

Checkmate by Lady Magdalena
Chapter 7: Captured!

Author's notes:

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Story is based loosely on "The Law According to Love" By Adele & Moira

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I once told the Voltron Force that I did not care for war and violence because someone always ended up being hurt. Seeing my husband lying in that infirmary bed and not knowing the outcome brought those old feelings back to the surface. But a certain Yellow Lion Knight had taught me differently and I knew I had to be strong for him.

- Maryann Asguard as quoted in Princess Allura Juldea's book We Didn't Start the Fire: The Real History of the Doom Wars

Chapter 7 - **Captured!**

The hum of the life support machines filled the infirmary. Maryann sat silently by the bed, her head

resting on her arms as Hunk remained unconscious with only the machines keeping him alive. Dr. Gorma had informed her that he was in a coma and could be for days or even years. Hunk had taken the hardest hit from the electric shock which practically shut his body down completely. If the rescue teams had gotten there much later it might have been too late. Lance and Pidge had been cleared for duty and released by Dr. Gorma shortly after regaining consciousness. Outside the infirmary she could hear footsteps coming down the hall and the voices of the Voltron Force were just loud enough for her to hear.

"Dr. Gorma, what is Hunk's prognosis?" Keith asked.

"It's too early to tell commander. He's breathing with the help of the life support for now. We've stabilized his internal injuries, but it's just too soon to tell. He could be in a coma for days. Then again he may never come out of it. I wish I had more to tell you." The aging castle physician let out a deep sigh and looked over to Allura. "Your highness, as soon as I have an update, I will let you know." Tears filled the Princess' Sapphire eyes.

"Can we at least see him?" Lance inquired.

Gorma nodded yes. "But not for too long. I have only allowed Maryann to stay with him indefinitely. The rest of you have only 15 minutes. If you will excuse me."

"I'm goin in there." Lance left the group and entered the room. Pidge and Chip followed him.

As Gorma walked away, Allura covered her face with her hands. It was her fault that Hunk was lying

there motionless. He...all of them... were always ready to give their lives at a minute's notice.

Pulling Allura close to him Keith held her and kissed the top of her head. Sure he might be breaking some stupid Arusian Law but he didn't care right now. "It wasn't your fault."

Allura pushed away from him. "Damn it Keith! You're wrong! It is my fault. Hunk, Pidge and Lance were trying to protect me! If it wasn't for me Hunk wouldn't be lying there! My god Keith! Think about it. Maryann and Hunk have barely been married six months. And now he's lying there motionless and may never wake up again. You and I both know how hard it was for her to put aside her feeling about war and violence to come and be with us here in the castle. I wouldn't blame her if she hated me for the rest of her life!"

"I think you're wrong Princess. But the only way to find out will be to go in there." Keith's reassured the future Queen of Arus as he held the door to Hunk's room open.

Allura hesitated.

Without turning around to face them Maryann spoke. "Please Princess. Hunk needs you and the rest of ***our family*** now more than ever."

Allura was dumbfounded. Those were the last words she expected hear from Maryann. *Family*. "I'm sorry." Was all she managed to say.

Maryann rose from Hunk's bedside and exchanged places with Keith. "You mustn't blame yourself

Allura. When I moved back to Arus I knew what I was getting into. And when Hunk proposed I accepted knowing full well that someday I might have to face this. Every pilot's wife does."

"But..."

Maryann would not allow the Princess to finish her statement. "No buts. Hunk considers all of you his family. I know he would not hear of any talk like this. You have to promise me...no promise him that you will stop blaming yourself for his injuries."

Allura nodded. "I promise."

"Good." Maryann pulled her friend into a hug and the two of them walked back to Hunk's bedside.

"Fifteen minutes sure went by fast." Pidge said to his brother Chip as they, along with Keith, Lance and Allura walked back from the infirmary to the lounge.

"You're telling me. Our Voltron only carries five minutes of stored solar energy and those five minutes never seem to pass that fast when we had to battle one of Hazar's Robeasts. I'm sure glad we only form our Voltron nowadays to keep in practice. After all, Hazar and Dorma are on our side."

"I still think they're playing you guys. I mean, look at King Zarkon. ***The Peacemaker.***" Lance made sure to put the phrase peacemaker in quotes. "He sure put one over on Garrison and Amalgamus. I didn't trust

him from the start.”

“None of us did.” Keith commented.

“Well, I for one know that Hazar and Dorma are the good guys. The new Planet Drule joined the Galaxy Alliance” Chip proudly stated. “In fact, Hazar and Dorma attended the state dinner last week on Earth as the Ambassadors from Planet Drule.”

A brother and sister serving as Ambassadors together? Sounds a little kinky if you ask me.” Lance snickered.

“Lance!” Allura exclaimed at his insinuation.

“That’s enough.” Keith wanted this conversation to take a different turn and fast. He soon got his wish.

“Speaking of State dinners and Ambassadors, where are Lisa and Jeff?” Allura inquired.

“Jeff got really livid at Lisa for going into the battle with you guys and as soon as she landed he pulled rank on her and told her that they would be meeting privately to discuss the matter.” Chip replied.

“So where is that scumbag Prince Zordar? I still say he’s trouble.” Lance stuffed his hands into his pants pockets.

“Lance, he’s not a scumbag.” Allura replied. “An as Nanny would say, need I remind you of your manners

while he is a guest in the castle.”

Laughter broke out amongst the group as Allura did her best imitation of her governess.

“Coran informed me that he was safely taken to the shelter and is currently in his assigned quarters until dinner is served.” Keith looked at the watch on his wrist.

Allura thought about what Maryann had said about everyone being family. Chips comment about Jeff being livid with Lisa after the battle was also bothering her. “Guys, if you don’t mind, I’d like to go check on Lisa. I have a feeling she could also use someone to talk to right about now.”

“I agree.” Keith returned to his commander mode. “Lance, take Pidge and Chip down to the maintenance bay and check on the Lions. I’m going to check in with Coran in Castle Control.”

Back in the Lisa’s room another scene was unfolding, this one not so pleasant.

“Damn it Lisa....Just what the hell were you thinking???” Jeff yelled.

“The gunners were outnumbered! Hunk, Lance and Pidge were out of commission! Allura and Keith were in trouble! Considering they couldn’t form Voltron there was only one way to stop that thing! What the hell do you think I was doing!” Lisa screamed as she turned her back to her commander.

Jeff's hands balled up into fists. He hated arguing with Lisa. "I ordered you to stand down and stay with Maryann."

Lisa's skirts swished as she quickly turned back to face him. "I'm a soldier Jeff. I just can't sit back and not do anything." *Why are you being so unreasonable about this?*

Jeff threw up his hands in disgust. "**LISA**" His voice punctuating her name. "We've had this discussion before. You know **WHY** you were ordered to stand down."

"Why must you keep bringing it up?"

"Because you're stubborn. That's why. We'll talk more about this later." Jeff placed both his hands upon Lisa's shoulders. "I was asked to accompany and protect you. I have my orders. And you have yours **Lieutenant.**" This time he disregarded her formal title for her military one. Jeff moved his right hand from her shoulder and picked up Lisa's chin with his index finger. "Look, I have to check in with Hawkins and Paige to explain to them your little stunt. Especially after you mentioned that burning sensation in your left arm. I'll be back in a bit to escort you to dinner. Ok?"

Looking into Jeff's deep dark brown eyes always made Lisa's heart flutter. "Yes sir." Unconsciously she came to attention and saluted him. Old habits die hard.

"Good." Jeff walked out the door nearly colliding with Allura. "Princess! I'm terribly sorry. My mind isn't where it should be."

The sound of something breaking could be heard inside Lisa's stateroom. A concerned look crossed Allura's face. "Jeff, is everything all right? Was Lisa hurt?"

"No your highness. Nothing like that at all. If you will excuse me, I need to check in with Commander Hawkins."

Allura smiled. "Go right ahead. I was just on my way to see Lisa."

"I'm sure she could use a friend right about now. I was a little hard on her." Jeff bowed and took his leave of the Princess of Arus.

I know all too well how that feels. Allura thought as she knocked on the door to Lisa's room. "Lisa? It's Allura. May I come in?"

Wiping the tears from her eyes Lisa opened the door. "Please come in."

It was evident from the puffy red eyes and the ruined makeup that Lisa had been crying. Only yesterday she too, the Princess of Arus had been sitting in her own room crying. Allura suspected Lisa had been crying for the same, if not similar reasons. "Would you like to talk about it?"

"I really shouldn't trouble you with personal matters Princess. First of all it's not very becoming of an Ambassador." Lisa rubbed the back of her hands across her still wet cheeks.

Allura took Lisa's hands in her own. "I understand how it feels when your commanding officer comes

down on you really hard. Keith does it to all of us. But a lot of times, I do it to myself.”

A slight smile escaped Lisa’s face.

“I have the perfect Idea. Let’s go to the Castle Gardens. I often find solitude there.”

Lisa thought for a moment. “I...I guess Jeff won’t mind as long as I’m with you.”

“Your gardens ***ARE beautiful.***” Lisa commented as the two girls walked gardens back towards the entrance to the castle. They had just past the pond that was the centerpiece of the royal gardens. Lisa took a deep breath inhaling the evening air. “I can understand why you find solitude here.”

“I come out here many nights when I am unable to rest. I’ve been doing it since Keith and the rest of the boys first on Arus.” Allura hesitated as she momentarily thought back to those early days of the war with Doom.

“I wish we had a garden like this on the Explorer. I bet if we could grow some decent herbs and spices Sammy’s cooking wouldn’t give us all the runs.” Lisa covered her mouth to stifle her laugh. Allura tried not to laugh at the comment but quickly joined in.

“Halt!” The two girls could hear the guards say to approaching footsteps.

"I seek Princess Allura and the Ambassador." The voice said. It clearly belonged to Prince Zordar.

Allura looked at Lisa who simply nodded yes in acknowledgment.

"Are you sure?" Allura whispered. "He's been pretty hostile towards you since the moment he got here."

"Yes." Lisa replied with a chuckle. "He has no idea what I really do for a living." An evil grin appeared on her face.

"Guards, you may allow Prince Zordar to pass." Allura spoke with authority, waving her hands as she and Lisa came in full view of the entrance to the Gardens.

Zordar huffed as he and his entourage passed the guards and approached the two women. Bowing before the Princess he took Allura's hand in his own, kissed it and once again looked into her deep sapphire eyes. "My most humble apologies for my rude behavior yesterday morning. I understand that you were almost taken captive by that horrible creature that was unleashed upon these lovely lands."

Allura was beginning to think about what Lance had said earlier about Zordar reminding him of Bocar. She managed to get her hand free and waved his attention to Lisa. "That would have been the case were it not for the Ambassador. For it was her piloting and marksmanship that rid us of the Robeast that Prince Lotor sent."

Zordar raised his eyebrow. He had found what he was seeking. Inching himself closer he asked "Oh? And

where did you learn your skills Space Explorer?”

Underneath her skirts Lisa shifted from one foot to the other. This so called Prince was beginning to ask questions that were getting a bit on the personal side. The last thing he needed to find out was her ties to Earth’s Voltron Force. “If you recall **Prince Zordar**, my planet is a member of the Galaxy Alliance. I have friends that were kind enough to teach me.”

Space Explorer. The term hit Allura like a rock. *That was no Prince!* “Run Lisa! He’s not Zordar! That’s Witch Haggar!”

But there was nowhere to run. As the three had been conversing Haggar, in the disguise of Prince Zordar, as well as members of the Prince’s entourage, had strategically surrounded the girls. Allura reached for her blaster only to realize that she, like Lisa, was in a dress and unarmed.

Haggar shook her head and cackled as only a witch could. “Tisk. Tisk. Princess Allura. You know what they say when you assume.”

Lance had observed Allura and Lisa heading towards the gardens and his sixth sense had led him to follow them where he had remained discreetly out of sight. “Keith!” He yelled into his wrist com “Zordar’s a fake! It’s Haggar in disguise! The girls are in trouble!”

“I’m on my way!” Keith’s voice responded.

“Princess Allura and the Ambassador are not the only ones in trouble now are they?” Two of Zordar’s

entourage poked the Red Lion Knight with their walking staffs which had been cleverly disguised weapons and motioned him forward to where the others stood. Two more men restrained him.

The three Voltron force members watched in horror as Prince Zordar and Witch Haggar ceased to be one person and separated into their respective identities, each taking one of the girls while holding a knife to their throats.

“What the hell?” This was almost the same shit Haggar had pulled with Sven years ago and from what Keith had told him quite similar to what she did to Allura back in the dream dimension.

“It’s rather simple Lieutenant Makdowall.” Haggar cackled. “I’m taking the Princess and the Ambassador and there is nothing you can do to stop me. You can’t form Voltron with only three lions now can you?”

The harder Lance tried to wrestle himself free, the tighter the grip restraining him became.

“Princess!” Keith yelled as he arrived on the scene drawing his weapon.

“Keith no!” Allura pleaded with him. “There are too many lives at stake here.”

“Listen to your **girlfriend** Commander Bartley.” Haggar tightened her grip on Allura. “Drop your weapon and have your guards do the same. Otherwise the Princess dies.” Haggar pushed the blade closer. Allura could now feel the cold steel against her bare skin.

“Please Keith. Remember your promise to me.” Allura spoke with a calm, soft voice.

Keith's hand trembled as he slowly dropped the weapon growling in the process. "You won't get away with this."

"Ah...to the contrary..." Zordar butted in, "I believe we already have." With his free hand he tapped the lapel pin on his sash. "Zordar to the Valdez. We are ready to return to the ship."

Lotor's voice could be heard on the other end of the channel. "And do you have my present?"

"Yes milord. And a little something extra too." Zordar smirked and signaled to one of doom's soldiers.

A flash of smoke surrounded everyone. Lance was thrown back and fell right on top of Keith. By the time the smoke cleared Haggar, Zordar were gone having taken the Princess and the Ambassador with them.

Jeff came running followed by Pidge and Chip. "Where are they Keith? What has happened to them?"

Jeff inquired loudly.

Standing up and brushing himself off, Keith looked at his Terran counterpart. "We don't know Jeff.

Haggar has both Lisa and Allura."

"HAGGAR HAS WHAT!" Jeff screamed charging Keith and raising a hand to punch him.

Lance grabbed a hold of Jeff wishing that Hunk were here to help him restrain Jeff. Pidge and Chip together didn't have the strength that Hunk did. "Back off Jeff." Lance advised.

"Haggar and Prince Zordar took the Princess and Lisa." Keith bowed his head in disgrace as his hands balled into fists. *Damn you Lotor. You won't give up until she's yours or I'm dead and buried.*

"We gotta go get Li...them." Jeff corrected himself.

"Jeff," Keith tried to reason with his friend. "We don't even know where Lotor took them. I understand your concern for Lisa. Allura is more than just the Princess of Arus to us. She's our friend and our teammate just like Lisa is your Voltron Force. Lisa is a trained Garrison Soldier. She won't go down without a fight and she'll probably try to protect the Princess at all costs."

Jeff shook his head no. How could he explain this without making a scene? "Lisa can't take on Lotor or anyone else by herself. Not right now."

"What are you talking about?" Keith looked at Jeff strangely. He wasn't making any sense at all. "She's a trained Garrison soldier. We all learned hand to hand combat and survival skills at the academy."

Jeff's anger at Keith's denseness overwhelmed him. Breaking free from his friends he tackled the Black Lion Knight knocking him to the ground. This time the Castle Guards arrived and pulled him off their Commander in Chief allowing Keith to catch his breath. Jeff balled his hands into fists. "Damn it Keith! You just don't get it! **LISA'S PREGNANT AND SHE'S MY WIFE!**"