

Souls Unite

By Leanna

Chapter 7

The two goddess's watch the two sleeping lovers snuggled safe and warm inside the sleeping bag beside the now burnt out fire. "You've seen inside her mind Basset," Isis smiled, "he's a good and noble man and his cat side only strengthens that, he and his companions are a noble people...you should be proud that they are a part of your beloved felines" .

"If the cats could walk on two legs and speak.....they would be them," Basset smiled then raised her hands and stared at the approaching sun that was about to peek over the horizon, "when the sun rises...let them return to their former selves so they can become once again the proud and noble warriors they were meant to be".

"What about Mumm-ra," Isis asked.

"I shall deal with him later," The cat goddess growled and lowered her hands.

As the sun rose over the horizon the cats that were in the lower cells vanished, like a ghost they reappeared besides the sleeping forms they had come from, they hovered for a moment before rejoining there human bodies, the change back went effortlessly that the men never awoke.

Lion-O was the first to wake up, he stretched and yawned, a low lazy roar escaped his lips, his eyes flew open, "what the," he exclaimed and quickly sat up, he looked down at his hand, once again he saw sharp claws, he grinned and bound out of bed and ran into the bathroom where he looked at himself in the mirror, "By Jaga," he shouted for joy. He bolted back to the bed and pounced on the mattress.

"Tara....wake up," he smiled shaking the woman's shoulders.

"Huh," the cheetah said groggily then opened her eyes, "Lion-O," she smiled.

"I'm back," he beamed, "I'm myself again," he said grabbing the woman tight in his arms and hugged her, "I have to go check on the others," he said bounding off the bed and heading for the door.

"Umm, Lion-O," Cheetara said, "Aren't you forgetting something".

Lion-O gave her a confused look then realized what she meant, "Oh," he blushed and grabbed his robe to cover himself, "thanks...wouldn't want to give a free peep show".

"I don't mind but the others probably would," The cheetah smiled and winked.

“Tara,” Lion-O chuckled and left their bedchamber and ran to find the others.

The lioness was sound asleep when she felt Panthro nestle himself closer against her back, his arm wrapped protectively around her waist, she felt his breath on the back of her neck as he buried his face in her long ebony mane, as he did every morning just before he woke up.

The lioness smiled and ran her fingers lazily over his arm, a loud deep purr behind her made her eyes snap open; she looked down and saw a slate grey arm. “Pan,” she gasped and quickly turned over.

“I’m not ready to wake up yet,” the panther said groggily and pulled her once again close to his body.

“Oh love I think you’ll wake up very quickly,” she said taking his hand, “Look,” she said hold his hand up to his face.

“What,” he complained opening one eye, “yes...That’s my hand....I’ve had it since I was born,” he said closing his eye again.

The lioness smirked and started counting down the seconds before he realized what she meant. Suddenly his eyes snapped back open, “holey Thundera,” he gasped and looked at his hand, “I’m...I’m me again,” he said and sat up, “Lea...I’m me again,” he smiled and hugged the lioness tightly.

“Yes love you are,” she chuckled.

“Thank Jaga for that..I didn’t like being human,” Panthro said.

“I didn’t mind,” Leanna said, “but it did miss the ears though,” she winked.

The panther just laughed, “I think we better get home and see if the others have changed back,” Leanna said as she got dressed. When she turned around she saw the mischievous grin on the panther’s face. “Oh no,” she said grabbing her boots... “You behave,” she said getting to her feet.

“Here kitty, kitty, kitty,” He grinned.

The lioness squealed as he made a lunge for her, she dodged his grasp and bolted for home, with Panthro right behind her. Both Basset and Isis laughed at the two, “Now everything is set to rights,” Isis nodded with that the two vanished.

As the two cat’s made their way back to their home, neither one was aware they were being watched by someone else...Someone more sinister, “glad to see my pet has recover nicely,” Schwenk smirked watching the lioness run his way, “now I can kill her in my own time”.

Leanna glanced behind her as she ran to see where the panther had got too, she laughed as he got closer, he had the advantage, she didn't have her boots on and couldn't run as fast in her bare feet as he could with his boots on. Panthro smirked at her as he got closer, then something caught his eye, "Lea... Watch out," he yelled as he caught sight of a trip wire a few feet in front of her.

The lioness looked ahead but didn't see anything, the next moment was a blur as Panthro launched himself in the air and grabbed the lioness around the waist, unfortunately her foot nicked the trip wire as the panther tried to move her out of the way, as she hit the ground she heard a sickening snap then a roar of pain from the panther.

Winded but unhurt the lioness sat up, "Panthro," she gasped as she looked over at the fallen panther, when her foot hit the trip wire it had released a large log that was imbedded with eight inch sharp spikes, the log had hit the panther in the lower back and leg, snapping the femur in his thigh and tibia in his shin, the spikes tore deep gashes in the flesh of his lower back and hip.

Panthro lay gasping for air, the pain was unbearable, his claws digging into the ground, "hold still," the lioness said as she tore material from her skirt in attempt to stop the bleeding, she gingerly tried to place the material around the bone that protruded from his thigh, "I'm sorry love but I have to do this," she said as she applied pressure, the panther's claws dug deeper into the ground as he hissed in pain. There were too many wounds for her to handle alone; she reached for the panther's comm unit to call for help.

"Damn I was hoping it would have impaled that thick skull of his," Schwenk said coming out of hiding.

The lioness spun around, "you," she snarled and reached for her weapons.

"Hey there," Schwenk smirked and crossed his arms over his chest, "oh that looks like it stings," he said looking down at the panther.

Leanna readied her Kama's as Schwenk took a step closer; she stood protectively in front of the fallen panther growling fiercely.

"Oh don't get so growly," Schwenk snorted, "it's not like anyone is going to miss this big eared freak...I know I won't, how about I just put him out of his misery now," he said withdrawing his gun and pointing it at the panther.

The lioness's eyes flashed with rage, she let out a loud roar and launched herself at the human, before Schwenk had a chance to react, Leanna raised her weapon and sliced through Schwenk's wrist, he looked down in shock as his gun and hand hit the ground. The lioness crouched and turned giving him a deadly glance.

"You bitch," Schwenk cried out cradling his injured limb under his arm.

"Bet that stings," the lioness spat.

“You’ll pay for that you crazy bitch,” Schwenk hissed reaching for the gun with his one good hand.

Leanna narrowed her eyes and growled, she leapt up in the air from her crouched position, delivering a powerful kick to Schwenk’s jaw, sending the human to the ground. “Stay Down,” She warned as she went back to check on the panther.

Schwenk gasped for breath and glanced over and saw his gun lying on the ground a few feet away, he slowly reached over, his fingers just brushing the barrel, “Lea,” Panthro whispered looking at the human.

The lioness picked up her Kama’s again with her blood stained hands and roared the next thing Schwenk knew the lioness was perched on his chest bearing her short sharp fangs, with his good arm, he raised the gun and fired, but only managed to graze the lioness’s arm...Leanna’s eyes suddenly turned jet black. She snarled and raised both Kama’s bringing them down hard, the sharp tips sunk into his chest piercing his heart. The lioness threw back her head and roared as she ripped open the human’s chest; she looked down as the human’s eyes grew dull as his life force left his body. She leaned down until she was nose to nose with the dying human, “I warned you to stay down..but you wouldn’t listen...you injured my mate now you have paid for that,” She snarled. Schwenk took one last ragged breath and lay dead.

Cheetara was one of the first ones to arrive, “Lea...Panthro,” she gasped and ran over to the couple.

Leanna snarled then realized who was beside her, “He’s hurt bad,” the lioness said trying to stop the bleeding from the panthers wounds.

“The other’s are on their way,” Cheetara nodded, then glanced over at the human, it was clear the lioness had killed him...her Kama’s were still embedded in his chest. She wondered what Lion-O and the other’s would say about this...a Thundercat is to protect a life not take it.

When Lion-O and the others arrived, they were shocked at what they saw, Panthro lying on his side on the ground badly injured and Schwenk’s dead body a few feet away, the smell of blood and death hung heavy in the air.

“What in Jaga’s name happened here,” Lion-O asked seeing the lioness half covered in blood.

“Schwenk had set a booby trap,” Leanna said as she cradled the panther’s head in her lap, “there was a trip wire...I didn’t see it but Panthro did....he saved my life,” she sniffed running her hand over the panther’s shoulder in comfort, then nodded to the log that caused the damage.

Lion-O walked over and examined the deadly looking log, fresh blood still dripped off the end of the spikes that had impaled the panther’s flesh, he looked around and seen what was left of the trip wire and seen were the log had been tied off, the lion just shook his head and walked over to Schwenk’s body.

The look on the dead human's face was a mix of shock and horror. Lion-O leaned down and brushed his fingers over the human's face closing his eyes. He looked to his left and seen Schwenk's gun and then his decapitated hand a few feet away. He knew what happened here was violent...but quick, based on the fact only a few minutes had passed from the time they got the warning until they arrived at the scene.

Lion-O looked up as the panther buried his face in the lioness's lap to muffle a cry of pain as Pumyra and Tygra immobilized his broke leg for the trip home. The lioness held onto his upper body tightly as his body trembled from the pain.

Tygra reached into the med bag they had brought and readied a shot and injected it into the panther's hip, "I've given him something to help with the pain," Tygra said looking at the lioness, "we have to get him home before he goes into shock".

Lion-O and Cheetara helped Tygra and Pumyra gently load the panther onto the stretcher, "Lea I need to speak to you...Would you please stay behind" Lion-o asked.

"But I have to go with Panthro...he needs me," she said watching as they Loaded Panthro on the thunderstrike.

"You can go in a minute," Lion-O nodded, "but right now I need to talk to you".

Once the other left for home, Leanna stood quietly, she looked down at her hands and the front of her body that was soaked with the human's and panther's blood," What have I done," she said sinking to her knees and burry her face in her blood stained hands. "I didn't want to kill him...but he left me no choice, he was going to kill my husband...I only had a fraction of a second to react".

"Leanna," Lion-O said crouching down beside her, "you know as a Thundercat we are forbidden to take a life...it's not our way".

"I know," she answered quietly, "I don't know what came over me...it was if I was a different person..I could see what I was doing but I was powerless to stop myself".

Lion-O ran his fingers though his thick scarlet mane, he knew this was something that couldn't be taken lightly, guilty or not...the lioness shouldn't have taken Schwenk's life, he knew that was something that the clan elders would frown upon.

Under normal circumstances, she would be considered a danger to others and face imprisonment, but then again these weren't normal circumstances, her mate was injured by this man more then once and she was only protecting him. He just had to figure out how to approach this without Leanna getting into serious trouble.

This wasn't something that could be swept under a rug and forgotten... As soon as he could he would call a council meeting with the other Thundercats before he went in front of the clan elders, even though he was leader of New Thundera he still had to answer to someone.

He looked up as Cheetara, Myra and Bengali returned in the thundertank, “Leanna,” he said gently putting his hand on the woman’s shoulder, “I will do my best to help you”. Then looked up at the cheetah and tigress, “can you take Leanna home so she can clean up”.

Both women nodded, “come on hun,” Myra said helping the lioness to her feet, “we’ll get you home and once you’ve cleaned up you can go see Panthro”.

“How is he,” the lioness asked wiping her face.

“They have him in surgery,” cheetara nodded putting her arm around Leanna, “He’s in good hands”.

Once the three women left the lion turned to Bengali, “we have to gather every bit of evidence we can about exactly what happened”.

“What about him,” the white tiger asked nodding to the human’s body.

“We’ll take him back to the lair and put him down stairs and alert Mandora, perhaps he has family somewhere that will claim his body,” Lion-O said.

“I think we should wait to contact Mandora,” Bengali said as he started to take photos of everything.

“Agreed...For now where one of our own was involved ...this is officially a Thundercat matter,” Lion-O nodded.

As the white tiger took photos he stopped and shook his head, “wow...she really done a job on him,” he said looking down at Schwenk.

“That she did,” Lion-O said removing the lioness’s weapons from Schwenk’s chest, “make sure you get pictures of all the foot prints too”.

“I think that Panthro taught her a bit too well on how to use those,” Bengali said half joking.

Lion-O looked at the white tiger and scowled, “sorry,” Bengali shrugged and continued taking photos, once they were done the two wrapped Schwenk’s body up in a sheet and took him back to cat’s lair.