Through My Eyes

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Chapter 7

"It's not like I'm doing anything dangerous," said Linda while she was putting on her uniform, "We're just going for a walk."

I shook my head. "With Mumm-Ra alive again, I just don't think it's a good idea!"

Linda leveled her eyes with mine. "I can't base my life on what may or may not happen. That's not living, and I refuse to let some old, decrepit mummy determine how I live. I've been stuck in this Tower for months, and if I don't get out for a while, I'm going to go crazy and I'm taking you with me!"

I sighed. "I just don't think it's a good idea. I have been having a bad feeling today and I don't want anything to happen to you or our family."

Linda rolled her eyes, which I really hated, and sighed. "If it will make you feel better, I will leave Jehoran here with Bertie, and Kit and I will be armed. Will that help ease your fears?"

"No, but it seems that I have no choice."

Linda and I went to the weapons room and I stood by as she chose a few laser pistols. After I and Panthro had taught her everything we could on self defense and how to use our weapons, she had spied some of the artillery and insisted that she learn these as well. We were amazed to see that she had been such a natural, so it was agreed that she could use these heavy arms as her chosen weapons. Because of her oath, she always kept the pistols on stun, but we were told that if it became necessary, she would turn up the power. Thankfully, this had never happened.

When I suggested she take a small rifle as well, she laughed. "Ben, I'm just going on a walk, not an invasion!"

I let her laugh, but I had been serious. Before she left with Kit and Jonalia, I made them promise to stay in contact. They agreed, but I think it was more to shut me up then to actually acquiesce. I still had a bad feeling, but I decided to just go with it and hope that I was wrong.

Tygra and I were doing our annual equipment check outside when I heard someone yelling. I looked over and saw Jonalia running towards us, nearly screaming her head off.

“Papa! Papa, help!”

My heart began to beat faster when I saw that my daughter's face was covered in blood.

“Jonalia?!” I ran to her and began to check her over. She had a large gash over her right eye, but not much else. “What happened to you?”

She began to cry. “We were attacked by Mutants and some strange man!”

Tygra had brought a medical kit and was tending to her wound. He asked her to tell us what had happened. It took a while, but Jonalia told us that she and the others had visited the Wollo village and were on their way home when Mutants had jumped out of the woods and had surrounded them. Linda and Kit had begun to fight when a man resembling Tamen had showed up, and had blasted both of the women of their feet. Linda recovered quickly and had shot a Mutant and ordered Jonalia to run. She had been chased by several Mutants, but had lost them when she hid in a briar patch. That was how she had injured herself, trying to get out of the patch. She had run straight here afterwards.

I took Jonalia inside and asked Bertie to take care of her, acting calm the entire time, but inside, I was a mess. My greatest fear had come true and I wanted nothing more then to find my wife. After I made sure that my daughter was safe, I raced back outside where Tygra had the Thunderstrike ready. He had already call the Lair and Cheetara and Wily Kat were on their way. Nilam had stayed behind to call New Thundera to tell Lion-o and the others what had transpired.

We reached the location that Jonalia had said the attack had taken place, but no one was there. We searched the area, hoping to find some clue as to what had happened, but except for signs of a struggle and some laser blasts, there was nothing. Cheetara and Kat showed up to help with the investigation. We widened our search area and for the next half hour, we combed through every blade of grass, hoping to find something to lead us to the attackers motives. But finally, Kat lost his patience.

“What are we doing here?! We should go to Castle Plundarr and make them talk!”

I understood WilyKat's frustration and could relate, but I knew that such drastic heroics would be useless.

“WilyKat,” I addressed him, wanting him to understand the folly of his plan, “We can't do that. There are only five of us and about 100 of them. We could never get inside without them hurting us, and it could be dangerous to our people inside.”

Kat looked at me, shock and disbelief on his face. “'Our People?!' That is my sister and your mate that we're talking about, not a bunch of innocent strangers!”

“GRRRWOLLL! I KNOW who they are and I also know that anything that we might do could put them in more jeopardy then they are already in!”

WilyKat pulled back as if he had been hit and I felt bad that I made him feel that way. I walked over to him and spoke to him quietly.

“Look, I'm just as scared as you are, but rushing in without all the information is not going to help. Now, do you think Kit would want you to risk your life for hers?”

He shook his head as I saw him fight back tears.

“No, she wouldn't,” I continued, “And I know for a fact that Linda would have my striped hide if I tried to pull a stunt like that. So what we have to do is regroup and come up with a plan.” I put my arm around him, hoping to give him comfort. “We'll find them and we WILL get them back, I promise.”

Kat nodded and we all headed back to the Lair, hoping to hear from the other Thundercats. When we got there, Nilam told us that the Thundercats were on their way and that they should be here that night. I decided to go home and check on my children. I found both Jonalia and Jehoran fast asleep and decided that a nap would be a good idea, but I found sleep impossible. Laying on our bed, I kept seeing Linda's face and I smelled her favorite perfume on her pillow. Her laughter and teasing voice rang in my ear and finally I could bear it no longer.

I began to pace around the room, trying to keep the panic from rising inside of me. I was so worried about my mate that I wasn't paying attention and I bumped into Linda's night stand and knocked a large book off. It landed on it spine, opening the book up. I picked up the book as was about to put it away when one of the passages caught my eye.

“When thou goest out to battle against thine enemies, and seest horses, and chariots, and a people more than thou, be not afraid of them: for the Lord thy God is with thee, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.” (a)

I couldn't hold it in any longer; I dropped the book and fell to my knees, crying. I found myself doing something that I had only done a handful of times in my life since meeting my wife; I prayed.

“I don't know you like she does, but I know that she believes in you and I am willing to believe as well. Help me to find her, help me to bring her home safely, and if it

is your decision to... to... to take her, please help me to survive!" I continued to cry and I must have fallen asleep, because when Bertie woke me up, I was lying on the floor and it was dark outside. Strangely, I felt better, I was still scared for my mate, but I felt that a weight had been lifted of my shoulders.

At the Lair, all of the Thundercats, as well as Mumm-Rana were gathered to discuss what we had to do to rescue Linda and Kit. Tamen was there as well. In the few short months that they had known each other, he and Kit had fallen in love and he wanted to help find her. While I had been sleeping, Tygra and Cheetara had checked out Castle Plundarr and Mumm-Ra's Pyramid. At the pyramid, activity had increased and it seemed that almost all of the Mutants were guarding it. Because of the increased security, it was agreed that this was the most likely place where the women could be held.

A frontal assault was quickly dismissed. We could never get inside before the Mutants or Mumm-Ra did something to Linda or Wily Kit, so a sneak attack was decided to be our best bet and Lion-o thought that the entrance under the pyramid would be the best way in. He had used that same entrance during his Anointment trials and we knew of the dangers involved, but it was all that we could think of. Mumm-Rana agreed to go with us and to keep our presence undetected, it was decided that only four of us would accompany Lion-o and Mumm-Rana. Beside myself, Tygra, Panthro, and Tamen were chosen. Lion-o didn't think that it would be a good idea for me or Tamen to go, but Mumm-Rana had demanded it

And so it was that our small group was dropped off about a mile from the pyramid and followed Lion-o to the hidden entrance. When we got there, we dispatched and hid the few guards that we found and entered the long forgotten treasure room. Before entering, I looked off into the distance, seeing the Pyramid no more then a mile or two away and prayed for the women's safety again. Once inside, we were greeted by Maftet, the ancient egyptian Lynx god. He bowed to Mumm-Rana.

"My Lady, it is a great honor that you bestow on me by your presence here." He then glanced at Lion-o. "Ah, and the young cub from so long ago, but no longer a cub, I see." Lion-o ran a hand through his hair, which was now supporting some grey, and smiled.

Mumm-Rana addressed the old lynx. "Great Maftet, you are aware of what has transpired in the old pyramid?"

Maftet bowed his head sadly. "Yes, the devil priest has returned, stronger then ever."

“We have come to stop him from harming two of our friends, a young Thundercat noble and a human woman.”

“A human?” said the lynx with confusion in his voice. “What use could Mumm-Ra have for a human, and a woman at that?”

“We're not sure.” said Lion-o, “But we fear for their well-being.”

Maftet shook his head. “Your fears are not ungrounded, my Lord. No one, not man or woman, Human or otherwise, is safe in the hands of that foul creature. How may I be of help?”

We explained that we needed a way into the pyramid with out being detected. Maftet was able to describe to us a little known passage that would get us into the Pyramid dungeons. After that, we would be on our own. He lead us part way through the passage, but had to turn back when he felt that we were close. He was still very weak and could not help us in our battle. He wished us good luck and returned to the treasure room. Silently, we entered the dungeons and made our way towards the Throne Room. Along the way, we sidestepped or disabled any guards that we came upon. At one point, we were stopped by a voice from one of the dungeons.

“Lion-o? You're here?! Thank Jaga!” It was WilyKat and we freed her using the Sword of Omens to unlock the door. Tamen nearly ripped the door off its hinges.

“Kitan, you are safe!” he said as he folded Kit into his arms. She relaxed for a minute in his arms, then stiffened and pulled back.

“We have to get to Linda! Mumm-Ra plans on sacrificing her!”

“What?!” I yelled, which brought on a chorus of “shhh”.

“Mumm-Ra seems to think that if he sacrifices Linda, then he can gain some kind of power. That's all I know.”

“Then we have no time to lose.” said Mumm-Rana, “We need to stop Mumm-Ra before he can complete his mission.”

We continued on our journey and had found a way into the Throne Room without being detected. As we entered the room, I felt that something was wrong, but didn't have much time to reflect on this as I spied my wife bound on top of some kind of alter in front of Mumm-Ra's sarcophagus. Before I could take a step, we were jumped by Mutants. Soon they had us bound and forced us to our knees. Strangely, Mumm-Rana allowed herself to be captured and I wondered about this.

Suddenly, an unmistakable cackle reverberated off the walls and before us was a man who looked almost exactly like Tamen, only with glowing red eyes. I had last seen

those eyes 13 years ago when the original form of Mumm-Ra had tried to kill my mate when she had foiled his plan to invade and change Third Earth's past. Perhaps this was some kind of revenge.

"Welcome Thundercats and other guest." Said Mumm-Ra, "I'm glad you could make it to this evenings event. Oh, and my deepest condolences to you Bengali. I'm sure that you and your children will have nothing but the fondest of memories of your wife."

"What do you want with the woman, demon?!" asked Mumm-Rana.

Mumm-ra smiled, the once handsome face now taking on an evil sneer. "Why, didn't you know? This is no mere woman. She is the last true believer of the ancient god of Good and once I have offered her spirit to the god of Evil, I will be rewarded by a power stronger and far greater then anyone has ever seen! YEHA YEHA YEHAHAHAHAHAHA!"

Why weren't you given this power before? The woman has only been here for 14 years. There have been no believers before her for thousands of years." asked Mumm-Rana, but she was looking at me. I knew that she wanted me to understand something, but I wasn't sure what. So I sat silently as Mumm-Ra explained this.

The human/demon hovered closer as he spoke to us. "I could not receive this power because even though the last believer died out mellinia ago, the belief never truly died because she lived. Although she was not in our time frame, she was alive these many thousands of years, but never within reach of evil until she landed in this time. Once I destroy the last believer, then the god of Good will be powerless!"

I thought about this and something that the old man had said finally fell into place. *Your wife holds the answer. Believe or all you love will be lost.* Of course! As long as someone believed in this God, evil could not dominate! I finally understood what was being asked of me and I welcomed it with open arms.

"I believe in you." I prayed to the God of Good, "And no matter what happens here today, I will always believe!"

Strangely, Mumm-Ra began to act weirdly. He screamed in pain, grabbing his head in agony.

"Mumm-Ra!" I yelled, addressing the tormented figure. "My wife is not the only believer left. I believe, and my daughter has been taught the words of goodness. One day she will believe, and my son will be taught and he will believe! You can never get rid of goodness. It is Eternal!"

Mumm-Ra screamed so loud in pain that the Mutants looked at each other with doubt. Mumm-Rana took this opportunity to break her bonds and used her magic to slam

the Mutants against the walls. She freed the rest of us with a single thought and ordered us to retrieve Linda.

“Protect them,” she ordered, indicating me and my mate. “As long as they live, Mumm-Ra cannot gain the power promised him!”

“NOOOO!!! You cannot stop me, not this time!” screamed the demon and sent an energy beam at us. Mumm-Rana blocked this and ordered us to hurry. We fought our way to the alter and freed Linda, who had been conscious all this time.

“Bengali!” she cried as I held her.”I'm so sorry, I should have listened to you!”

“Don't worry about that now Beautiful, we have to help Mumm-Rana!”

She looked at me. “How?”

“Do you remember that pray that you like to say when you are scared?” I asked her.

She nodded. “You mean the Lord's Prayer?”

“Yes! I want you to say it with me. I don't know why, but I think it may help us.”

She looked confused, but said nothing as we lowered ourselves to the floor while the others encircled us. As we bowed our heads, eyes closed, and held hands, we recited the prayer.

“Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed by thy Name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven.”

I heard Mumm-Ra howl in pain and Mumm-Rana yelled at us to continue what we were doing.

“Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from Evil.”

“Keep going!” I heard Mumm-Rana yell. “He's weakening!”

“For Thine is the Power and Glory forever. Amen!”

Mumm-Ra screamed and Linda and I recited the poem again. As we recited the prayer several times, I could feel a light well up inside of me and I knew that it was the power of goodness that surrounded us. The more we believed, the less powerful Mumm-Ra became. Finally Mumm-Ra could not fight anymore. He was flung past us, into his sarcophagus and the walls began to shake. Mumm-Rana shouted to us to run and we did just that.

All around us, the walls were crumbling and we realized that the Pyramid was falling down. Thankfully we reached the outside with hardly any injuries and after we had reached a safe distance, we looked on as the Black Pyramid crumbled and imploded.

“Is that it?” asked WilyKit. “Are we free of him?”

“No.” said Mumm-Rana. “Evil will always exist But as long as good exist as well, “she said glancing at my wife and I, “Then Evil can never conquer this world or its people.”

She raised her hands and a whirlwind enveloped us. When the wind subsided, we found that we were in the courtyard of the Lair. Mumm-Rana walked over to us and spoke to us.

“You know what you must do now. Teach your children and your grandchildren to believe. Lead those who wish to believe on the correct path. Revive the old religion, so that the power shown today does not die with you. As long as one person believes, then evil will remain weak.”

I nodded and felt my wife nod too.

Mumm-Rana smiled at us, knowing that we would do well. “I must go now. The battle has weakened me and I must return to my Pyramid to recuperate. Call on me if ever you need me again. And beware of Mumm-Ra. He will still be weak, but he will never stop to try to rid you of this world.”

We promised and Mumm-Rana disappeared before us. I held Linda in my arms and whispered “Thank you God for hearing me.”

Linda looked at me and smiled. I smiled back at her and kissed her passionately with all my pent up fear, relief and love.

“Are you sure you want to do this?” Linda asked me.

“I have never been more serious.” I answered her. She nodded and led me into the water. When we were waist deep, we stopped and she laid a hand on my back, bracing herself for the next step.

“Bear with me dear,' she said to me, “It's been years since I went through this.”

“You'll do fine, I believe in you.” I assured her.

She nodded and sighed, then began the ritual.

“Bengali, son of Jehoran and Syndal, do you renounce Satan and all of his evil and do you promise to Obey God and His teachings?”

“I do”

“Do you accept Jesus as the Savior, knowing that He died for your sins?”

“I do”

“Then I baptize you in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.” She pushed me under the water and immersed me in the river. Then she helped me up.

“You are now reborn a child of God.” On the river banks, we heard cheers from our friends and family. I smiled at them and hugged Linda. Over head, I heard the cry of a bird and looked up. I saw two doves flying overhead and some how, it just felt right.

(a)Deuteronomy 20:1, Holy Bible, King James Version