

Strange Bedfellows by hafedor
Chapter 15

The banquet was soon underway. Commander Hawkins, and his crew, plus many Alliance ships had arrived on Arus to attend. Sven, Romelle, and Bador also attended. Zarkon would not dare attack with such a heavy presence from Galaxy Garrison. Everyone was having a wonderful time. Nanny even made her famous raspberry tarts.

“A toast!”, said Commander Hawkins, “To our new alliance with Queen Merla. May it bring us closer to universal peace!”

“It is an honor to be the newest member of Galaxy Garrison!”, Responded the Queen, “May many in the Drule Empire follow my lead!”

Allura observed the festivities. She smiled as she saw everyone having a good time. Yet she didn’t feel as though she was part of it. It was as if she were a ghost watching over her loved ones, and protecting them. It was as if she were her father.

Lance and Merla were talking near the dessert table. She hadn’t really tried many human delicacies. She didn’t know where to start.

“Look the last raspberry tart.”, said Lance handing it to her, “I’m surprised Hunk didn’t eat them all.”

“Speaking of Hunk..”, she began, “What did he mean by that rag comment?”

“Well...uh.”, he said turning bright red. He then whispered it in her ear. He could tell by the look on her face that she was mortified.

“Oh boy! Oh boy!”, said Hunk running towards the dessert table, “Nanny’s raspberry tarts, ah damn. Who ate them all?”

“Here!”, said Merla, “Have mine!” And with that she smashed her tart right into Hunk’s face. Lance and Merla both laughed, and music began to play. Everyone started dancing.

Lance and Merla soon began to dance. They held each other tight. It was if some sort of force field was keeping them together. Merla soon began crying.

“What’s wrong?”, asked Lance.

“I don’t want this to end.”, she started, “But I know I have to go back to my world soon, and you must remain here. I would hold you forever if I could.”

“We’ll visit each other.”, he told her, “Besides, this war won’t go on forever. It will eventually end.”

“But it might last longer than our own lifetimes.”, she responded, “I can’t stand the thought of being without you.”

“Well then we’ll be like Lance-O-Lot, and Guinevere, for now.”, he said Lance, “We’ll have one of the most romantic long distance relationships in history. Besides, I don’t plan on flying red lion when I’m eighty. Eventually I will move on from that. Maybe I can get transferred. I promise, we won’t have to wait as long as you think. We will be together.”

She smiled at him, and he kissed her. They were so different, yet their love seemed so right.

Keith watched Sven dance with Romelle, and Lance dance with Merla. If these two commoners could be with women of royalty, why couldn’t he?

“May I have this dance?”, he asked Allura. She smiled at him.

“I thought you’d never ask.”, she responded. She gave him her hand, and he held her to him.

She rested her head on his shoulder. She had never felt so warm and safe. How she loved him, but she was always afraid to tell him so. She had suffered so much in her life, heartache was something she couldn’t bare.

She lifted her head, and then they looked into each other’s eyes. It was as if no one else was there. They were alone together in a crowd.

“Allura I...”, Keith began.

“Princess!”, said Coran, “There you are. I’ve been looking all over for you. You are neglecting your diplomatic duties. You need to meet with many of the ambassadors from Galaxy Garrison.”

“But Coran...”, she began.

“Please your highness, it’s important.”, he responded, “Queen Merla’s planet is in Drule space, and needs to be protected. The Galaxy Alliance is trying to come up with a way that can protect her, and the alliance. As an ambassador of Arus, you must be in on the discussion.”

“Very well, Coran.”, she responded, “I must do my duties for the good of the alliance.” Coran then walked away.

“I have to go, I’m needed.”, she told Keith, “But please, tell me what you were going to say.”

“I...I’m glad you’re feeling better.”, he told her.

“Oh.”, she said while trying to hide her disappointment, “Thank you.” She then smiled, and gave him a peck on the cheek. He then watched her walk away.

“Someday, Allura.”, he thought, “Someday.”

“Then it’s settled.”, announced Commander Hawkins, “The alliance with build a base on the nearest moon orbiting Queen Merla’s Planet. Not only will it offer her protection, but it will give the alliance the tactical advantage we’ve been looking for.”

Everyone soon began leaving the conference area. Merla followed Allura.

“I believe this is your’s.”, said Merla while handing the blue lion’s key back to Allura, “I have to admit, I hate giving it back.”

“Thank you”, said Allura with a smile.

“I..I’m sorry that I once tried to hurt you.”, she told her, “That was a different person. Actually, when I said it was too bad we couldn’t be friends, I did mean it.”

“I’ve always known you were a good person.”, she told her, “You just needed to find that out for yourself. Besides, I was raised to believe that anyone who truly wants forgiveness deserves it. I wish you happiness Merla. Especially with Lance.”

“Thank you.”, said Merla. They then hugged each other.

“Whoa! Can I get in on that ?”, asked Lance. He had been spying the whole time.

“Dream on!”, said Allura. She then left them alone. It was time for them to say goodbye.

“So, are you going to be well protected?”, asked Lance.

“Are you kidding?”, she told him, “My planet will have almost as much protection as Earth. Guess this means I have to let men back on my world.”

“As long as you don’t get tempted by them.”, he told her while smiling.

“Never.”, she said while smiling back. She then threw her arms around him, and gave him a passionate kiss. He took her hand, and walked with her towards Commander Hawkins’s ship.

“It was nice of him to give you a ride.”, said Lance.

“Well, it gives me the opportunity to work out the details on the new base.”, she told him, “Besides, my star cutter was destroyed on the fake Doom planet. I don’t have another way home.”

“I could have flown you.”, he told her.

“I know.”, she said, “But we both know that you, and red lion are needed here.” They stared into each other’s eyes, and kissed passionately. They were going to make it last as long as possible.

“Uh hum.”, coughed Commander Hawkins, “Your majesty, It’s time to go!” he informed them.

“Damn!”, they both said at the same time. As she walked towards the ship, they slowly released their grip from one another.

“Merla!”, shouted Lance, “Make sure your cabin is suitable as soon as you get on board. Commander Hawkins’s can be a cheap ass!” She smile back at him, but was puzzled. Commander Hawkins’s just gave him a dirty look. Lance responded by giving him a salute. Commander Hawkins looked back at him to let him know he’d be keeping an eye on him.

Merla then made her way to her cabin. She noticed a blue rose, and a note on her bed. She couldn’t wait to read it.

To my Guinevere:

A beautiful blue flower, for my beautiful blue flower. Though war and space may keep us apart, we shall always be together. Until a time when we are reunited forever, you will always be in my heart.

My eternal love,

Sir Lance-O-Lot

Tears swelled in her eyes, as she held the rose and the note close to her heart. For the first time in her life she was happy. For the first time she knew love.