

A Very Third Earth Christmas

By Shay Leona

Chapter 5: Lurking in a Winter Wonderland

At Cat's Lair, Wily Kit and Kat sat in the paw hangar waxing their spaceboards.

"Man! I can't wait until Shay's party!" Wily Kit exclaimed as Panthro walked in.

"Me neither. I can't wait to try some of that special egg nog Linda's gonna make.." Wily Kat replied with a sly expression.

"The only egg nog you'll be drinking is the one without the alcohol in it." Panthro said.

"Awww geez Panthro pleeeaaaaase! I'm over 18 and it's Christmas!" he pleaded.

"I said no! The Thunderian drinking age is 21. And you better not try to drink some at the party. I'll be keeping my eye on you." Panthro warned then jumped in the Thundertank.

Tygra walked and saw a disappointed Kat with his head hung low.

"What's the matter Kat?"

"He's upset because Panthro won't let him drink at the party." Kit explained.

"Oh Kat, surely you know the risks of alcohol and how addicting it can be." Tygra lectured.

“Yeah, you WOULD know.” Kat muttered under his breath.

“What did you say?” Tygra said turning around.

“I uh said, Oh, I didn’t know!”

Tygra raised a brow of suspicion then jumped in the Thundertank.

“Okay guys will be back this evening. We’re gonna work on Shay’s house and you two try to stay out of trouble okay?”

“Yes sir.” They answered as they drove off from Cat’s Lair.

“I don’t care what Panthro says, I’m gonna have some egg nog.” Wily Kat thought to himself.

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In the control room at the Tower of Omens, Lynx-o and Bengali sat in front of the telescreen watching the weather conditions of Third Earth.

“So Lynx-o how are you doing, old friend?”

Lynx-o’s ears twitched and he turned around, “I’m sorry Bengali, but I cannot answer that question.”

Bengali looked at him confused, “Okay um, well are you going to Shay’s party?”

“I also cannot answer that question, for my response will not be some type of advice.”

“Ohhh....okay...” the doors opened and a thunderian white tigress/saiyan hybrid walked in. Her eyes beamed when she made eye contact with the white tiger.

“Benny! Oh it’s so good to see you!” she ran up to him and gave him a hug.

“Sirrina, it’s been a while!” Bengali said nervously.

“Yes it has been hasn’t it?” she winked grabbing his rear end.

“Whoa, Sirrina that was kind of unexpected.”

The female hybrid giggled “Oh well um sorry....” She giggled and wrapped her tail around the apprehensive blacksmith. She turned and looked at Lynx-o who was just sitting there. “Hey Lynx-o long time no see! How are you doing?”

“It’s better to go into something being cautious and aware of the situation than to be hasty and go into a situation not knowing what’s going on.”

Sirrina blinked at Lynx-o’s response then laughed. “Oh did you just recite a poem or something?”

Lynx-o sighed, “Oh, why bother. I’m just gonna go take a nap until someone in this story needs some advice.” The elderly lynx got up and left the control room.

“Ohhhhhkay....so anyways, how have you been, Ben?” she asked leaning against his broad chest.

“Um, I’ve um, been, fine actually.” He said running his fingers through his mane flashing a gold band on his left ring finger.

“Ooooooh that’s a pretty ring, who gave it to you?” she inquired rubbing his hands sensually.

“What in the mountains of the moon is going on here?” a furious Linda said irately entering the room.

“Oh Linda! Er hi, sorry, this is Sirrina, a friend from Old Thundera. Sirrina this is Linda, my wife.”

“Wife! You’re married!?! When did this happen?”

“It doesn’t matter!” Linda yelled grabbing her husband’s arm.

Sirrina twirled a strand of her white and black streaked hair and blinked her blue eyes, “Geez Benny, We lose touch over a few years and then suddenly you get hitched to a human? What’s up with that?”

“Excuse me!” Linda put a hand on her hips with a defensive posture.

Bengali felt his face flush, “Well Linda, back on old Thundera, Sirrina and I used to date.” He explained seeing Linda becoming more enraged.

“Oh we did more than just date Benny.” She smirked, “Remember those late nights in your workshop?”

Linda’s eyes grew sparks, “Oh that’s it!” she pounced on Sirrina and the girls began to fight.

“Ladies no, please. We can work...this.....oh wow this is hot!” Bengali stared at the two women going at it hesitating to butt in and stop them.

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Later that afternoon a stunned Shay went to the village market to pick up some groceries. She felt a numbness to her which made her not able to be sad or happy. Just there, existing.

She looked through the apples and checked the ripeness so that her apple pie cobbler could be the best one she’s made yet. She looked up and saw Lyonnarra trying to keep hold of her two kids and a very pregnant Myra looking at the gift section in the Berbil market.

“It still amazes me how Tygra ended up having two wives. Two BEAUTIFUL ones at that. I just don’t see it, but he’s obviously got it.” She thought to herself as she made eye contact with Myra.

“Shay! Hey girl!” the tigress shouted from across the village.

Shay forced a smile on her face as she approached her. It wasn’t that Shay didn’t want to talk to her good friend, it was just that she was not in the mood to talk to anybody. Especially after the slew of events that have occurred over the past few days, she wasn’t in the mood to be social, but hey, it’s Christmas.

“Hey darlin’ how are ya!” the leopard squealed and gave her a hug. Her eyes lit up when she saw how big Myra was up close, “Whoa Myra, it looks like you are getting ready to pop. How far along are you?”

“I’m only 5 months along.” She replied rubbing her stomach, “Though I feel like I’ve been pregnant forever.”

Lyonnarra walked over with one kid holding each hand. “Hey Shay! How’s it goin’ girl?”

“It’s going pretty well, just shopping for some things for the party! Awwww your cubs are getting so big!”

“Oh I know, and they are a handful!” said the tigress, while Myra nodded her head.

“Yeah, they’re helping me get prepared for my little one coming soon.” Myra said picking up one of the kids.

“Or little ones, you never know!” Shay said looking around the market place, “So Tygra’s not out with ya’ll today?”

“No, he’s headed to your house with Panthro to do some construction.” Lyonnarra confirmed.

“Oh! That’s right I plum forgot! I guess I better finish up here and head back to the house. It was nice seeing you gals, and ya’ll are coming to my party right?”

“You bet!” Myra answered. She winced in pain as Lyonnarra’s cub started pulling on her long orange black and white streaked hair. “Ow, ow, ow! Okay let’s not pull My-My’s hair.” He told the cub who was giggling and cooing and still pulling on her hair. Lyonnarra went to her aid and finally got him to stop tugging on her mane.

“Okay well it looks like ya’ll got your hands full. I’ll see you guys later!” Shay said picking up a few more items then making her way back to her house.

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The whole way back to her house, Shay pondered deeply about what had been happening over the past few days. The Levin incident the night before and why she wasn't as enraged as she should've been, the sudden sense of boredom and hopelessness, and the card game trouble with Sinistral. Her sense of care just seemed to be gone. This time of the year was Shay's favorite. Decorations, caroling, snow, Christmas cheer every---

[illegible]

Shay snapped out of her thoughts just in time to get hit by a snowball. Shay froze in disbelief as the snow dripped off her face.

“Oh my goodness ma’am I am sooooo sorry, it was all his fault!” a female bobcat said running towards the stunned leopard.

“Hey!” a male snow leopard/golden tiger ran over to defend himself, “No it was not my fault I prom....Shay?”

Shay wiped what was left of the snowball off her face and gave an annoyed closed-mouth grin, “Hi Bec, hey Ish.....” she said dryly.

“Oh Shay, I am so sorry. I really didn’t mean to throw that at you.” Ishaldi apologized.

“Yeah, you know you throw like a girl anyway!” Becyana teased then turned to Shay, “Hey are you okay?”

Shay sighed and smiled, “Yes, I’m fine. So anyways, I better get going now.”

“Okay, and oh we got your invitations to your party!” the female bobcat said cheerfully, “We can’t wait!”

“Oh me neither! I’ll see ya’ll then! Take care!” Shay faked her happiness again then walked back to the route towards her house.

Becyana and Ishaldi stared at the leopard sympathetically. Then she looked over and punched Ishaldi in the arm.

“Owwwwwww! Hey, what was that for?” he shot back rubbing his arm.

“That’s for you being so annoying! You see how upset you made her?”

Ishaldi shook his head, “I have the strongest feeling that something is else is wrong with her.”

“Oh really? What gives you that idea?”

“Well, I sense it mentally. I tried to read her thoughts but she’s blocked them to where I can’t.”

“Well hopefully she’ll feel better soon. Christmas is a few weeks away and by then the Christmas Spirit will hit her like a ton of bricks!” the bobcat running back to her side of the clearing.

Ishaldi sighed and thought deeply, “I hope you’re right Bec, I really-----Ow!” a snowball hit his face and he looked over to the other side where Becyana was and saw her cackling victoriously then took off running. “Becy! I’ll get you for this.” He cried charging after her.

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At Cat’s Lair, Pumyra was in Kitra’s room trying to help her pick out something to wear for the party. She grew frustrated seeing that her fellow puma friend didn’t have any type of dress or skirt in her closet.

“Kitra dear, Have you worn a dress before in your life?”

Kitra giggled, “Yes Pumyra, I have. I just don’t care to wear any. I mean we’re always wearing our Thundercat uniforms so whenever I do get a chance to wear something else, I wanna just put on some jeans and a t-shirt.”

“I can understand that I guess....” Pumyra said pulling out a big, baby blue sweater, which didn’t look like it belonged to a man. “Okay please tell me that Snarf put this in your closet by a mistake.”

Kitra looked up and gasped, “No that is mine, and I don’t want it to be touched.” She grabbed the sweater and took a whiff of it.

“You’re freaking me out Kitra...” Pumyra said, worried.

“Oh I’m sorry. It’s my Venkie’s!” she squealed.

“Oh, Peter’s sweater.” Pumyra playfully rolled her eyes. “Why do you have it?”

“Well the last time the Ghostbusters were here, Peter and I became really close and we I guess you can say “dated” in a way, but when they left, we realized that with us living in two different dimensions and all, it wouldn’t work out. So he left me his sweater and I gave him one of my shirts, so that we will have a little bit of each other to keep, I guess you could say.”

“Awwwwwwwwwwwwww that’s so sweet, but so sad at the same time.” Pumyra said looking at the sweater. “I gotta say though, even though Dr. Peter Venkman was good-looking, Egon was more my type.”

“Yeah but he’s with Janine so there goes that.”

Both girls nodded and sighed, “Well, who knows, maybe we’ll get a handsome guy for Christmas this year.” Pumyra hoped.

“Yeah, who knows.....maybe....” said Kitra.

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Shay walked over the side of her house and watched Tygra and Panthro make progress on the add-on to her house.

“Wow guys, it looks amazing! You guys sure work fast!”

“Well with experts like me and Tygra what do you expect?” the panther winked.

“Oh and so modest too!” Shay joked, “Do you guys want anything to eat or drink?”

“No we’re fine for now, but thanks anyways Shay.” The tiger replied measuring a piece of wood.

“Oh, Tygra I saw your kids and two wives today at the Berbil market.”

Tygra looked up, “Oh?”

“Yeah and Myra’s pretty big for being only 5 months along.”

“Well, Myra’s a tiny little thing. She started showing when she was barely 2 months along.”

Shay nodded then rested her chin on her finger, she had to ask him the question she had been wondering about for a while, “I bet you have your handful with having two kids and two wives and all.” Shay tried hard not to sound like a smart ass.

Out of no where Tara walked by and scowled at Shay. “So Tygra can have two mates in this story and I can only have one?!” she said with her hands on her hips. Panthro and Tygra both looked on with worried faces.

“Tara, where the hell did you just come from?”

“Don’t worry about that. You’re being unfair! If Tygra can have Lyonnarra and Myra then why can’t I have Lion-o AND Therja!?” she whined.

Shay became irritated, "Because, it's MY story! You can't have them both! It's either Lion-o or Therja, pick one!"

Frustrated the hybrid crossed her arms and pondered for a few minutes, "Oh fine! I choose Lion-o!" she rolled her eyes at the leopard then scoffed at Tygra then left.

Shay shook her head in disbelief, "The nerve of that woman questioning me about my---AAAAAH!"

Shay was hit by another snowball and turned around just in time to see a flash of yellow light trailing down the road. Panthro and Tygra became worried as Shay's face became enraged. "She threw a SNOW BALL AT ME! That's the SECOND TIME TODAY!" she yelled brushing the snow off her face! "Bahhhhhh!....." she took a deep breath and sighed, "I think it's time that I go inside and take a nap. I've had a long week." She said monotone.

"Shay, are you okay?" the panther asked concerned.

"Yeah I'm fine. I just don't feel good, that's all." She answered.

"Maybe a good lie down will do you good, but Shay are you sure there's nothing else bothering you?" questioned Tygra.

Shay smiled meekly, "Positive. I'll be in my bedroom if you need me."

She began to walk away then stopped in her tracks and spoke with her back still towards them, "Oh and another thing, Tygra, please don't try to read my mind. I can tell you're trying and I think you forget that I do have tiger blood way down the line so I can tell when someone is attempting to read my thoughts."

Tygra stood there dumbfounded, "But how did you...."

“I do have small mind powers you know.” Tygra looked up and saw a few of his tools floating in mid air then they suddenly dropped down on the snow with a hard thud. He looked up at Shay again and she smiled coyly, “Thanks again you guys, now if you’ll excuse me....” She turned around and walked inside her house.

Tygra looked at Panthro still shocked, “I forgot she could do that.”