Finally Found You

By Rangerkitty

Chapter 15

A silent figure watched from behind a building as Tygra and Panthro headed toward the caves to explore the site of the cave-in inside Cave #7. Tygra had said he wanted to fist check in on Melonia, but had given in to Panthro's explanation that he had only left her side for about a half an hour, and that he needed to see the cave collapse site for himself so they could determine who or what had caused it.

Moldun dashed back to his hut, went inside and shut the door. He rocked back and forth while sitting on a stool, thinking furiously. He was amazed at how everything that had been so carefully planned had all gone so wrong. For years, Melonia had never realized his feelings for her, and he had never pushed the matter, fearful that she would reject him entirely. He had staged the attack with the cooperation of the mutants so he could intervene and look like a hero. He had promised that they could get away with two women, but to capture her and leave her to be rescued. Once saved, he hoped he could get her to come live with him, for her protection and to start a relationship. They had double-crossed him, and as they tried to make off with her as a captive, those Thundercats had arrived and thwarted that attempt. He had not expected these warrior cats to arrive, nor did he ever imagine she would fall for one of them.

Weeks later, he had come up with the idea for an accidental cave-in to get rid of the tiger that had caught Melonia's attention. He had been progressively altering the shape and design of the architecture, knowing where would leave a very dangerous spot that he could do the deed, and was fully confident that once the destruction was complete, no one but an architectural engineer would have known it was anything but an accident. He would have risked his life to try and help the fallen Thundercat, but would emerge wounded, exhausted and would be Melonia's shoulder to cry upon. The section had been more fragile than he thought. Detonators and mine charges had been put in place as the intended mechanism, but the children jumping on the sawed-through frames had been enough to cause his whole plan, and the ceiling to come crashing down.

He had seen the two Thundercats heading for the caves, carrying equipment with them. Certainly the mechanic and the architect-engineer would discover how he had carried out the sabotage, and once they put all the evidence together, he knew they would follow all the clues to him as he had been the foreman of that cave. He would be expelled and banished by the village and Melonia would never speak to him again.

He stood angrily. That is unacceptable! His fists clenched and his knuckles turned white and his anger seethed. He thought radically and desperately. He had to get to Melonia before they did, but he needs a believable way to convince her to leave with him until they returned. He could tell her that Tygra had left without saying why… No, that wouldn't work. He thought. I need something more solid than that.

His mind raced, thinking of his options. He could cause another cave-in using the unused explosives and trap them both in there this time. No, too suspicious, and the other Thundercats had arrived with the tank to rescue them. What he needed was not to act on them, but maybe on her. He thought of the strange warlock that lived deep in the woods. The villagers had always taken care to avoid his land and give him the respect of privacy, but everyone knew the rumors about him. He was a warlock known as Hypnotist, and it was said he could brainwash people and make them regain and lose memories. He could make people do things they would not remember doing. Perhaps this was his answer. He was desperate at this point. If he could lure her away in that direction before the tiger and panther returned, he would have more time to think. He suddenly had a flash of brilliance, grabbed his cloak and left his home, hurrying towards her hut.