Finally Found You

By Rangerkitty

Chapter 11

Melonia did not see Tygra all the next day. That afternoon, she took a warm bath, and pondered the events from last night as she dressed in a white cotton shirt and a pair of khaki pants. Had she kissed Tygra? Had she pulled him onto the bed in her disoriented state? She touched her lips and closed her eyes. She remembered the sweetness of the kiss and his gentle touch. He'd felt so strong in her arms, and his embrace felt so right. Why had he left her? She re-opened her eyes and blushed to herself. "I'm such an idiot…" she said. "I must have really embarrassed him. He has been so kind to me, and now I can't look at him."

With some difficulty, as she was still in pain, Melonia left her room and wandered the halls of the lair, eventually hearing voices and heading towards them. She peeked inside and saw Lion-O, Panthro and Cheetara talking in the control room.

She made a move to enter, but changed her mind. If she told them that she was leaving, they would try and dissuade her. "I should just go." She thought. She found her way to the entrance of the Cat's lair, and realized to her dismay that a water-filled moat surrounded the building.

The drawbridge had been retracted. It would be very obvious if she extended it, and the Thundercats in the control room would notice for sure. She thought about it for a few moments, and decided she didn't care if anyone noticed. She's never get across unless the bridge was extended. She found a panel on the wall by the front door and pressed the button. A white bridge extended out to the adjoining side, and she began crossing the ravine.

As predicted, the Control room's monitor flashed an image her on the screen. "Hey, where is she going?" Panthro questioned aloud. Liono and Cheetara looked up at the screen.

"I don't know. Is she really well enough to be traveling alone through the forest?" Cheetara wondered aloud.
Liono was frowning. "I don't think so. According to Tygra, she was beaten pretty badly by the mutants."

"Well, we should go after her before gets too far away." Panthro replied.

"Let's go!" Liono said, running to the door. Cheetara followed him and ran past Liono, speeding for the front door. She caught up to Melonia easily, just at the forest's edge. "Melonia! Where are you going?" she called.

Melonia turned. "Oh, hi Cheetara. I am heading home. Didn't want to wear out my welcome."
Cheetara looked her. "What do you mean by that? You have only been here a couple of days and are still recovering from your injuries. Did something happen that made you want to leave?"

“No.” Melonia stated quickly. “No, not exactly.” She nervously wrung her hands together and winced in pain, looking at the wrist brace and remembering her sprain. Her palms felt sweaty and her heart was beating quickly. “I kind of, well, I did something I shouldn’t have.”

“Like what? It couldn’t have been that bad.” Cheetara coaxed.

Melonia looked at the ground. “Last night. When Tygra was taking care of me, I… kissed him.”

Cheetara blinked. “Really?” she said surprised, happy for Tygra. She knew that he was interested in Melonia. “Was that a bad thing?”

“I don’t even know what came over me. It just kind of happened. He was being so kind, and I was spacey from the medicine. I must have embarrassed him terribly.” Melonia lamented. “I don’t even know if I can look at him.” She shook her head.

Cheetara put a reassuring hand on Melonia’s right shoulder. “I don’t think the fact that the two of you shared a kiss is any reason to run away.” She looked at her. “Are you attracted to Tygra?”

Melonia looked at her new friend, unsure how to respond. “I am, yes…”
“Then come back with me to the Cat’s Lair.” Cheetara said. “Don’t run away from what could be a really good thing. Tygra is a good friend and a great man. He’d feel terrible if you ran away because of him.”

“Do you think that there is a chance for him and me?” Melonia inquired

“I think you’ll know when you see him again.” Cheetara reassured her.

The two women walked back to the cat’s lair and saw Liono and Tygra running towards them. “By Thundera! Thank goodness you found her, Cheetara!” Liono exclaimed. Tygra looked at Melonia. “Are you all right?”

Melonia did not reply. She found herself suddenly out of breath as she looked at him. He was so handsome, and looked so concerned, with a worried look across his brow. She nodded as Cheetara intervened. “She’s all right; she was just feeling a little anxious.”

“To get back home!” Melonia interrupted. “I’m so sorry; I didn’t mean to worry anyone.” She said quickly, unable to take her eyes off of Tygra. Lion-O looked back and forth between Tygra and Melonia. He could clearly see the attraction that seemed to have entranced them both. “Cheetara,” he said suddenly, let’s get back to the workshop and see if we can finish working on those new communicators.” Cheetara took the hint and started walking back with Lion-O. “Don’t stay out too long. Panthro says there is a rainstorm coming.” she called and waved to them. Melonia did not move, but Tygra walked closer to her, still giving her space.

"You were anxious to leave? Did I do something… to upset you?” He asked hesitantly.

“No. Not at all...” she stammered. “You have been wonderful.” She looked down. “I just got nervous, I guess. A lot has happened, and I wasn’t thinking straight.” She said, looking up at him. “I don’t want to leave… yet.”

Tygra looked fondly at the golden-haired young woman. “In that case, shall we get you back inside? You haven’t been on your feet this much since before we rescued you from Castle Plundar.”

“It’s nice being outdoors, actually.” She looked away from him, towards the setting sun. The light shone warmly on them as the shadows grew longer. “I… I want to apologize for last night.” She said quietly.

He touched her arm, and turned her so she was facing him. “What do you mean?”

She blinked and felt tears forming in her green eyes. She didn’t know what to say. Had I imagined it all? Had it all been a dream?

Tygra could tell that she was struggling to tell him something. He touched her chin with one hand so that she lifted her gaze to him. “You were being so kind, and I shouldn’t have done that, it was wrong and I am sorry for embarrassing you.”

Tygra was not sure what to say. “Wrong? For kissing me you mean?”

She nodded. “I am sorry.”

“I’m not.” He smiled.

She looked at him surprised. “You’re not?”

He shook his head. “Not at all. I have been wanting to do that for ages now. I’m glad it happened.” He smiled.

“But, you left so suddenly, I thought I’d done something wrong.”

He gently hugged her a moment and explained. “No, I left because I realized that the medicine I’d given you for pain may be been affecting your behavior, and I didn’t want to take advantage of you in your condition. I have a great deal of respect for women, and for you, Melonia. I wouldn’t ever want to do anything to hurt you.”

Melonia was stunned at his integrity. “Wow, um, thank you.”

“So, shall we head back in? Snarf will have dinner ready pretty soon.” Tygra asked.

“Yes, but I must ask you to do something for me first.” She smiled.

“Anything…” he smiled back.

“Kiss me again.”

He grinned and took her in his arms, feeling the wonderful passion surge through his body and he leaned in to kiss her. He wrapped his arms around her gently and lifted her body up, holding her close. Melonia pulled him tightly against her as she returned Tygra’s kiss hungrily. The sunset was at its most brilliant at that moment, and Melonia imagined it to be something out of a dream. His tongue expertly danced with hers, and deep inside, she felt a warmth that she had never experienced before. She gently and reluctantly let the kiss end and hugged him close to her.

“I want you so much…” she whispered.

“Do you?” he said in a pleased, deep voice.

“Well then, my dear, you shall have me.” He lifted her off her feet and twirled her around once, kissing her softly as the last of the sunset disappeared over the horizon.