The Return Home

By Leanna

Chapter 3

Panthro paced the med bay as the puma check over the lioness, “Panthro,” Pumyra said; “you have got to sit down… your going to wear a hole in my floor”.

“Sorry,” He said looking up, “how is she”.

“She’ll be ok with a few days rest, I’ve given her something to counteract the radiation poisoning,” Pumyra said patting the panther’s broad shoulder, “so you can stop worrying”.

“I’m suppose to worry,” Panthro nodded and walked over to Leanna’s bedside, he sat down and gently brushed the bangs away from her eyes, “you feeling better,” he asked.

“Yeah a bit,” she nodded, “at least my stomach has settled down”.

“Ok well that makes me feel better,” The panther smiled.

“Panthro I am so sorry for this whole mess,” Leanna sighed, “and I am very sorry for the way he spoke to you, he shouldn’t be like that”.

“It’s ok Lea,” Panthro nodded.

“No… it’s not ok,” Leanna said sitting up, “he’s nothing but a prejudiced old fool, “she growled, “he thinks we should stay with our own clans…what does he know,” she snorted.

“Well I’m glad you don’t share his views,” Panthro smirked.

“No I don’t,” Leanna stated, “I personally think the whole thing is ridiculous. Why should it matter who you chose as a mate as along as your happy it shouldn’t matter”.

“Well your father is from an older generation,” Panthro said.

“That’s no excuse,” the lioness snorted, “my mother would flip if she seen how he acted”.

“So your mother doesn’t share his views,” Panthro asked.

“Gods no…. she would just adore you,” the lioness smiled.

“You think so huh,” Panthro smirked.

“Oh I know so,” Leanna winked, “as a matter of fact…I’m going to give her a call right now,” she nodded getting up off the bed.

“Why do I have the feeling this will not be good,” The panther cringed, he knew Leanna’s temper, he wasn’t sure how her mother would react.

The pair headed up to the control room, Lion-O was just finishing the routine scans when the doors opened, “Aren’t you suppose to be resting Leanna,” he asked.
“I will later can you patch me into New Thundera…I have a lioness to call,’ she smirked looking back at the panther.
A few minutes later a woman face appeared on the screen, her facial features where the same as her daughters, her mane was long and as dark as Leanna’s, a few strands of grey hair at her temples seemed to make her green eyes even darker “Lea honey I’m so happy to hear from you,” Sahara smiled.
“By Jaga,” Panthro whispered to Lion-o, “I guess we know where she gets her looks”.
“Indeed seems Leanna is the younger version of her mother,” Lion-O nodded.
“I know it’s been awhile and I’m sorry for that,” Leanna said.
“I know,” the elder lioness nodded, “and I understand why…so I take it that your father has arrived”.
“Yes,” Leanna sighed, “and he’s been just horrible”.
“Oh dear I was hoping he would handle things tastefully,” Sahara said.
“He’s demanding I come home to marry Linus… mother you have to help me…I have a new life here,” Leanna said, “I have made a lot of friends, I’m happy where I am”.
“So I see……a Thundercat now hmm,” the elder Lioness smirked, “ Ok who is he cause that’s not the only reason your staying put”.
Leanna blushed slightly, “mother,” The lioness said rolling her eyes.
“Oh don’t play innocent with me young lady…I was your age once,” Sahara chuckled.
Leanna turned in her seat and motion for the panther to come join her, “mother I would like for you to meet Panthro…my mate,” Leanna smiled.
“Well he’s a big one,” Sahara smirked, “I am very please to meet you Thundercat noble,” she said nodding her head slightly.
“I am please to meet you too,” Panthro smiled.
“Answer this,” Sahara said leaning closer to the screen, “promise me you will never hurt her”.
“Yes. I swear I would never hurt her,” the panther nodded, “believe me ma’am I’ve pulled some crazy stunts just to save her, “he smirked.
“Good…. Lea I like him already,” she winked, “I’ll take the next transport to third earth and help straighten this mess out”.

“Thank-you,” Leanna said relieved.
“I should be there by noon tomorrow,” Sahara nodded.
“We’ll see you then,” Leanna smiled then cut the connection.
“Well that didn’t go to bad,” Panthro said, “she seems nice enough”.
“Oh you wait until she gets here,” Leanna smirked, “she won’t be so nice when she speaks to my father”.
“Got a temper does she,” Lion-O chuckled.
“Oh yes, don’t let her size and demeanor fool you,” Leanna winked, “she’s quite the spitfire”.
“At least she’s on your side,” Panthro nodded.
“Well considering my father went ahead and made this contract without consulting her first, yes she’s on my side, she was very upset when she found out she’s been fighting him for years over this,” Leanna nodded.
“Why did he do it in the first place,” Panthro asked.
“To get out of debt,” Leanna sighed.
“So your saying he basically sold you to pay his debts,” Panthro growled
The lioness just nodded, “afraid so, now you know why my mother was so angry”.
“Angry,” the panthers face darkened.
“Panthro,” Leanna said taking his hand, “just calm down”.
“Calm down, I am calmed down,” He said through clenched teeth.
“Right sweetie and my grandma was a bear,” she snorted, “now just listen to me a moment ok… don’t go off half cocked like you usually do and blow up at him again, that’s what he wants…he’s looking for any excuse he can to hate you’.
“Well I guarantee there is no love lost between him and me,” Panthro scowled.
“Look, I’m not asking you to become his best friend, I’m asking you not to rip his head off,” Leanna smiled and stood on her tip toe and kissed his cheek.
Panthro just sighed and shook his head.
“Now, I’m going to go have a nice long hot bath and then enjoy some of Snarf’s cooking,” the lioness nodded.
“You have been gone too long if you miss Snarf ‘s cooking,” Lion-O chuckled.
“And you,” she said looking at Lion-O, “keep blue man here out of trouble while I’m gone,” She

winked patting the panther's chest.
"Yes, ma'am. I'll make sure he behaves himself," Lion-O smirked and nodded.

A few hours later after the lioness had her bath and some much needed rest she walked down the hall towards the dining area. "There you are," Cheetara said coming up behind her.
"Hey Tara, how's things now, has my father cooled down," Leanna asked.
"Well he's taking his meal in his room, so what does that tell you," The cheetah smirked.
"That tells me he's brooding," The lioness said rolling her eyes.
"Oh before I forget…you have to meet someone," Cheetara said gently taking her arm and leading her down the hall, "I didn't have the chance to introduce you to her when you guys got back," The cheetah said knocking on one of the bedchamber doors.
"So what did you do kidnap her," Myra chuckled after she opened that door and seen who it was on the other side.
"Nah, Lion-O is keeping him distracted," Cheetara winked, "Myra this is Leanna…Leanna this is Myra, Pumyra and I met her on the salve ship".
"They were kind enough to rescue me and drag me along," the tigress winked and held out her hand, "I'm, glad to finally meet you," she smiled.
"Well you don't hear Tygra complaining," Cheetara winked.
The lioness cocked a brow," Oh, "she said giving a questioning look.
"Our beloved tiger is smitten," Cheetara nodded and grinned.
Leanna looked at the tigress, "well Hun I pity you then".
"Why," Myra asked confused.
"Because these guys will not be happy until they have the two of you practically married," Leanna giggled then lean forward, "just watch it they don't break into your room while your gone," she whispered.
Myra threw back her head and laughed, "Tara here told me what her and Lion-O put you and Panthro though".
"Then sweetie you know you don't stand a chance," Leanna winked," I'm very happy to meet you," she smiled and shook the tigress hand.
"And you…. I've heard a lot about you," Myra nodded as the three headed down to the dining room.

“Don’t believe one word of it,” The lioness laughed, then she spotted Tygra, “Excuse me ladies…but payback is about to commence, “she winked and ran to catch up with the tiger.
“Hey Tygra,” Leanna smiled.
“Hi Leanna …you look as if your feeling much better,” the tiger smiled
“Yes I am, “she nodded, “soooo…I met Myra,” she whispered, “she’s very beautiful”.
Tygra’s face lit scarlet,” umm, she a very sweet woman,” he nodded.
“Yes, and the two of you would make the perfect pair too,” The lioness winked.
“Well…umm,” he started to say.
“Oooh no tiger don’t you turn all shy on me,” Leanna said, “a big handsome cat like yourself shouldn’t be embarrassed you know”.
“Well it’s just that”.
“Yeah I know, you feel as if you heart is up in your throat and you chest is about to explode,” Leanna nodded
“Exactly,” He nodded.
“Want me to keep the matchmakers off your back so you can court Myra your way,” the lioness asked
“Would you,” Tygra said sounding relieved.
“Well I can try my best,” she winked as they entered the dining room where they others sat waiting, “I need to speak to you after dinner if your not too busy”.
“Okay sure,” the tiger said and took his seat.
Leanna took her seat beside the panther, “Feeling better,” he said leaning over and kissing her cheek causing a small giggle from kit.
The lioness looked over at kit and winked, “yes much better,” she smiled at Panthro.
“You don’t have to worry about being bombarded with questions Lea,” Lion-o said, “Mandora sent us a copy of the statement you had given her”.
“Hope those two rot in jail for a very long time,” Kit scowled, “how can anyone be so cruel… treating someone as if they were animals”.
“And making us think you were dead,” Kat nodded, “I still remember seeing the feliner crash into the mountain… and the huge fireball”.
“I don’t think this is the right conversation for the dinner table guys,” Tygra said seeing the expression on Lion-O and Panthro’s face.

“Sorry,” The twins answered in unison.
“It’s ok Tygra,” Lion-O nodded, “what’s important is that everyone is home safe”.

After dinner Leanna followed the tiger to the library, “Tygra I want you to do something for me,” she asked going over to the small computer console.
“Sure,” Tygra nodded, “What can I do for you”.
“I want you to look over this contract,” she said calling it up from a protected file.
Tygra nodded and walked over and sat down and began to read.
As the tiger read the lioness paced the floor, “Well,” She asked after several minutes.
“Well,” Tygra said looking up from the screen, “it is a legal and binding contract”.
The lioness sighed and plopped down of the reading couch, “well that’s just great….I was hoping there was a loophole somewhere”
“Well there is a way out of this,” Tygra said scratching his head.
Leanna’s eyes lit, “Really,” she said gleefully.
“Well it’s a very old tradition,” Tygra said.
“What is,” Leanna said suddenly not like the sound of it.
“Well when two conflicting male want possession of a female, they can choose to fight for her…in hand-to hand combat,” Tygra said, “the male who wins gets the female”.
“That’s barbaric,” Leanna snorted, “I am not some trophy”.
“Well then…you have no choice but to follow through with the contract,” Tygra nodded.
The lioness sighed, “I guess so, unless my mother can change my father’s mind”.
“Doesn’t matter even if he does, the contract is binding…. you refuse then your parents lose everything,” Tygra nodded.
“Then what am I going to do,” she said defeated.
“Well I gave you an option…all you have to do is tell Panthro,” Tygra smirked.
“Tell me what,” Panthro said peaking his head in the door, “you two talking about me,” he smiled and walked over and kissed Leanna gently on the forehead.
“Well…. Leanna asked me to look over the contract,” Tygra nodded.
“Oh and what did you find,” Panthro asked sitting down on the couch.
“Well unless Leanna marries Linus her family will lose everything,” Tygra said,” but there is a way out”.

“Oh,” The panther said cocking a brow.
“Ty-Khan,” Tygra nodded.
A smirk crossed the panther’s face, “Bring him here and I will declare Ty-Khan,” Panthro stated.
“No you won’t, this is ridiculous…I won’t have two grown men fight like wolves over a slab of meat,” Leanna snorted.
Panthro turned and looked at her, “do you want to marry him,” he asked narrowing his eyes.
“No of course I don’t…. I just don’t want to see anyone get hurt because of me,” she sighed.
“I’ll leave the two of you alone to talk this over,” Tygra nodded and left the library.
“How’s your arm,” Leanna asked tenderly running her fingers over the bandage.
“Fine…now stop changing the subject,” Panthro scowled and took her hand and pulled her on his lap, “Lea…. I want to do this,” he said gently caressing her cheek.
The lioness frowned and laid her head on his broad chest, “do you ever have the feeling the fates are against us,” she sighed lazily running her hand up and down his arm.
“Against us ….no…testing us… definitely,” He said winding his finger through her long black mane. “No one said life would be easy. I mean look at who we are…everyday we put or lives on the line…we are warriors and defenders of the innocent”.
“I know, “she sighed, “and I wouldn’t change that for anything…I just wish the fates would give us a break”.
“You know what,” Panthro said, “let’s get out of here”.
“Where we going,” Leanna asked.
“You just let me worry about that,” He winked sitting up.
Leanna stood and the panther grabbed her hand and the two headed for the hanger.
“Panthro it’s kind of late to go out on patrol,” Leanna said as he led her towards the thundertank.
“Were not going on patrol…we are going to the unicorn forest on a overnight camping trip,” he winked and walked over to a locker and grabbed a sleeping bag.
“Ooh,” the lioness eyes lit.
The panther looked at her and smirked as he threw the sleeping back in the back and hopped in.
Leanna jumped in as Panthro started up the engine and headed out.
“Don’t you think you should let someone know where were going in case they get worried and come searching for us,” Leanna said looking back as the lair disappeared from sight.
Panthro nodded and reached over and picked up the comms unit,” thundertank to cat’s Lair…lea

and I are going on a camping trip see ya tomorrow..Panthro out," He said and winked at the lioness and cut the connection.
"You didn't wait for a reply." She giggled.
"Don't need too, Lion-o will let us know if were needed," Panthro nodded as they entered the unicorn forest, a few minutes later he stopped by a small lagoon. "You get the sleeping bag and some stones while I gather some fire wood," he said jumping out.
The lioness nodded and grabbed the sleeping bag and went to the waters edge and gathered some stones for a fire pit. By the time the panther returned with a large armload of wood Leanna had the fire pit ready. Panthro set the wood down and set to work building a small fire.
"This is nice," Leanna smiled spreading out the sleeping bag and sitting down.
"You remember this place," Panthro asked as the fire started burning.
Leanna looked around, "by Jaga yes…this is the spot I was camping the first night I landed here, "she smiled.
"The very same and that tree over there was where your arrow landed when I came here," he chuckled, "one more step and you would have hit me," he said as he walked over and sat down beside her on the sleeping bag.
'I told you that's wasn't my fault…you snuck up on me," she smirked.
"Lea…baby…how could I sneak up on you with the Thundertank only a few yards away," he said cocking a brow.
"Well my mind was else where and I didn't hear you," she smiled.
"Oh and what had you so preoccupied," Panthro asked curiously.
"Oh just this big handsome cat I had met, "she smirked leaning against him, "I just couldn't get him off my mind"
"Oh really now," he smiled, "anyone I know".
"Oh I do believe you do, "she said turning and running her finger down the center of his chest, "see this particular big cat captured my heart the moment I laid eyes on him," She smiled.
"Did he," Panthro said wrapping a strand of her thick dark mane around his finger.
"That he did," she nodded and laid her head on his broad chest and closed her eyes for a moment listening to his heartbeat.
"Yeah well I know how that is," He smirked stroking her hair; "my mind also got preoccupied by a beautiful she-cat".

“Oh really now,” She smirked.
“Yes…that’s how I got those metal slivers in my hand…I looked up and saw a very sexy pair of long legs,” He smiled, “That seemed to go on forever”.
“So it was the legs that got ya huh,” Leanna chuckled.
“Well that helped,” he chuckled, “it was the beautiful green eyes…. That’s what got me, they seemed to look straight into my very soul… Plus the fact that woman is as stubborn as I am”.
“I most certainly am not…you have to be the most stubborn man that ever lived,” the lioness snorted.
“Why thank-you,” He chuckled, “and that will never change... I am who I am”.
“A stubborn hotheaded Panther,” The lioness grinned, “who has ended up saving my life more then once”.
“And I’d gladly do it again,” He smiled and leaned down and placed a kiss on her soft lips. Leanna purred softly and placed her hand on the back of his head pulling herself closer.
The panther pulled back and looked at her, “I love you Lea,” He smiled caressing her cheek with his thumb.
The lioness smiled, “I love you to Pan,” she said running her fingers down the back of his neck. Panthro smirked and kisses her neck causing her breath to catch in her throat as the tip of his tongue ran over the sensitive skin of her neck up to her ear lobe. The lioness hands traveled up the panther’s well-muscled arms and over his shoulder and tugged at his shoulder straps.
The panther captured her face in his hands, “Easy love…. we have all night,” He said quietly then reached over and threw another stick of wood on the fire. He removed his shoulder spikes and belt and opened the sleeping bag and crawled inside, holding out his arms for the lioness to join him.