

Boys Don't Cry: WilyKat

By Shay Leona

Chapter 5: Eternal Flame

Back at the Lair, Wily Kat was doing his homework when he suddenly got a hunch that something was wrong.

“Ananda!” he ran into the control room where Lion-O and Panthro were on the scanners.

“Lion-O...Panthro, I sense something wrong, I can't find Ananda anywhere I think something is wrong, I need to find her, I..., I just need, I...” He stammered.

“Wily Kat, calm down, take a deep breath, now we'll find her, I'm sure she just went out for a run.” Panthro assured.

All of a sudden Lion-o's sword growled. They all looked at it with fear.

“No, please Jaga don't let it be....” He thought to himself.

Lion-o took the Sword of Omens out of the claw shield and looked through the hilts. “Sword of Omens, give me sight beyond sight.” Lion-o's eyes widened as he saw the images through his sword. The hilts uncurled and Lion-o placed it back in its sheath. Lion-o looked at Wily Kat, whose curious eyes were now filled with fear.

“I know where Ananda is Wily Kat and we need to get to her fast!”

Wily Kat's heart skipped a beat and his face was in a state of shock. “No, this isn't happening, This can't be happening...”

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As they drove through the thick forest, they finally reached the site where a bunch of trees had fallen in a domino affect. Wily Kat traced all the fallen trees to the last one which he saw a familiar body buried underneath it.

“Ananda, noooooo!” he cried out in agony and rushed to his lover.

Lion-o, Panthro and Cheetara followed him and tried lifting the heavy tree. After several tries they finally got the tree off the female leopard, who was lying in a pool of blood. Cheetara checked her pulse.

“She has a pulse but it's faint, we have to get her to sickbay immediately.”

Panthro picked her up and put her in the Thundertank. Wily Kat looked in horror at all the blood she lost.

“Wily Kat apply some pressure here so she won’t lose more blood.” He said as he jumped in the front seat. “Tygra, to Cat’s Lair, Tygra to Cat’s Lair!”

“This is Tygra, what’s the status?” the tiger said muffled through the speaker.

“She’s in critical condition, we are heading that way and we are going to send her to sickbay immediately when we get there.”

“ Okay Panthro, I’ll set everything up and meet you in the paw hangar. Tygra out!”

Cheetara sat in the back helping Wily Kat stop the bleeding. Wily Kat sat there and looked at her helplessly

“Come on Ananda, I know you can pull through you’re a fighter.” His eyes filled with tears. “Please Ananda, you can’t leave me, I can’t lose you!”

“Don’t worry Kat, I am sure that she’ll pull through.” She looked at the warm blood that covered her hands.

“I wish I were as confident as I sound.” she thought.

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Hours had passed by while Tygra operated on Ananda. The others waited in the room praying she’d pull through. Wily Kit stood by her brother’s side. The room was quiet, almost too quiet. The door swooshed open and everyone jumped then relaxed when they saw Snarf walking in sheepishly.

“Brr, I’m sorry you guys I didn’t mean to scare you.”

“It’s okay Snarf, we’re all just on edge right now.” Cheetara said massaging Wily Kat’s tense shoulders.

Wily Kit looked at her brother who was staring at the wall expressionless. The usual wonder and animation that filled his eyes were lost. His eyes were dull and his face was pale. Panthro made eye contact with Wily Kit and exchanged looks. They had never seen Wily Kat in that condition before.

Snarf walked up to Wily Kat and gave him a cup of hot tea. “I thought you might need this.” He murmured.

Wily Kat continued to stare at the wall.

“It’s berry fruit tea your favorite, Schnarf, Schnarf.”

Wily Kat took the cup of tea from Snarf. “Thank you Snarf, I’ll give it to him later.”

Snarf looked at Wily Kat with sympathy then walked out of the room. Lion-o and Cheetara exchanged glances and followed after him.

For the first time in hours, Wily Kat’s expression changed. He shook his head in disbelief. Wily Kat looked at her brother who continued shaking his head.

“What, what is it Kat?”

“How could this happen? How could I let her get hurt! I told her she was safe with me!”

“Kat there was nothing you could’ve done. You can’t blame yourself.” Wily Kat said kneeling in front of her brother.

“I told her she was safe with me, if she dies, I don’t know what I would do....I can’t lose her!”

“Kat listen to me!” Wily Kat grabbed his face and forced him to give her eye contact. “Listen to me! Don’t you even **think** of doing anything drastic! We will get through this just like we’ve gotten through everything else! I need you to pull yourself together!”

Wily Kat buried his hands in his face and cried. Wily Kat hugged her brother close and rocked him back and forth. Panthro was so touched by the scene he became teary-eyed. Wily Kat and Wily Kat were so close and they were like the children he’s always wanted. It hurt him to see one of them in pain like this.

Tygra walked in the room and removed his mask.

“Okay guys I have some good news and some not all that great news.”

The room remained silent.

“Okay, the good news is that there is a great chance that she’ll pull through.”

Wily Kat wiped his eyes and walked over to Tygra.

“Okay what is the catch?”

Tygra sat down and sighed. “Well the thing is, she’s lost so much blood to where she is going to have to get a blood transfusion.”

“I’ll donate!” Wily Kat said eagerly.

Wily Kat joined her brother’s side, “It’s not that simple Kat.”

Wily Kat looked at his sister confused. “What do you mean?”

Tygra looked at Ananda’s medical records. “Well Kat, in order to give a successful blood transfusion, the blood types and antigens have to match almost completely. The only way that can be for sure is if it were from a family member.”

“But all of her closer relatives are either dead or not to be found. There’s no way to help her.”

“On the contrary Wily Kat. Cheetara, Pumyra and Panthro have the same blood type as she does. If they can donate blood, that will help us out a lot. Pumyra will be arriving later on tonight to help me with the blood transfusion.”

Panthro stood up and walked over to Tygra, “Alright, if you’re going to drain my blood let’s go ahead and get it over with.” Panthro joked trying to lighten the mood. Everyone gave a lighthearted laugh, even Wily Kat. Tygra and Panthro walked out of the room and headed towards the lab.

“Oh Jaga guide me through this operation.” Tygra said while they walked towards the laboratory door.

“Yeah, and Jaga please don’t let me pass out.” Panthro said cringing at the thought of the needles.

“It’s funny to me Panthro, you are one of the bravest, mightiest warriors I’ve ever known, battling some of the most evil villains and you are scared of bats, spiders and needles.”

“Man I’m sorry they creep me out.”

Tygra turned on the lights in his laboratory next to sickbay and put on his gloves. He took a clean syringe from the cabinet along with an empty IV and hooked them together.

“Alright Panthro, this may sting a little.” He tied a rubber band around Panthro’s arm and started taking blood from the panther.

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Hours later, after Tygra and Pumyra took blood they began analyzing it in the lab with Ananda’s. Pumyra looked at a test tube of Ananda’s blood and placed a sample on a piece of litmus paper.

“Something’s not quite right.” She said staring at the results.

“What’s wrong Pumyra?” he walked over to the table curiously.

“The pH level in her blood is off balance. I need to run a few more tests.” Pumyra placed some of Ananda’s blood in a test tube filled with clear liquid. While Tygra compared blood samples under the microscope.

“Well Ananda and Cheetara don’t match. I figured, their species aren’t closely related to her like you and Panthro’s”

“Yeah, I can see that. It’s amazing that she wasn’t crushed from that tree falling on her like that. Something must have stopped it full force. She must’ve had angels looking out for her.”

All of a sudden, the heart monitor went off. Ananda’s heart rate was starting to rise. She started whimpering and murmuring like she was having a bad dream

“No....Kat...where are you? Help me.....I’m scared!” she cried. She clawed and kicked until Pumyra and Tygra went over to calm her down.

“Wily Kat will be in shortly sweetheart, but I need you to relax and save your strength.” Tygra said softly, injecting her with pain relievers.

Pumyra looked at the bruises on her face and noticed bite marks on her neck. It was too big for a spider bite. She continued to examine the bite mark and noticed a similar bite on her shoulders which seemed to be already healing. She knew what those marks were. The same marks Bengali would leave her after they... no! It couldn’t be, could it?

“No, Oh dear Jaga, that means.....” Pumyra walked over to the test tube of Ananda’s blood.

Tygra looked up from his test and saw the worried expression on Pumyra’s face. “What’s wrong Pumyra?”

Tygra looked at the test tubes and gaped in disbelief. “By the shimmering seas of Thundera, Ananda is pregnant! I didn’t realize she and Kat were so intimate.”

“She **was** pregnant. She miscarried” Pumyra looked at the test tube and nodded her head. “That’s probably where all the hemorrhaging came from. You remember that we didn’t find but a few bruises and that one deep cut on her right inner thigh. The impact of the hit must have aborted it. She probably was only a few weeks along.”

“Wow...” He looked over the results of the test he did under the microscope and gasped. “By Thundera! I don’t believe this. This can’t be!”

“Oh no, what now?” Pumyra said still not over the first news.

Tygra’s face was overcome with seriousness. Pumyra’s expression changed from curiosity to anxiety.

“Pumyra, I think you need to sit down for this.”

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Wily Kat continued to wait in sickbay alone. His sister walked in carrying two cups of hot tea and some bread fruit with honey on a plate balancing it on her arms. Wily Kat grabbed a cup of tea and looked at his sister.

“You sure you don’t need to be working in someone’s diner?” he said smartly.

Wily Kit sat the cup of tea on the table and laughed. “You know, I’ve thought about doing it part time.

Wily Kat took a sip and looked at his sister. “Really?”

“Haha psych! That’s not the job for me. I’ve heard some stories from some waitresses and the way people act and as sharp as my mouth is, I’d get fired within the first hour.”

Wily Kat laughed and agreed about his sister’s temper. “This tastes like mint tea.” He said a little disappointed.

“Yeah, I drank the berry fruit tea Snarf gave you earlier. Then I realized that he ran out of berry fruit. Sorry, it’s mint tea for now.”

“Trust me, right now, anything will do.”

Wily Kit broke a piece of bread fruit in half and gave it to her brother. “So how’s she holdin’ up?”

“Well, Tygra came in a few minutes before you did and told me that they found a compatible donor now all she had to do is recover.” He affirmed smothering some honey on the bread fruit and taking a bite.

“Who’s blood was it?”

Wily Kat shrugged his shoulders. “I don’t know. Tygra didn’t tell me. You know how he is.”

Wily Kit rolled her eyes. “Oh I know, Tygra is so creepy about that stuff. You know, there’s a way I can find out.” She said slyly as she took another sip of her tea.

“You can?” Wily Kat shook his head, “No, no that’s not important, as long as she gets well, I’ll be okay.

Wily Kit studied her brother closely. “You really love her don’t you?”

Wily Kat nodded and wiped away a tear falling from his eyes. “No, I have to be stronger than this! Boys don’t cry!”

Wily Kit sat on the couch next to her brother and wrapped her arms around him.

“But Wily Kat, you are not a boy anymore, you are a man! And the fact that you are even showing emotion right now is proving that.” She hugged her brother as tears continued to stream down his cheeks. “Now if you cried all the time over dumb crap, then I’d say you were a pansy.”

Wily Kat chuckled at his sister. If there was one thing that she could do in a situation like that, it was making him smile. She always knew when to say the right thing at the right moment. Suddenly, the doors swooshed open and Tygra and Pumyra walked out.

“She’s ready for visitors but for now, only just one.” Tygra looked at Wily Kat and motioned him to go in the room with Ananda. Wily Kat slowly walked into the room with Pumyra following after him.

Tygra looked at Wily Kit who was lying on the couch upside down.

“Wily Kit, I know you want to stay up with your brother, but it’s almost two in the morning and you have---”

“I know, I know, I have weapon training with Panthro early tomorrow morning, I’m going, I’m going.” She yawned then sardonically saluted Tygra as she walked out the room.

“Man, she is going to be a handful to some unknowing guy one day.” He said to himself as he took off his lab coat and sat on the couch.

He rested his head in the palm of his hands and looked up when Pumyra walked in the room. She sat next to him and let out a big sigh. “Those test results were something huh?”

“Tell me about it. But I don’t know what to do. There’s the confidentiality policy and then it’s important that everyone knows.” Tygra stated, stretching his long limbs.

“Well it needs to get out soon, and when it does, it will change all of our lives especially Wily Kat’s” Pumyra stood up and yawned ferociously. “Oh man, I don’t know about you I’m going to call it a night. I need to call Ben and let him know everything’s fine. I’ll catch up with you tomorrow Tygra, good night.”

Tygra nodded as they went opposite ways down the hall, leaving the atmosphere dark and silent.

Wily Kit came from her hiding place from the bathroom next to sickbay. She had been listening to their conversation the whole time.

“Hmmm, this could change our lives especially Kat’s....I think it’s time that I start doing a little research of my own.” She said to herself as she walked into the elevator.

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Wily Kat sat next to Ananda’s bed. The color in her face was coming back. She opened her eyes and looked at Wily Kat who was admiring her.

“Hey gorgeous.”

“Hi, Kat” she replied weakly trying to force a smile.”

“You gave me a scare.”

“I’m sorry.” She said looking away

“Don’t be, I’m just happy you are okay. Do you remember what happened?”

She looked around the room as if she were searching for an answer. “I, I just remember having one of those terrible headaches I told you about.” Wily Kat nodded with concern as she continued, “I remember the tree stopping in mid air and then it fell on me.”

Wily Kat’s face contorted with confusion. “It stopped in mid air?”

“Yeah it was weird...”

Wily Kat put his hand on his chin. “It sounds like something attempted to keep it from falling on you. Is there any possible way that you can be telekinetic?”

“My grandmother was, but my mother wasn’t. I always thought that I had that ability I just didn’t know how to use it.”

“You know, Cheetara has those powers as well. She can help you strengthen it. You have a great power that save your life and you didn’t even realize it.”

Wily Kat let out a big yawn. “Well I guess I need to go to bed. I am so happy that you are alright.”

Ananda scooted over and patted on the spot next to her. “You’re going to sleep next to me right?”

Wily Kat smiled at her sweetly and nodded. “Of course, I wouldn’t have it any other way.” He snuggled next to her and turned of the lamp to the room. “I love you Ananda.”

He kissed her goodnight and they both fell asleep in each other’s arms.

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Two months had passed and Ananda made a full recovery. She was back in training with Panthro and her relationship with Wily Kat was closer than ever. Wily Kat on the other hand was still determined to find out her secret. She watched over the scanners in the control room and thought to herself.

“Tygra will be gone all day so then I will have the chance to sneak into his lab.”

She crept down the hallway towards sickbay and made her way into Tygra's laboratory. She made her way to the computer and a welcoming screen came up asking for a password.

"Hmm, password, password... what could it be? His birthdate?" She typed in the numbers and access denied flashed on the screen in red.

"I should've known, that was too easy for an complicated guy like him."

She continued to think of possible passwords.

"Let's see....C-H-E-E-T-A-R-A"

Access denied.

"Hmmm, could've fooled me." She sat on the stool and continued to ponder about the different possibilities. She attempted several times, but still failed.

"Okay this is my last attempt, after this, I give up. E-Y-E-O-F-T-H-E-T-I-G-E-R"

The words access granted flickered on the screen.

"YEEES! I got it!....EYE OF THE TIGER? In all that is annoying and lame...oh well, I don't need to waste my time with that thought."

She looked over the different folders with each Thundercat's name on it. She saw a folder that said TCIT. She clicked on it and it read ThunderCat In Training. There was one folder that said Ananda on it.

"Bingo!"

She clicked on it and read through her files which had her information like D.O.B., height, eye color etc. Then on the bottom it said Physician's notes. She scrolled down and clicked on a box that was dated from the day of Ananda's accident and she started reading the long report of her accident:

Ananda's injuries were minor considering her accident. Most of the hemorrhaging came from the aborting of her fetus...

"HOLY CLAUDUS, she was pregnant!?! That means Ananda and Wily Kat have been gettin' it on. Wow, I didn't know it was that serious..." she continued to read the report.

She has a scratch on her leg and a deep wound that bled severely. We were able to give her a successful blood transfusion from one of her donors. The donor that matched hers had a high percentage rate. It was then that I performed Test 3.

Wily Kit saw Test 3 underlined and bolded and clicked on the link and it took her to another page. She read the test results and her eyes widened.

“No, it can’t be, it just can’t!”

She blinked her eyes several times thinking the results would change but it didn’t. She’s seen those types of tests before. Pumyra showed her on one of her hospital visits. She knew exactly what she was looking at.

“So that’s what she’s been hiding! It all makes perfect sense!” she heard footsteps in the hallway coming closer to the lab. “Oh crap!”

She logged out of the computer and hid in the lab coat closet. She peaked through the crack and saw Tygra walk in.

“What is he doing back so early!” she scowled to herself.

Tygra fumbled through one of the drawers and picked up a book. He was on his way out then stopped before he cut off the lights.

“Funny, I don’t remember turning on these lights, was someone in here?”

Wily Kit rolled her eyes as Tygra suspiciously looked around the lab. When he didn’t find anything out of the unusual, he turned off the lights and left the room.

Wily Kit waited a few moments before leaving the closet. She walked out of sickbay and hurried down the hall to the elevator.

“I need to have a little talk with Miss Ananda.”

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Ananda was in the gym pulverizing a punching bag. Wily Kit walked in with her mouth tight lipped and her eyes intense with anger. She finally walked up to Ananda and hid her true emotion with a smile.

“Hello Ananda.”

Ananda stopped punching the bag and greeted Wily Kit with a smile.

“Hey Wily Kit! She began punching the bag less forcefully, “What’s up?”

“Nothing much, I just wanted to talk to you about some things, you know like keeping secrets.”

Ananda stopped punching the bag and looked at Wily Kit nervously. “Um, I don’t know what you are talking about Kit.”

Wily Kit paced back and forth slowly with a sarcastic smile on her face.

“You know Ananda, if you want to become a Thundercat, you need to go by the Code of Thundera: Justice, Truth, Honor, and Loyalty. And you have been breaking the second one horribly.

Ananda looked into Wily Kit’s glaring eyes. She quickly took off her boxing gloves and grabbed her towel.

“Kit, I don’t want to talk about this.” She stated scurrying out of the gym, but Wily Kit stopped in front of her in the middle of the hallway.

“Oh well this involves my brother. You remember? The sweet guy who took you into his home? The one who cried for you when you were in that accident? The one who would sacrifice his life for you? Yeah, him! So I have every right to be in it if I want to!” Her voice started rising.

“What...how did you find out?” She asked becoming intimidated of Wily Kit’s attitude.

“It doesn’t matter Ananda! Why have you been hiding this!”

“It’s none of your business!” Ananda cried holding her gold heart necklace.

Wily Kit got in Ananda’s face. “You need to come out with your secret or I will!”

“Nooo! Please, not yet. I’m not ready to tell yet!”

Wily Kit ignored Ananda’s plea and turned around. Ananda jumped in front of her attempting to stop her.

“Move out of my way!” Wily Kit demanded icily.

Ananda grabbed Wily Kit’s arm almost pulling it out of the socket.

“OWWWWW! What the hell!” She screamed as Ananda gasped.

“Oh Kit, I’m sorry. I didn’t mean--”

Before she could finish Wily Kit slapped her. The female leopard touched her face in disbelief and tackled Wily Kit at full force pushing her to the ground.

Lion-o, Wily Kat, Tygra and Panthro came across the hallway to see what was going on. They saw the two girls tearing at each other.

“Whoa! What the---” Wily Kat said, stunned to see his sister and his girlfriend in a brawl

He grabbed Ananda and Tygra grabbed Wily Kit. Both girls fussed but the two guys managed to finally pull them apart. Lion-o stood in the middle and bowed his head while massaging his temples.

“Okay, will one of you mind explaining what started this?”

Ananda caught her breath and began to speak. “Well Lion-o I was---”

Wily Kit broke free and cut her off. “No Ananda, I’ll tell them what happened since you’ll probably just feed out a bunch of bull---”

“Nooo! I’ll tell it! I need to come clean!” Ananda’s eyes filled with tears, “Wily Kit and I were fighting because she found out about a secret I’ve been hiding.”

“A secret?” Wily Kat said looking confused.

“Yes and I’ve been keeping it from all of you.”

She held her head down as the tears came pouring down uncontrollably down her cheeks. She looked at Wily Kat apologetically. *“This is it... Goodbye Kat.”*

“I’m....” She began sobbing “I’m Panthro’s daughter.”