Souls Unite

By Leanna

Chapter 9

Lion-O stood and walked over to the other side of the med bay to get the supplies Pumyra asked for when the lioness returned with a tray heavy with food. “Good lord woman you feeding a small army,” the lion teased.

“No, just a hungry Panther,” she smiled.

“Feeding him like that your going make him fat,” Lion-O smirked.

“Better then being grumpy,” she winked, “you know how he gets if he misses a meal”.

“Yes,” Lion-O chuckled, “you tell him if he doesn’t behave, I’ll have Bengali give him a sponge bath,” he smiled and walked over to speak with Tygra.

“Riiiiight I’m sure poor Ben would rather keep his arms attached to his body,” the lioness snorted and took the tray over to the panther’s beside.

Lion-O collected the supplies and headed back down stairs, by the time he returned, Pumyra and Bengali had Schwenk’s body prepared.

“You two don’t have to stay for this,” the puma said taking the supplies and setting them up on a tray, “it isn’t going to be pleasant”.

“No that’s alright…You might need help.” Bengali nodded then looked at Lion-O.
“He’s right,” the lion nodded in return.

“Alright…don’t say I didn’t warn you,” Pumyra shrugged and began the autopsy.

A half hour into the autopsy Lion-O looked over at the white tiger, “hey Ben…You ok…You’re looking a little green around the gills”.

“You try holding someone stomach in your hands and see how it feels,” Bengali snorted.

The lion just pulled a face and shook his head, “you have at it…your having fun”.

“Oh yeah…having a ball,” the white tiger scowled.

“Well aside from the tar in his lungs and liver damage from drinking….it’s clear the cause of death was Lea’s Kama’s piercing his heart,” Pumyra sighed, “now I have to put that in an official report”.

“Thanks Pumyra…I know it was hard. But it had to be done...I don’t want any foul ups or accusations saying we didn’t do this by the book,” Lion-O nodded.

“So now what,” Bengali asked.

“Now we have to find out if he has a family, and to do that….I’m afraid we have to contact Mandora,” Lion-o said, “so Pumyra do up the report as soon as you can, I’ll make a call to New Thundera and then when the report is done I’ll call Mandora”.
“How’s Panthro…I take it he’s been told,” Pumyra asked.

“Yes…Lea told him and he’s worried,” Lion-O sighed.

“We all are. She should be given a medal for getting rid of this scum,” Bengali growled
.
“Oh I agree with you, he has a wrap sheet long then both of my arms combined, but what she done won’t be excused that easily,” Lion-O said.

“Ok you two can go, I’m just going to finish up here and go do up that report,” Pumyra nodded.

“Alright…Come on Ben,” Lion-O nodded, the two left the puma to finish her work.

As Bengali went to shower and change Lion-O went up to the control room to place the call to New Thundera, Lion-O sat and waited to be connected to the council room where the elders had gathered after being summoned by their king. With a heavy heart the lion quickly explained the situation.

“Is Lord Panthro alright,” the elder from the panther clan asked.

“Yes…He sustained some very bad injuries but he’ll be ok, he’s recovering in the med bay now,” Lion-O nodded.

“Has this woman bee arrested,” another elder asked?

“No…Of course not,” Lion-O said, “As I said before. …it’s a clear case of self defense”.
“But a Thundercat does not take a life no matter the circumstances”.

“She knows that, but she only had a split second to react,” Lion-O said defending the lioness.

“This woman is a danger; you place her under arrest immediately “

The lion suppressed a growl, “look I know Leanna…she’s no danger to anyone”.

“think of your duty as lord and your duty to up hold the law….the people of Thundera find out you have a criminal among you and letting her walk free, there will be an uproar”.

Lion-O wanted to tell them exactly what they could do with there duties, but thought twice.
“What if I just confined her to quarters, just until we get this straightened out”.
“Make sure you do or there will be a troop of thunder guards to do it for you”.

Lion-o just cocked a brow and suppressed a smirk, he could almost picture thunder guards flying in every direction if they laid one finger on that lioness, broken leg or not, that panther could still do some damage, “I will have it handled,” he nodded and cut the connection. The lion sat back in the chair and ran his hands over his face and sighed. He knew he’d have bigger trouble if the thunder guards showed up, he had to handle this without upsetting his friends especially one hot-tempered panther.

The lion took a deep breath and got up and headed back down to the med bay. When he walked in the pair were sitting and talking, “well l see your looking a lot better,” Lion-O smiled.

“I feel a lot better,” The panther said patting his full stomach, “at least my headache is gone, now let me get out of this damn med bed and I’ll be even better”.

“Now you know what Tygra said,” Leanna nodded, “you have to stay put for a few days before they let you leave”.

“Yeah I know,” Panthro scowled then noticed a strange look on the lion’s face, “what is it Lion-O”.

“I spoke with the clan elders,” He sighed.

“How did that go,” Panthro said as the lioness grabbed his hand.

“Just as I thought it would, they want Leanna arrested and put in the brig,” Lion-O said,” But they will settle for her being confined to quarters”.

“So you going to place her under arrest,” Panthro scowled.

“I’m sorry Panthro, but if I don’t…they will send Thunder guards to do it,” Lion-o said.

“The hell they will,” Panthro growled pushing the table that held the tray of food away from him.

“I don’t want too …but I have no choice,” Lion-o said.

“I understand,” the lioness said calmly.

“Lea…no…your not going anywhere,” the panther scowled grabbing her hand tighter. “Panthro…Please…Lion-O is only doing what he has to do,” she smiled slightly.

“Woman….don’t you move from that spot,” The panther ordered, “you’re staying right here with me”.

“Listen to me….your only going to make things worse,” Leanna said,” do you want a troop of thunder guards to come here and drag me off”.

“Well no,” Panthro said shaking his head.

“Then let Lion-O do his job, it won’t be for long…Right, “she nodded to the lion.

“No of course no…a day at the least, just to satisfy those old coots,” Lion-o answered, “and she’ll be in your bedchamber not down in the cells”.

“You can survive one night without me,” the lioness smirked.

The panther just scowled and grumbled as he released her hand, “besides you need to rest,” the lioness nodded, “and you don’t need me for that”.

“Love you panther,” she said softly and stood, leaned over and planted a soft kiss on his lips, “it’s going to be alright,” she smiled, “I promise”. The panther nodded and threw his arms around her and hugged her tightly before she left with the lion.

Early the next morning the lioness lay wide awake staring at the ceiling, she barely slept all night, every time she closed her eyes, the image of Schwenk's shocked and terrified face popped in her head, she didn't have the strong arms to hold her or the deep voice of her husband to whisper to her it was ok, all she had to cling to was his pillow that held his scent.

She sighed and sat up and looked about the room which seem to of suddenly got a whole lot bigger, she got out of bed and walked over to the window and watched as the sun came. A quiet knock on the door made her turn, "come in," she called wondering who would be at her door at this hour; she knew she wasn't suppose to have visitors.

The door opened and Myra walked in, "Brought you some breakfast," the tigress smiled and set down the tray.

"Thanks," the lioness said quietly, "but I'm not that hungry," she said turning back to the window.

"Come on Lea...I had to talk snarf into letting me bring this to you," Myra said.

"No really…I'm not hungry," the lioness said and walked over and sat on the bed.

"What if we take a walk," Myra smiled.

"I'm not allowed out of my room…remember," Leanna said cocking a brow.

"Well even prisoners in jail cells are allowed out to get a few minutes of exercise," Myra shrugged innocently, then looked at the time, "and everyone is gathered at breakfast… and I can make sure you don't run away," She winked.

"But," the lioness started to say but the tigress grabbed her arm.

“Come on…we’ll be gone fifteen minutes tops,” Myra nodded dragging the lioness out the door.

As the two women walked down the hallway, the lioness noticed the direction they were headed.

“Myra…we’re going to get in trouble,” Leanna said stopping just outside the med bay doors.

“Don’t worry, Tygra and Pumyra are down in the dining room and snarf already brought up Panthro’s breakfast, so you got ten minutes,” she said pushing the lioness through the door,” I’ll keep an eye out” .

The lioness quietly walked in and looked around to make the panther was truly alone, she walked over to the other side of the room and saw the uneaten tray still sitting on the table, she peeked over and seen that the panther was still sound asleep. She quietly crept over and crawled in beside him, she needed the closeness, the panther’s big limbs instinctively wrapped around her.

It didn’t take long for Panthro to sense a presents. As he started to wake, he realize there was a warm body lying against his side, He opened his eyes and looked down.

“Well this is a surprise,” he smiled and wrapped his arms tighter around her.

“Myra sprung me for a few minutes,” the lioness smiled.

“Only a few minutes,” He said sounding disappointed.

“Yeah sorry love,” She sighed then sat up, “come on….. Eat your breakfast before it get’s cold,” she said getting up and moving the tray closer, she reached for the controls to put the head of the bed up when Myra came bursting through the door.

“Lea…we need to get you out of here NOW,” the tigress said half panicked.

“What’s going on Myra,” Panthro asked slightly confused.

The tigress turned around and looked down the hallway as the elder from the lion clan followed by a half a dozen thunder guards headed towards the med bay.

“We got trouble…I’m sorry guys..I thought it would be ok,” Myra said, “I’ll take the blame for this”.

“What are you talking about woman,” the panther said annoyed.

“Looks like the thunder guards were sent after all,” the tigress said as they got closer.
“WHAT....” the panther growled, “Lea… get behind me.

“Panthro please,” the lioness protested.

“Woman I said get behind me now,” he barked and reached for one of the crutches that stood beside the bed, “you’re not going with out a fight”.

“Panthro don’t do this,” the lioness said. The panther just growled and with one arm grabbed her and put her behind him, she was now between the wall and a very irate panther.

“boy’s just turn right back around and walked back out that door and get back in your ship and go home,” Panthro said holding the crutch like a club,” because a few more steps, will cause you a whole world of hurt”.

The guards just looked at each other, “hey Myra,” Panthro said, “are there enough med beds to accommodate these boys”.

“Umm I think so, “the tigress shrugged.

“Good…Just making sure,” he said slowly sitting on the side of the bed.

“Panthro stop it…You’re going to hurt yourself more,” the lioness said slapping him on the shoulder.

“I’m not joking around,” Panthro said glaring at the guards.

“Ok hothead..Stop being so damn pigheaded,” the lioness said, “you don’t even know why there here”.

“And I don’t want to, all I know they better leave the same way they came,” he snapped.

The lioness just sat back and shook her head.

“Stand down,” Lion-O bellowed entering the med bay, “All of you…….now chancellor Meka, do you mind telling me what’s going on…why have you and your men invaded my home”.

“I came to make sure you were doing your job, “the elder lion snorted, “Looks like I was right…She doesn’t look imprisoned to me”.

“I’m sorry sir, but she was confined to quarters…looks like someone let her out,” the lion said glancing at the tigress who just smiled sheepishly.

“What are you looking at,” Panthro snarled as one of the guards looked at him, “even with one good leg I can still kick your ass”.

“Ok…Everybody…Just calm down…Especially you,” Lion-O pointed to the panther, “you just get your blue behind back in that bed before I break the other leg…Understand”.

The panther just scowled. “I mean it panther,” Lion-O glared back, “and you,” he said looking at Myra, “My office in ten minutes”.

To be continued.