

The Trials of a Queen

By lionessa

Chapter 2

One afternoon about a week later, found Cheetara getting ready to go with Lion-O to the lion clan headquarters for a meeting. She was trying to decide what to wear when Lion-O slipped into the room and laid a box on the king-sized bed.

"Still can't find anything?" he asked softly. Cheetara jumped and turned to glare at him. Seeing him smile, she sighed.

"No," she said glumly and closed the closet door. Turning around she saw the box lying on the bed. "What's that?" she asked.

"Something for you to wear today," Lion-O replied gently as she opened the box, revealing a dress of an orange color with a sash to go with it. The sash had the royal family colors of purple and gray with a Thundercat emblem down at the bottom.

"Where did you find this?" Cheetara asked.

"Tillen and I did some research and found that I could design you a gown to wear for formal functions. I remember that Dad had to do the same thing for Mom when she married him. So I thought of your favorite color and had Lioness-A design the dress and sash like what Mom wore to formal functions. The clothing shop finished it yesterday and Tygra brought it back today," Lion-O answered as Cheetara smiled. "Go ahead, try it on," he added encouragingly. Cheetara quickly slipped off her robe and slipped the dress over her head. It fell to mid-thigh and Lion-O carefully slipped the sash over her head to where it draped across her body from her right shoulder to her left hip. It was sleeveless and very form-fitting, which for Cheetara was perfect. The Thundercat emblem held the sash in place at her shoulder. A quick glance in the mirror and she saw that she was ready.

"It's perfect," Cheetara whispered softly as Lion-O smiled. She slipped into her boots and she was ready to go.

Downstairs they found the Thundertank in the courtyard ready to go with Bengali and Tygra waiting.

"Wow Cheetara! You look great!" Bengali said smiling. The cheetah smiled back warmly.

"The color is perfect for you if I may say so," Tygra added as the four climbed into the Thundertank for the ride to the lion clan headquarters.

"So what do I do at this meeting?" Cheetara asked Lion-O on the way there.

"Just be yourself and talk with Linkor's wife about things. I think you'll find she's one of the more likeable people," Lion-O answered gently.

Cheetara said nothing more as the Thundertank arrived in front of the lion clan home. She was still nervous but seeing the lioness standing next to Linkor with a warm smile on her face made the cheetah feel a little better.

Cheetara swallowed her nervousness as the tank rolled to a stop and everyone got out. Lion-O helped his mate out of the tank and walked with her to the front entrance of the lion clan headquarters.

"Are you ready?" Lion-O asked Cheetara before they met with the head lion elder. She smiled and nodded.

"I think so. Reading your mom's book has helped me prepare for this," the cheetah replied. "Plus I think I can handle whatever those ladies decide to throw my way."

"Good," said Lion-O with a smile as the lion elder came forward. He had a thick brown mane and golden eyes.

"Welcome Lord Lion-O and Lady Cheetara. I am Elder Linkor and this is my mate, Karena. We welcome you to the lion clan headquarters. Shall we go in? The others are waiting," he said as Lion-O nodded.

"I am honored to meet you Lady Cheetara," Karena said warmly as Cheetara smiled. "Come with me and I'll introduce you to some of the other ladies that are here."

"Thank you," said Cheetara. "And what will we be doing while the men are talking?" she asked as Karena led her to a meeting room where the other elder's wives were meeting.

"I thought it would be a good idea to finish that discussion we had last week if it's okay with you my lady," Karena answered referring to a meeting that had been made via telecom.

"That sounds good," Cheetara commented as Karena smiled. Cheetara liked this lioness because she and her mate had expressed their approval at Lion-O's mating to the cheetah. Linkor had won the other clan elders over to Lion-O's side when it became obvious that they were not going to support their lord's choice in a mate. Most of the cheetah elders had been easily won over while it took a while for the lion elders. Only a stern rebuke from both Lion-O and Elder Linkor had prevented a revolt from occurring. But the peace was still strained and Lion-O was still having to meet with the elders on a regular basis to prevent any uprisings from occurring. He was also meeting with the cheetah elders as well but those were going better than the lion clan meetings. New ThunDera had brought about many changes and it was time to consider some of those changes, especially in the area of mixed-clan matings. They were unheard of in the royal line, but Lion-O had been adamant in his decision to join with Cheetara and a letter written to him by his father from long ago had made it easier for Lion-O to present the mating proposal to the elders.

The meetings themselves were tedious, Cheetara mused as she followed the lioness back to a meeting room that had been set aside for the ladies. Once in the room, the cheetah looked around at the lionesses gathered in different areas. One of them came forward to meet Cheetara and Karena.

"Welcome Lady Cheetara," said the lioness coming forward. "I am Ilsa, mate to Lukor," she said warmly.

"It's a pleasure," Cheetara replied with a warm smile in return. Lukor had been one of the elders opposed to the mating but his mate and Linkor had won him over a week before the ceremony.

The rest of the meeting proved to be lively and Cheetara found herself warming up to the lionesses that had made it to the meeting. Most of the lion clan elders were at the main meeting along with a few of the minor tribal elders. The reasons for this large of a meeting with Lion-O had baffled Cheetara, but after talking with the females, she finally understood why.

Later that afternoon, Cheetara met Lion-O in the large dining room of the lion clan headquarters for a light meal that the lionesses had ordered brought in.

"How did your meeting go?" she asked Lion-O, noticing that he looked a little strained.

"Not too well," Lion-O answered with a smile at his mate. "Most of the tribal elders are still not happy with the fact that I joined with a cheetah and not a lioness. It's going to take some time to win them over still." He scowled. "I wish it was easier to do than what's happening now with this. I got the okay from both of my parents before I joined with you so the elders should have no problems accepting our mating, but most of them haven't."

"Which is why you're having this meeting now," Cheetara said as he nodded. She paused a moment. "I'm having a little better luck with their mates in my meeting," Cheetara said then. "Perhaps those mates can persuade their menfolk to accept our mating," she added as Lion-O nodded thoughtfully.

"If not, then we'll be in trouble," Lion-O murmured as Linkor came over.

"Everything to your liking?" he asked as the royal couple nodded and smiled. "We should be ready to resume our meeting when you are ready Lord Lion-O," the lion added as Lion-O nodded.

"Let's get this finished then," Lion-O said as Cheetara hid a smile. Karena came and got Cheetara then and the royal couple was led back to their meetings. About an hour or so later, the ladies finished their meeting and Cheetara was busy making appointments to meet with some of the elders' wives at the lair in a few weeks. She also managed to squeeze in a few meetings with some of the tribal elders as well.

'Hopefully I'll be able to swing these females over to our side and they can persuade their mates to back off and leave Lion-O and I alone,' Cheetara thought quietly while she waited for Lion-O to come out of his meeting. He arrived about thirty minutes later looking tired and Cheetara could tell the meeting had not finished well. He took her hand and the two headed for the Thundertank and were soon on their way back to the lair and a quiet dinner.

That evening found Cheetara and Lion-O back in their apartment going through the day's events. Lion-O had already briefed Lynx-O, Tillen, and Tygra on the situation. Lioness-A already knew what had happened from the twin bond she shared with him. None of the four were happy at how the meeting had gone.

"We may have to lean on them a little bit in order for them to bend to our side, but I imagine the high elders will have a stern talk with their tribal elders about this," Tillen had observed at the meeting held after Lion-O and Cheetara had returned.

"What about the tribal elders that aren't listening to their clan elders?" Tygra suddenly asked, voicing something no one else had even considered.

"We're just going to have to be extremely careful how we deal with those, especially if they try anything," Lion-O said firmly. "No one is going to make me do what I don't want to do, no matter what they're thinking," he added as everyone nodded.

"This is starting to get out of hand," Lynx-O added. "We need to stop this before it spreads to the other clans."

"The cheetah clans were for this mating from the beginning," Tygra noted as Lion-O nodded. "And that's because they know more than they're telling us right now."

"Does Cheetara have any idea of what the cheetah elders know?" Tillen asked Lion-O.

"She hasn't been informed of it but she thinks it has something to do with a prophecy from long ago that she learned as a kitten," the lion answered as Lynx-O's ears twitched suddenly.

"Sound familiar?" Tygra asked the lynx who nodded.

"I think our answers to this problem are about to be found very soon," Lynx-O replied. "The cheetah clan is famous for knowing things the rest of us don't. And it has to do with the sixth sense and telekinetic powers they have."

"Can we ask one of them about the prophecy?" Tillen asked then.

"Cheetara should know the name of the seer of the cheetah clan that's responsible for recording the prophecy writings because this was written a long time ago from what I remembered learning," Lynx-O added as Lion-O nodded.

"I'll ask her about summoning him this evening then," Lion-O said as everyone nodded.

That evening Lion-O asked Cheetara about summoning the cheetah seer and explained what Lynx-O had said during the meeting. Cheetara had been with Lioness-A and Pumyra discussing a few things with them.

"Lioness-A mentioned it while we were together because she was listening to your end of the conversation. How she manages to do that and listen to myself and Pumyra and keep it straight, I'll never know," Cheetara observed as Lion-O laughed.

"It's a gift of ours," he said softly. "So will you do it for me?"

"I will because I want to know what this prophecy is myself," Cheetara said as Lion-O nodded.

Chapter End Notes:

Stay tuned to Chapter 3 which will reveal the prophecy for Lion-O and Cheetara and what it means for the Thundercats and ThunDera.