Finally Found You

By Rangerkitty

Chapter 4

Later that night at the Cat's Lair, Tygra sat in the lab at his drawing table, reviewing the plans to start building the foundation for the new homes and the village compound that they would be building. He figured they'd start by blasting out a sub-basement and clear several paths in the mountainside once he was able to take some samples of the rock to figure out what it's consistency was.

Cheetara wandered into his lab with a kettle of hot tea and a cup. Tygra turned partly in his chair to smile at her as she approached him. "Hi." He said.

"Hey there. We figured you might be in here for a while, so Snarf sent me with some tea." She smiled.

"Thanks, Cheetara." He said, accepting the tea and sitting it on the table beside his drawing board.

"How are the plans coming?" she asked, looking over his shoulder.

"Coming along nicely." He nodded to himself. "Luckily, Melonia's tribe is one of builders, so my role is mostly direction and supervision."

"Melonia's tribe?" Cheetara asked, bemused.

"Well," I guess I didn't get the tribe's name, so I wasn't sure what to call them." he stammered slightly. He looked at Cheetara out of the corner of his eye and saw that she was smiling at him.

He decided to change where this conversation was about to lead and asked "Will you be coming with us tomorrow then?"

"No, not tomorrow." Lion-O wants me and the Kittens to help him in the tree-top kingdom with the warrior-maidens. They have discovered some strange meteorite that landed nearby and we are going to examine it." She answered.

“A meteorite? Doesn’t he want me there too? I *am* the scientist.” He said, puzzled.

“We know, but he knows how intent you and Panthro are to help… *Melonia’s tribe*” she said carefully as Tygra blushed. “We can call you with the eye of Thundera if there is any problem. We’ll be sure to bring back samples for you to analyze.” She smiled.

“Thanks again for the tea.” He said, turning back to his drawings. She turned to leave and he closed his eyes and exhaled. *Nice slip there Tygra, just make it obvious to everyone how much I am thinking about this girl….*

The next morning, Panthro and Tygra arrived in the Thundertank and parked nearby where the construction efforts would begin. As they exited the Thundertank, they saw that a great deal of the cleanup effort had already taken place, and that piles of building materials had been collected and placed by the command post.

Panthro smiled as Kianna and Kino approached him to say good morning. Not seeing Melonia yet, Tygra made his way to her hut and gently knocked on the door. Hearing no response, he tried the door, and finding it unlocked, he entered cautiously. The inside of the hut was neat and comfortable, with a fireplace in once corner and large comfortable sofas on both sides of it. The kitchen table was bare, so Tygra found a large bowl and emptied the sack of Burbil fruit he’d brought into it.

He then seated himself on one of the plush couches and waited. Not a few minutes later, Melonia came into the living room, singing softly and brushing her hair, not noticing the handsome tiger watching her. She twirled around as she sang and gasped, seeing him, and fell backwards into a pile of pillows that were on the floor.

He sprang up and was at her side in an instant. He knelt by her and lifted her head in his hand, so that she was looking up at him. “I’m so sorry, I didn’t mean to startle you.” He apologized, looking into the sea-green eyes once again. “Are you alright?”

“I am now…” she breathed. Tygra inhaled sharply as a strange sense of déjà vous spread over him. *This was the scene from his dream… and next came… the kiss.*

He quickly stood and helped her to her feet. “I am very sorry; I was just waiting for you to be ready. I should have waited outside.” He said guiltily.

“No, that’s ok, Tygra” she smiled, straightening her clothes and hair. “You came all the way here, I should have been ready.” Her eyes drifted to the kitchen table where the bowl of fresh fruit had been placed. “You are too kind.” She smiled.

All he could do was smile.

She picked up two pieces and handed one to him as she lead him to the door. He followed her out to join Panthro. Panthro already had a crowd formed and was dividing the people up work teams. There were a great many people who had volunteered for the task, and Panthro had them divided up based on their particular skill, or level of strength.

Melonia stepped forward and Panthro added her into a team to work in one of the caves they would be blasting out early. When Panthro looked at Tygra, Tygra remembered the fruit in his hand and took a quick bite, pretending to be engrossed in the lists of people.

Everyone went in their assigned directions, and Panthro manned the Thundertank to, as he called it “start blowing stuff up.”

Tygra stayed at the command post to monitor everyone’s progress. He did not see Melonia for the rest of the day.

By the time sundown approached, both Tygra and Panthro had to admit that they were impressed. The amount of work that would have taken at least 3 days time was close to being done already. If they continued at this rate, they could be done with the project in just a few weeks.

As the villagers came from their worksites and joined in, Panthro performed a head count to make sure no one was missing. Satisfied, he looked to Tygra who congratulated the people on their progress. As he finished, he caught sight of Melonia and saw her smiling at him with her captivating green eyes again. Everyone applauded and started to disperse to their homes.

Tygra climbed down off the platform and approached her. “Melonia, may I ask you something?” he asked.

“Of course.” She smiled, her heart fluttering.

“What are your people called? I mean, does your village, er, tribe have a name?”

She blinked, surprised. “Um, yes, we’re called Maldesians. Why?”

“I just wondered.” He grinned. “Did you have fun today?”

She nodded. “It is hard work, but it feels so good to be a part of this.”

“I understand.” He smiled back at her. “When I designed and built the Thundercat’s Lair, we had help, but I still felt so good to have had such a big part in its creation.”

Her eyes widened. “You designed the home of the Thundercats? Here on Third Earth? That must be an amazing place to see, not to mention, to live.”

“I’m pretty proud of it. Perhaps someday you will visit, and I can show you around.” He offered, and then blushed. It was like he’d just asked her out on a date.

“I’d really like that Tygra.” She said, softly.

“Well, until tomorrow then…” he said, starting to back away.

“Tygra?” she asked quickly, and in a moment he was right back next to her.

“Yes, Melonia?” he breathed

“If you arrive tomorrow and I am not waiting for you, please feel free to wait inside. Just wait on the other couch so I can see you easier.” She smiled.

He nodded, and without a word, touched her chin with his hand, then ran and leaped into the Thundertank which was already pulling away.

Melonia twirled in place and made her way back to her home, skipping a few steps as she did. From around the corner, Moldun watched with an irritated look on his face. *I should never have waited this long to try and make my move! She is falling for that tiger Thundercat! I have to do something before it is too late!*