

The Curse of the Third Eye by Lionora
Chapter 22: The Arus Raid

The day of the expected attack had arrived. Keith had ordered the Voltron Force to launch the lions. There were still no signs of enemy ships or robeasts. But they were ready nevertheless. The team had been feeling restless for a while, so Lance asked:

"Keith, are you sure that Doom is coming today?"

"Lance, we can never be a hundred percent sure, but it's good to be ready even if nothing does really happen. We're not taking chances this time," Keith answered assuredly.

Then Hunk commented, "I have Lance's same uneasiness, I still don't understand how could you know that Doom is coming precisely today."

Keith answered, "Listen guys, let's just say that we have help from other sources".

When Allura heard Keith's words she slightly smiled. Keith didn't say anything about her dreams and she was grateful for that. If the warning was for naught then she would have made a fool of herself in front of only Keith and Coran; not the whole team.

Then Pidge said, "Hey guys, my radar is picking something..."

Then Coran's voice sounded through their lion pits: "Voltron Force, the castle's radar is registering

unidentified vessels approaching fast to the castle..."

Allura was startled but in part she was alleviated that the warning seemed to turn out to be true. The other Voltron team members gasped in astonishment with Coran's announcement.

Keith said: "Well Coran, does it seem that our leak was right?"

Coran said assuredly: "I would say so Keith, the radar's detecting a coffin shaped vessel, you should be ready for an impending robeast attack".

Keith barked: "OK team, you heard Coran, let's get ready to form Voltron".

Witch Haggar and Lotor/Masserath were at the flagship watching through the ship's monitor how the coffin shaped ship landed and opened to reveal Prince Avok's robeast form get ready to start it's rampage.

But what they expected to be a surprise attack to Arus, turned out to be a surprise defensive attack towards their robeast. Voltron was ready and expecting them when the robeast was just getting out of it's confinement.

"What is this? Were they expecting us?" screamed Prince Lotor/Masserath at Haggar. "How did they know we were coming?"

Witch Haggar was shaking her head: "I have no idea, your highness...unless we have a spy who spilled the information."

Even with the obvious disappointment, Lotor/Masserath managed to say: "It does not matter, we will demolish them anyway".

Prince Lotor chuckled as he watched what was happening through the crystal and said: "The plan's not going your way... Is it Masserath?" Masserath answered: "Shut up nuisance!"

Prince Lotor/ Masserath screamed: "Commander Cossack, start the attack to the castle!"

"Yes, your highness," sounded Cossack's voice through the ship's communicators.

The robeast was very powerful indeed, and Voltron had to unsheathe it's blazing sword almost immediately to counter attack Prince Avok's fearsome blade.

Princess Allura told Keith: "Remember Keith, the robeast is the prince of Pollux and he is a great swordsman."

"Don't worry princess, we'll follow this battle just as we planned. Let's go team!," responded a very concentrated Keith.

Prince Avok was a formidable fighter. The Voltron force had to go through a hard time using their

defensive tactics.

The castle was also under heavy attack by Doom's fleet of robot ships commanded by Cossack. But Arus' defenses were holding on quite successfully thanks to the effort of all the personnel in and outside the castle. Fortunately for Arus, in this attack there hadn't been a great number of robot fighters like the last time Prince Lotor had attacked. Witch Haggar's plan was forged upon the success of this battle depending mostly on the victory of Prince Avok. Prince Lotor/Masserath was not happy with the outcome of this fight so far. He was furious that Voltron was still standing and very much holding a great defense against Prince Avok.

"Listen team, it's time we end this battle, we aim now to the robeast's weak spot" said Keith with certainty.

"How do you know the robot's weak spot?" asked Lance.

"Just don't ask and do as I say!" said Keith.

"Aim at it, Lance!" said Allura.

"Oh well, here goes nothing", Lance was still unsure but did as he was told.

Suddenly, the unthinkable happened for the Doom forces. Haggar and Lotor/Masserath watched as Voltron aimed a well certain blow to Avok's weak spot.

"NO!" screamed Haggar and Masserath at the same time. They both watched in shock as the robeast plunged defeated to the lake and disappeared underneath the surface of the water.

"How did they know about the robeast's weak spot?" Lotor/Masserath yelled. "We definitely have a traitor in our midsts! And when I find out who it is..." Lotor/Masserath was making fists and gritting his teeth in anger.

The Voltron Force started yelling in delight as they watched their defeated foe plunge into the lake.

Then Voltron went to give a hand at the battle being withheld at the castle while the doomite fighters had to retreat from their attack. To Cossack this was a very strange experience. It was the first time that he had gone through defeat while at the orders of Prince Lotor. Even though he knew that this was not really his royal ruler it was still an alien feeling not to withhold a victory the same way he had been experiencing for the last seven years. He knew that if Prince Lotor would have been in front of this attack the outcome would have been very different.

Prince Lotor started mocking and laughing at Masserath: "So you thought you had a great plan, did you? You are such a fool"

Lotor/Masserath was eerily silent and had a furious frown and then without even looking, he suddenly grabbed the neck of the officer that was at his right side. He didn't let go of the officer's neck until he felt the bones snap in his hands. The personnel at the ship's bridge watched in horror as the lifeless body of the officer fell to the floor while Lotor/Masserath stood from his chair to where Witch Haggar was shaking her head incredulously watching the monitor. Then she turned to look at where

Lotor/Masserath was approaching her but it was too late to react when she felt a blow to her face that made her fall to the floor.

"You incompetent slut! How you dare make me look like a fool?" Lotor/Masserath spat at her. "Your magic is worthless...just like you. Now I have to recur to other measures to defeat Voltron. My victory will not be denied..."

Then Lotor/Masserath turned and left the bridge. Everyone was looking at her. Witch Haggard touched her cheek in pain while she licked the blood from her lip and watched Lotor/Masserath leave with a determined and ireful pace. Even with the pain of her cheek and her defeat, she wondered what he meant when he said that he would use other measures to defeat Voltron. So she stood up and ordered the retreat.

The Voltron Force watched with rejoice as the Doom forces were retreating from Arus's atmosphere.

"And don't come back!" screamed Hunk. The other members of the Voltron force were laughing hard.

"Hey Keith, you really have to tell me how did you know about this attack, the robeast's weak spot and all of that" Lance asked again.

Keith laughed and said: "I'm not allowed to tell you"

Pidge added: "Oh, I know...it must be that we have a spy that you don't want us to know about".

"Well..." Keith started. And Allura interrupted:

"Guys, if you behave, I will tell you what really happened..." Allura sounded alleviated.

Pidge asked: "You know what happened princess?"

"Yes... I was the one who told Keith about the attack" Princess Allura added with certainty.

"What?" "Huh?" the rest of the team gasped at her words.

King Zarkon's face appeared at the ship's monitor.

"Well Haggar, have you and Lotor defeated Voltron?" he asked anxiously.

"Well sire, we might have encountered a mishap..." she said timidly.

"What? A mishap? What are you talking about?" King Zarkon shook his head with disappointment.

"The Voltron Force was expecting us..." she added.

"Are you telling me that we had a leak?" King's Zarkon's eyes were wide with incredulity. He couldn't accept that such a secret mission would have been discovered so fast and easy.

"It would seem so, sire" Haggar lowered her face.

King Zarkon hit his desk with his closed fist and yelled: "Find me the traitor and bring him to me, I will rip his heart out with my own claws! Where is Prince Lotor?"

"I don't know sire, he just left after the robeast was defeated by Voltron" she finally said.

"So the robeast was defeated, huh? And you assured me that he was invincible...! And Lotor...that pussy ran as soon as he failed," King Zarkon narrowed his eyes toward her.

Haggar promptly added: "Sire, I believe that this is not over yet..."

"What do you mean? That stupid robeast couldn't take Voltron...unless you have a spare that I didn't know about."

"No, not here at least..." she added.

"Then stop the idiotic excuses and come back to Doom, I'll deal with all of you as I deem fit". Then King Zarkon's face disappeared from the monitor.

Haggar turned and asked to the present officer's about the prince's whereabouts. The officer's on board

and all present had no idea where the prince had gone. She asked Cossack and his fleet but they didn't know either. She went to her room and looked for her traveling crystal ball. She started her spell and the images that appeared in the crystal ball began to make her skin crawl...

After the congratulations of a job well done were celebrated, the personnel of the castle started with the evaluation of the damages and the reconstruction of what could be immediately fixed. It was late afternoon and the Voltron Force went to the dining room for a deserved meal. While they were seated at the table, Pidge again addressed to Allura:

"Please princess...you have to tell us...how did you know about the attack?"

"Promise you wont laugh?" she said looking at him with worry.

"How could I? This information saved Arus today..." Pidge answered.

"I'm very curious about this too," added Lance.

"Well, I had this information through...a dream" Princess Allura said looking at Keith. Keith nodded at her approvingly.

The other members of the team frowned and looked at each other and then at her. Then Lance asked:

"A dream? You dreamt about this?" he asked slightly shaking his head.

"Well, I dreamt that I was informed about this raid" she answered.

Then Keith intervened: "Allura told Coran and me that King Alfor had appeared in her dreams to warn her about Doom's plans, and even if it sounded unlikely we agreed to listen to his warning. And I'm really glad that you trusted in us princess. It made the difference in this battle's outcome".

"Actually, I'm glad that you believed in me." She added.

"Wow, so we owe this victory to King Alfor after all," said Hunk.

The other members of the team were nodding in agreement and making approving comments towards Hunk's comment. But princess Allura kept silent and thoughtful because she knew that the victory that they were celebrating was owed to Prince Lotor's help not her father's. It made her sad that she couldn't tell them the whole story yet. She wasn't sure if she should.

They had a pleasant and animated dinner; by then it was already nightfall and Allura felt tired of all the day's happenings. She went to her room and when she started to feel drowsy, she thought about Prince Lotor. She wondered if she would see him tonight in her dreams again. She wanted to thank him for his help. So after she took a bath, she sat in front of her nightstand to comb her hair while she prepared to go to bed.

Suddenly she heard a noise coming from her window. She thought it might be the wind or something,

but when she looked at the reflection in her mirror, she opened her eyes in alarm when she saw a single fighter at her window. She turned to look and watched in terror as the hatch of the fighter started to open to reveal the imposing figure of Prince Lotor/Masserath shooting at the glass of her window and breaking it.

She gasped while she remembered Prince Lotor's warning in her dreams that she should run, in case she saw him come to her. She couldn't let him get her. So she hurriedly turned to her door to try to open it, but it would not open. The controls were not working.

"No!" she said while she hit the door with her fists. Then she turned to see Prince Lotor/Masserath's evil gaze fixed upon her. He smirked while he entered her room through the broken window...

To be continued