

The Curse of the Third Eye by Lionora
Chapter 17: Dream Ball

After a whole day of following orders and seeing them through, Commander Cossack entered his quarters completely exhausted. He had seen enough torture, manhandling and abuse to last him for a long time. But what saddened him most was that a great portion of those mistreatments came from his prince whom he barely recognized anymore. It was like he was another person; another extension of King Zarkon...He was almost convinced that the witch had brainwashed him to behave like his father. With those troubling thoughts he went to his bathroom to bathe and change his clothes to go to bed.

After he finished, he lied down on his bed with his hands behind his head while he kept staring at the ceiling. The latest events had made him feel undecided upon his future. He had considered to stay with Prince Lotor and protect him as he had promised, but today he had seen Lotor exceed himself killing a young soldier for some insignificant mistake. His abusive behavior had gotten so much worst. Cossack witnessed how the Prince had approved and even participated in the latest executions and abuses started by King Zarkon. But what made Cossack really shiver was the way Prince Lotor had been abusing of his father's slaves. He knew that Prince Lotor had his sexual adventures in the Drule Empire, but he had always been very discreet about them. Now he seemed completely out of control, boasting his indiscretions to anybody without any remorse. It was like he had no conscience anymore. Cossack had to make a prompt decision to leave or to stay in Doom. He felt that he was tired and that he had seen enough.

So Cossack stood up from the bed and walked to his desk to turn on his comp; he decided to enter the empire's intergalactic net. He wanted to seek for a new military job that would allow him to transfer

back to the empire. There was no point on staying at Doom anymore. When he entered to his browsing page, he noticed that he had an encrypted message awaiting for his reading. That was odd. The only person who would always send him that type of message was Prince Lotor and it was only when they were at a secret mission and there was a matter of life and death. Besides, Prince Lotor had spent all day with him, why would he send him an encrypted message? He could've just told him...wouldn't he?

Well, he decided to check the message and to open it he had to put the secret code. He entered: Queen Lenora.

The message immediately decrypted and it read as follows:

"This message is addressed to Commander Cossack of Doom. Please do not tell anyone about the reception of this message. It is completely confidential. This is regarding the visions that Prince Lotor was having when he saved your life. It is called the Third Eye Curse. Witch Haggar used that curse to take a hold on Prince Lotor's body. Do not trust him at all. It is not Prince Lotor. The real Prince Lotor is trapped. You need to seek a person who knows magic to help him break the curse so he can be free again. Please be discreet about this just like you were told. Do this as soon as possible. Prince Lotor's life depends on it."

Commander Cossack was in shock. He shook his head and decided to find out who the remittent had been, but because the message was encrypted and the culprit did not identify him or herself, he couldn't find out who sent it.

He read the message many times before it self destroyed. He recalled the conversation he had with

Prince Lotor when they were planning the attack on Arus. The visions that Prince Lotor had told him about...Cossack had promised him that he would seek a magic person to help him deal with it. If this message was true it meant that the gypsy pirate did indeed curse the prince before dying.. If it was true that Witch Haggar had found about that curse, then his suspicions had been correct, she could have brainwashed the Prince somehow. That would explain the strange behavior in Prince Lotor. And boy... had he changed...Cossack thought that the witch being so powerful could have done anything to the prince. That was why Lotor seemed so close to her now. It all made perfect sense now.

But who could've sent that message? The only one that could've known the code and the whole situation would be Prince Lotor. Maybe even trapped he had found a way to send this encrypted message, the prince was very resourceful. Cossack sat still for a while in front of his monitor. He shook his head. He decided that it didn't matter who sent the message. He would have to find out what was happening as soon as possible...and he knew exactly what he had to do...

Prince Lotor was staring at the darkness. He had grown tired of spying through the crystal and watching how Masserath had entered his father's harem once more. But this time, he took Princess Romelle to satisfy his unending lust. Lotor got extremely mad at Masserath's continuing teasing comments about what he was doing to Romelle and how much she resembled Princess Allura. Prince Lotor could hear Princess Romelle's futile pleas for mercy while Lotor/Masserath had his way with her time and time again. Prince Lotor stopped watching and listening, but mostly it was because he was waiting for Masserath to fall asleep. Masserath had been drinking again so soon the effects of the wine and the

extreme exercise took its toll on Masserath and he fell asleep.

As soon as the crystal went completely dark, Prince Lotor stood up looking at it. He was so hopeful that a glitter of light would appear somehow. Oh, how much he wanted to see Allura again. Then suddenly his hope raised when he saw the crystal shining again. He rapidly looked through it and he saw what seemed like a hall with a lot of people, all humans, dressed elegantly. Many were dancing; others were talking and laughing. It seemed like a beautiful ball. He wondered if this was a memory of hers or just a hopeful thought.

He still couldn't locate her among the people from the outside of the crystal, so he tried to get into the dream without any help. He wanted so badly to get out of that darkness. Fortunately the crystal expanded like a window so he could manage to enter the party and walk freely between the dancers and partygoers. No one seemed to notice he was there. So he walked some distance looking everywhere. Then he saw her. She was dressed in a beautiful light pink gown; with her crown on her head. She was absolutely stunning. She was talking to an older man. The face of that man seemed so familiar.

Yes, he was sure he had seen that man before. He recognized him as the man with the light brown hair and the crown upon his head that had appeared in the Voltron recordings and then on Arus. He stood there watching them talking. Suddenly Allura, looked at him startled and said:

"Prince Lotor! You're here..."

The man with the crown turned to look at him too and didn't seem surprised. Prince Lotor was startled

that the man could see him while the other partygoers could not. But then again, he had already had experiences with specters and how they seemed to acknowledge his presence everywhere he went. So Prince Lotor approached them both and said: "Princess Allura..." Allura promptly made the introduction:

"Prince Lotor...this is my father King Alfor"

King Alfor looked at Prince Lotor and said: "I have seen you before." Prince Lotor gasped that King Alfor would take the initiative of commenting about their previous encounters so he answered:

"Yes, I recall seeing you, your highness. Many times... Indirectly, you gave me the idea of falling back from Arus".

Allura looked incredulously at Lotor: "You've seen my father before?"

Lotor answered to her: "Yes, the day I met you, he was there in the castle and he talked to me." Allura assumed it was because of his visions.

King Alfor told him: "You did well that day...you protected my daughter. I thank you for that."

Lotor answered: "I just had to do it..."

King Alfor smiled and said nodding: "I know. And I also must tell you that the message was received. Help will come soon." he then turned to his daughter and told her: "I have to go now, Allura. But I will see you soon. Just don't be afraid about trusting these dreams. Remember that I am with you always".

And with this last remark, the image of King Alfor disappeared.

Allura just said: "Father...please don't go" But her father didn't come back. Then her smile turned into a sad grimace.

Lotor was looking unto the place where King Alfor had just been; he was mentally interpreting what King Alfor had just told him and then he started to smile. He rapidly looked at Allura and asked her:

"Princess...did you send the message to my commander?"

She looked at him and said: "Yes, I did." Then Prince Lotor grinned and told her:

"Did you just hear what your father said? The message was received...Cossack must've read it."

Allura looked at him with eyes open wide and then slightly smiled:

"I sent it because, I found out that the Pollux attack was true".

"I told you it was true, everything I have told you is completely true...Thank you for believing me". The prince said relieved.

"Actually I didn't believe it much, I'm sorry, it just sounded too weird..." she shrugged. "I did it just to see if it would work".

Lotor shook his head, "That does not matter anymore...the important thing is that the message is out, and someone listened".

"Yes, I really hope that you get to be free again..."she said looking at his big yellow eyes. Even if he was slightly smiling, he still seemed so sad.

He slightly frowned and told her: "Princess, I need you to listen to me very careful for I must warn you, that the attack on Arus will commence in three days from now. Witch Haggar transformed Prince Avok of Pollux into a robeast. He is very powerful and he is an excellent swordsman. There will be a simultaneous attack to your castle, but I believe that if you are ready, when they come, you might have a chance to defeat them. The robeast has a weakness that if Voltron attacks it right there, Voltron will defeat it in practically no time."

She listened to him carefully so that she would remember all of his information. He also explained that the attack from Doom, depended mostly on the element of surprise. So if they were ready, Doom's defeat was a sure guarantee. Then she asked him:

"Don't you feel bad telling me all about this?"

He looked at her quizzically and answered: "How could I? You have no idea of all the evil things that they are planning to do. My father wants to you to be his sex slave and he promised to give you to Masserath too. They are planning on sharing you". Lotor shook his head, "I can not let them touch you."

She shivered when she heard King Zarkon's plans with her. But then she got closer to Prince Lotor and

asked the question she was dying to ask him: "Why? Why did you protect me from your father the first time you attacked Arus?"

He slightly frowned and looked down shaking slightly his head: "I cannot tell you now...but just know this, that I will never let my father harm you while I am alive."

She gasped disappointedly and asked: "Will you ever tell me?"

He looked at her intriguingly and told her: "Of course you will know...I give you my word that I will tell you when the time is right and hopefully when I am free again".

He then took her hands and they both gasped at how soft their touch felt.

She said: "You're hands feel so soft."

He nodded: "Yes, I wonder why this happens in dreams".

She laughed looking at his eyes: "So many weird things happen in dreams."

He gazed deeply into her blue eyes and asked: "Would you dance with me Princess Allura?"

She kept smiling and answered: "I thought you'd never ask".

He then put one hand on her waist while she put one hand on his shoulder and then they started to

waltz through the hall. The partygoers where like distant hazes still present but ignoring them completely while they looked at each other's eyes and felt their bodies circling around in gracious dance movements that made them feel like time had stood still.

They didn't know how much time they would have to share such a wonderful moment but they felt a spiritual connection that transcended time and space to make this instant a special memory for them. They both just wanted to stay there dancing, far from harm, from pain and loneliness. Was this the prince that she had been waiting for? He certainly wasn't perfect, but who was perfect after all? He just wanted this moment to last forever. Only inside her mind he could feel so free and peaceful after all the suffering that he had endured.

They were still dancing when she felt her dream slowly fading away. She tried to hold on to him with all her might but all she could helplessly see was the pain reflected in his eyes as he was being dragged away into the darkness again.

When she woke up she had tears in her eyes while her heart was starting to break.