

A Very Third Earth Christmas

By Shay Leona

Chapter 8: Joy to the Girl

A week passed by since Shay's outburst and it was only a week and few days until Christmas. The distraught leopard was still isolating herself from her friends. She didn't want to be bothered by them. She didn't want to talk to them. All she wanted was for the dreadful holiday to be over with.

She was sitting in the middle of the lounge room, part of the annex Tygra and Panthro had constructed for her, curled up in a ball in the dark. She would hear knocking on her front door everyday consistently since the incident at the Berbil Village Market occurred. Even Rober Bob sent her a plethora of fresh pecans so that she wouldn't freak out again. Shay sighed deeply as the knocking continued, even louder. She rolled her eyes and uncurled herself from her self made cocoon and slowly made her way to the door. She opened the door and was surprised to see who was on the other end.

"Lynx-o! What are you doing here?" she asked harshly.

"I'm here to offer you some advice." He said.

Shay looked at the old lynx with a raised brow, "Wait...I'm sorry what?"

"Well I usually give advice and you've been seeking it...am I correct?"

"No old man, you are so wrong. I didn't ask your stupid advice. Now GO AWAY!" she shouted then slammed the door in his face cursing under her breath.

"Annoying old HAS BEEN!" she was halfway towards the lounge room when she heard another knock on her door.

"Oh for the love of Jaga! Will he just LEAVE ME ALONE!"

She walked towards her front door again and someone else she didn't expect to see.

"Josh....."

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At her cottage, Emma was fully into the Christmas spirit. She was finished with her decorations and was now knitting some stockings to give to some of the Wollow children as Christmas presents.

"Oh I love this time of year. Just joy and happiness is all I feel!"

She smiled and sang, “The Christmas Song” as she continued to knit. She didn’t notice the flames in her fireplace were growing fiercely until a big cloud of smoke came seeping in.

“Oh my word, there’s something going on in my fireplace.” She panicked.

“Oh Emma relax it’s just me.” A dark masculine voice said within the midst of smoke. She squinted then immediately frowned when she noticed who the voice belonged to.

“Oh.....it’s you....what do you want?”

The smoke subsided and there stood the infamous Sinistral himself standing with his arms crossed and an evil smirk on his face.

“Well Emma, contrary to what you may believe, I’m here to discuss an agreement of peace.”

Emma’s face twisted with confusion “Peace....you? Mr-I-have-to-call-it-Anti-Satan-mas because-I’m-so-evil?”

“Yes, yes I know it’s not like me at all but, I was informed the other day that Shay went berserk.”

“Yeah, um berserk is an understatement. She went nuts....literally.”

“Pity I wasn’t able to witness that. It’s hard to believe a sweet girl like that to become so evil in an instant. Then again she did date me.” He smirked cockily while Emma rolled her eyes.

“Yeah don’t remind me, anyways, you were saying.....”

Sin scratched the back of his head and started shifting uneasily, “Oh yeah, well I wanted to explain something to you. My goal was to ruin your Christmas along with all of Third Earth’s.”

Emma shook her head, “The evil reindeer....”

“Yes, that was me. I wanted to ruin your decorations so that you would be sad and not in the Christmas spirit. Instead I believe it worked on the wrong person.”

Emma thought for a few moments... “Oh wow, it worked on Shay!”

Sin nodded “Yes, I didn’t intend on it working out that way, but it did and I don’t want her joy to be ruined. She’s a neutral party after all.

“Oh so you want me to be all down and depressed?”

Sin nodded, “Well duh! You’re my arch nemesis! What, did you expect me to bring you cookies and a pie?”

“Okay Sin enough with the small talk, why are you here?”

“Okay, Okay! I’m here for two reasons. First, I’m here to see if we can come up with a plan to help out Shay or something like that. Second reason.... Was for me to say.....” he looked around nervously and bowed his head.

“Yes.....” Emma anticipated.

“I’m s.....”

“You’re what?”

“I’m soraaknee” he mumbled.

“Sin you’ll have to speak up,” she cupped a hand around her right ear, “I can’t hear you.”

“I’m bloody sorry! Alright!” he shouted angrily his blue eyes flashed an evil red.

“Awwwwwwww Sin that is so sweet of you!” Emma gushed.

Out of pure emotion, she ran up to the prince of darkness and showed her appreciation with a tight embrace. Sin was utterly disgusted at the thought of receiving hugs. He despised them, especially with it being from his rival. He became overwhelmed with the kindness and became sick to his stomach.

“Alright, Alright! You’ve made your point.” He shouted pulling away from the petite hybrid and brushing off his suit, “Ugh, I hope your niceness didn’t rub off on me.”

“I’m sorry Sin. You just really shocked me with your apology. I just became overwhelmed with emotion.

Sin looked around and sighed, “Well anyway, what do we do about the leopard who lost it?”

Emma pondered for a few seconds then came up with an idea, “Well I already have an idea of something, or someONE who can help. Now first you know what you’re gonna have to do right?”

“Ummm.....no?”

Apologize AGAIN!”

Sin’s face was filled with horror at the sound of that very word. He put his left hand on his forehead. “Oh bloody hell! Not again!”

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Shay stared at Josh suspiciously who had his guitar strapped to his back and appeared to be extremely nervous.

“Can I help you?” she asked monotone.

Josh scratched his neck and bit his bottom lip, “Umm.....is it okay if I come in?”

Shay looked at the snow leopard up and down then nodded, “I guess....” She opened the door and let him in. They both sat down on her couch in complete silence. Shay stared at Josh blankly which made him even more nervous.

“So um...you haven’t been out lately.....a lot of people are concerned.”

Shay scoffed, “Please!”

“Seriously, they have been. I mean it’s not like you to be this way. You care to share with me what’s been up with you?”

Shay cut her honey eyes at the skater and shrugged, “I don’t know. I just suddenly snapped and lost hope in everything and everyone I guess you could say.” She responded blandly.

Josh nodded understandingly. Again, he scratched the back of his neck and bit his lip nervously trying to figure out how he was going to say to Shay’s response. He looked around the room trying to avoid the leopard’s icy glare then came up with an idea.

“Oh hey, I know this song I’d like to sing to you...if I may?”

Shay motioned him to proceed and he pulled his guitar around in front of his chest. He strummed a few chords, tuning it then cleared his throat before he began.

“I see you standing here
But you're so far away
Starving for your attention
You don't even know my name
You're going through so much
But I know that I could be the one to hold you
Every single day I find it hard to say I could be yours alone
You will see someday
That all along the way
I was yours to hold I was yours to hold
I see you walking by
Your hair always hiding your face
I wonder why you've been hurting
I wish I had some way to say
You're going through so much
Don't you know that

I will be the one to hold you
I'm stretching but you're just out of reach
You should know I'm ready when you're ready for me
And I'm waiting for the right time
For the day I catch your eye
To let you know
That I'm yours to hold....”**

With those last words he looked at Shay deep in the eyes biting his lip again and blushed,
“Ummmmm, yup..that’s the song...”

Shay stared at him wordlessly and full of surprise. Josh was becoming a little more worried about the leopard’s reaction.

“Uh, you don’t like it?”

Finally showing a sign of emotion, her eyes moistened and she suddenly pounced on Josh, hugging him fiercely, “Oh Josh, that was BEAUTIFUL!”

She squeezed him for a few moments then pulled away. He smiled nervously while looking into her eyes and she deeply looked into his green ones. She grabbed his collar, still mesmerized by his gaze and pulled in for a sweet kiss. At first Josh kept his eyes opened shocked by the sudden action. Then became comfortable and kissed her back, running his fingers through her spotted, gold-brown streaked mane.

At that moment Emma and Sin arrived with a puff of smoke right in front of the leopard’s house. Both of them exchanged glances, shocked to see what was going on in front of them.

“Well, uh I guess the first part of my plan worked.” Emma said grinning ear to ear.

Shay and Josh broke away from each other’s lips and looked at Sin and Emma randomly standing in the middle of her living room.

“Sin, Emma....together?”

Sin shook his head, “Oh no no no no, it’s NOT what you think!”

“Ugh, definitely! We’re here because Sin wants to tell you something.”

“Oh?” Shay looked up at the tall dark lord with a hand on her hips, “What is it you want to tell me?”

Sin let out a low growl and cleared his throat, “Well I came to say that I was part of the reason for your outburst last week. You see I was trying to come up with a plan to ruin Christmas spirit, starting with Emma first, and it seemed to have rubbed off on you.”

“Oh, the evil reindeer.....” Shay nodded. Josh stood up with an angry look on his face.

“Wait a minute! So it was you! I almost got KILLED! What’s up with that man?” he exclaimed.

“Oh relax Frost! It’s not a big deal. Besides, you ARE a Thunderian and you weren’t that far from the ground. The fall wouldn’t have been that harsh on you. Though it was comical to watch you guys going through a fit frenzy----OW!”

Emma kicked Sin in the leg, “Sin.....”

“Why you little.....” he hissed through clenched teeth. He grabbed his leg until the pain went away and sighed. “Okay, well what I mean to say is.....I didn’t mean for all of this to happen to you and I hope that you will forgive me for my evil antics.”

Shay looked at Sinistral who seemed to be twitching in pain. She realized that it was really killing him to admit his fault, especially for doing something evil. She slowly grinned, then brightly smiled showing some teeth, then finally did something she hadn’t done in weeks, erupted with laughter.

“Oh Sin, I accept.....AHAHAHAAAA!”

“Wait a damn minute. My sincerity is amusing to you?” he said his face frowned.

“No, no, no....It’s just that all of a sudden I feel like myself again. I’m sorry, HAHAAHAAAA!” She held her stomach and dropped to her knees still giggling fitfully.

Everyone looked at each other and then back at the leopard that was now rolling on the floor in a roar of laughter. Emma smiled then looked at Josh who was also looking at Shay adoringly cracking up on the floor, then at Sin who was still looking at Shay with a sense of worry.

“Do we need to sedate her or something?”

Emma shook her head, “Well guys...I think she’s finally back!”

Chapter 8: It’s Party Time! The story finally concludes.

** Song: “Yours To Hold” by Skillet