you should get back upstairs and finish up. You know how your mother gets when you start putting things off."

"Yes daddy." She shuffled up stairs and for a moment as she walked away, I could have sworn that she looked exactly like her birth mother Sabina. I smiled sadly and sent up a prayer to my brother Jonal and his wife, thanking them for allowing me to be a part of her life and to ask for guidance for her future.

Finally I made it outside and I was surprised to see that in addition to Pumyra, Lady Kylynne and Dr. Vorien had accompanied her. The last time I had seen Dr. Vorien was 8 years ago when he had told me and Linda that it was impossible for us to have children together. Considering the reasons why, I could completely understand his presence here.

"Dr Vorien!" I said, greeting the older tiger physician. "It has been a while since I've seen you. How have you been doing?"

The good doctor smiled at me. "Ah, my most Honorable Lord Bengali. It is a pleasure to see you again. I have to say, this is a rare treat for me. I have never been to Third Earth and I am anxious to check out the local sights."

"Doctor, perhaps we should see the patient first." Said Pumyra, smiling kindly at him.

"Oh, well," sputtered Dr. Vorien, "I wasn't expecting to go visiting immediately."

I had to fight back a laugh. Dr. Vorien was one of the best in his fields of gynecology and genetics, but he had a bad habit of letting his mind wander, something that my wife didn't much approve of. I wasn't sure how she would react to his being here, but I was glad to see him. Considering my mate's history of dangerous pregnancies and her genetic incapability to produce a full term infant, I was grateful to have the galaxies best here.

"So where is the little woman?" asked Dr. Vorien.

"Inside sleeping. She has had a tiring couple of days and if finally caught up with her. She should be waking very soon."

"How is she doing?" asked Kylynne, concern on her face.

"Well, she's been having some major mood swings," I answered, bowing slightly to her, "But other than that, she's doing well."

Over near the Feliner, I saw Oro struggling with some luggage and ran over to help him, Pumyra and the others close behind. With everyone's help, we were able to empty out the cargo hold and placed everything on a hover platform for easy transport. I took a good look at how many bags and boxes there were and had to laugh.

"Do you think you packed enough?" I asked Oro.

Oro hook his head, to exhausted to say anything, and pointed towards the two women and the doctor. Pumyra was kind enough to answer for her mate.

"Most of this is medical equipment. Less than a fourth of it is actual luggage for personal use."

"And I brought presents for everyone here." said Kylynne, smiling.

"Well, I think the first order of business is to set up the equipment in the med lab, wouldn't you agree Dr. Vorien?" asked Pumyra.

"I quite agree, my dear. Work first, pleasure later."

We all waved good bye to Oro as he headed for Cats Lair to check in. He would return later with Tygra and Cheetara and I was a bit worried about that. Although Tygra had understood my explanation about my rude behavior yesterday, Cheetara was still a little miffed with me. Hopefully with time, she would forgive me.

It took a good hour to set up all the equipment in the lab and I was astounded that Pumyra and Dr. Vorien felt that it was all needed for my wife. Dr. Vorien tried to explain to me as to why all the medical equipment was necessary.

"You must understand, my Lord. Your wife's situation is an unusual one. The machinery that we have here will monitor the baby, check Ms. Linda's bio functions, and access the infant's genetic progress. Truthfully, I have never come across a case like this before. Oh, but don't worry," he added quickly when he saw me frown, "We are going to make sure your wife is going to do just fine."

By the time all the equipment was up and running, Oro had returned with Cheetara and Tygra. I was happy to see Cheetara smiling at me and I knew she had forgiven me when she asked if I planned to slam any doors on her today.

"Not unless I have to." I said, laughing.

Kylynne had gone to wake up my wife so that she could be examined and I waited with the others for her arrival. I had sent WilyKit and Jonalia to Cats Lair to spend the day with WilyKat and Nilam. Jonalia is a very resourceful and curious cub and I didn't want her to overhear anything that normally wasn't meant for a child's ears. Soon enough, Linda and Kylynne came to the Med lab. My wife went around, hugging everyone, although I noticed that her greeting of the doctor was a bit strained.

Cheetara and Kylynne left to visit the the Snarfs Oswald and Olena in the kitchen and to help them prepare the evening meal. Oswald and Olena usually worked at Cats Lair and only came to the Tower twice a week to help Linda with the cleaning, but they came today because they felt that with all the people here, that it would be too much work for my wife alone. Linda adored the couple and enjoyed the times that they came over, but she understood that they were much

more needed at the Lair. She knew that Olena wanted to help out more at the Tower, but Linda was afraid that the Snarfs would be spreading themselves too thin and had refused the extra help. What she didn't know was that Olena hadn't been satisfied by this arrangement and had called on her sister and nephew to come and help out. As far as I know, Olena was still waiting for an answer.

"Well," said Linda nervously, "Shall we get this show on the road?"

The doctor smiled at her kindly and instructed her to lay down on one of the med beds. Over the next 2 hours, Linda laid there on the bed patiently; being examined by every piece of equipment available, enduring the doctor's cold hands as he did a physical examination, allowing blood to be drawn, and answering any question asked of her. Through the whole thing, I stood next to her, holding her hand, wanting to give her a sense of security. She often smiled up at me and squeezed my hand, letting me know that she appreciated it.

Finally, the process was over and Linda was allowed to sit up. We waited while Tygra, Pumyra, and Dr. Vorien completed their testing and analysis's. When they had finished, they approached us and I saw that all of them seemed to have looks of hope on their faces.

"The news is good, my dear." Dr. Vorien said to my wife. "Both you and the baby are doing well."

"But?" said my wife, sensing that the doctor was holding something back.

"But," he continued, "There is still some danger involved in your pregnancy. You are about 21 weeks along, and I have to say, I'm surprised that you have carried the pregnancy this far. Your medical status hasn't changed any in the past 14 years and great caution will be needed if you are to carry this child to full term."

"Wait a minute," I said, "I'm a bit confused here. You said that it would be impossible for her to carry a full term baby!"

"No, no, I said that her chances were less than 1%. I never said that it was impossible."

"And what happens if she miscarries again?" I asked, getting a little upset. "The last baby was only 17 weeks along and she nearly died of blood loss!"

Dr. Vorien looked at me calmly as he spoke. "There is always a chance of miscarriage with any pregnancy and I understand your concerns for you wife's well being, and that is why I have requested and received a sabbatical from my medical practice to stay here and monitor Ms. Linda until her delivery."

"There won't be a delivery because she is not staying pregnant. She's going to have an abortion!"

"The HELL I am!" I looked at my wife and saw anger in her eyes.

Linda glared at me. "How dare you make decisions for me! This is MY choice, Bengali and I am willing to take that chance!"

I stared at her for a moment before I spoke. "So you would risk you life for this child, knowing that it could kill you? And when that happens, what are Jonalia and I supposed to do? Did you think about how Jonalia will feel having to grow up without a mother? Or how I'm supposed to live without you?"

I saw that my words were hurting her, she had started crying and had covered her ears with her hands, but I couldn't stop. I was scared and I wanted her to know it.

"You have done some idiotic things in your life, Linda, but this is..."

I never got to finish as someone had grabbed my arm and yanked me out of the room. When the door slid shut, I was whirled around to face a very angry Dr. Vorien.

"Young man, I know that you are scared, but you are not doing her any favors, so I suggest you stop it!"

"I'm trying to save her life! Don't you understand that?!" I yelled.

Dr. Vorien glanced over my shoulder, seeing something behind me and grabbed my arm again, pulling me down the corridor. I looked back and saw Kylynne and Cheetara peeking out from one of the doorways. We didn't stop until we had exited the Tower. The doctor then released my arm and started lecturing at me.

"Your wife is in a serious condition, My lord. She is too far gone for an abortion."

I was stunned by this revelation. "What do you mean?" I asked him.

"As I stated earlier, your mate is 21 weeks along in her pregnancy. A vaginal abortion is impossible, it would most definetly kill her. And a cesarian abortion is outlawed by the Code of Thundera. Cesarians are allowed in saving the life of the mother and child, but only in the most extreme circumstances. Now I'm going to ask the Thundarian Medical Association for permission to use this procedure in your wife's delivery, but she MUST carry the infant to 32 weeks at the least!"

He stopped so that I could let all this sink in. I felt like I had been hit in the stomach and had to sit down on a near by boulder. I wanted to cry, I wanted to hit something, and I wanted to scream so loud that all of Third Earth could hear my anguish, but all I could do was sit there.

Finally I looked up at the doctor. "What can I do?"

"She will need to be on bed rest for the most part. Some physical activity can be allowed, but she must not over do it. And she needs to stay calm, so no more arguing!" He sternly looked at me and I nodded an agreement.

"What else?" I asked.

"The Lady Pumyra and I would like to stay here so that we can monitor her and be on hand if anything unforeseen should happen." Once again I nodded.

"And above all else, be there for her, support and comfort her. And if you have a belief, pray."

I sighed and got up. "I will do everything that you suggested, doctor. And of course you and Pumyra are welcome to stay here." I bowed to him and went back inside. When I entered the Med Lab, everyone glanced at me, then looked away. I looked around the room and saw that Tygra and Pumyra were busy with some of the testing equipment.

I walked over to Linda, still sitting on the med bed, and saw that she refused to look at me. I remembered everything I had said to her and felt ashamed. I knelt down in front of her and wrapped my arms around her waist and laid my head in her lap.

"I'm sorry." I said quietly, "The thought of losing you was just too much for me and I couldn't hold it in. I never meant to hurt you." Tenderly, I felt her run her hand through my hair. I also heard movement from behind me and the unmistakable sound of the door opening and closing. I guess the others decided to leave so that we could have some privacy.

I picked my head up and looked into my wife's beautiful hazel eyes. "If having this baby means so much to you, then I have no choice but to help you and our baby live."

I could see her eyes brimming with tears and hid my face in her lap again, hiding the tears that began to flow freely from my own eyes. "I'll do anything that you ask of me, anything to make you happy, just don't leave me! I love you!"

Our sobs and tears mingled as she cradled my head in her arms and she placed her head on top of mine.

"I love you too, Bengali" I heard her say. "And we'll pull though this. We just need to be careful and have faith."

Without even thinking, I prayed to her god that he would watch over her and keep her and our child safe. Perhaps this was what the old man meant by believing.

In a dark and sinister old crypt, four large and disfigured statues stood watch over a rancid pool of murky filth. Eerily the eyes of the statues began to glow red and magically they raised their

left arms out in front of them. They rose up of their stone bases and began to twirl around the pool, moving faster and faster with each revolution until you could not tell one from the other.

Above the pool, a foul mist began to form, growing larger and producing a malevolent aura. From this orb, a voice rang out, dark and evil as pure sin.

"Where ever Evil exist, Mumm-Ra lives!"